



Reaching Out – breaking down barriers and working with all segments of society.

Diana's new life in Sunrise Village, Uganda

SUMMARY

'Children in Difficult Circumstances' was the subject of a seminar in Nairobi in June 2003. Two Scouts who were former street children, Diana and Ibrahim, participated in the seminar. Here is Diana's story.

Diana, who has been rehabilitated by the Uganda Scouts Association in their 'Sunrise Children Home', represents a symbol of success of a former street child. At the seminar, she narrated her own experience by first bursting into happy singing.



Diana was born 15 years ago and was orphaned at the age of 8 by AIDS. With nobody to care for her, she found her way into the streets of Kampala city after being persuaded to do this by another street girl.

She was convinced to leave the streets by 'Aunt Scout', Victoria, who offered her a home. Diana was not alone though; she was looking after a six month old baby, whose mother had died on the streets.

Diana joined school at Primary Class 4, where to the amazement of even her teachers, she performed better than those who have never been out of school.

Diana says Scouting has given her a new life, brothers, sisters and a mother – things she never found in the streets. Life for her has changed a great deal from sleeping in carton boxes in the open spaces, stealing and begging to that of comfort, warmth and joy. She is a born-again Christian who enjoys interacting with other children.

Diana dreams of being a music teacher due to her love of music and encouragement from her mentor Victoria.

None of her relatives have made any effort to take her back, not even visit her at the 'Sunrise Children's Village' but thanks to the work of the Uganda Scouts Association, Diana's future looks brighter.

To find out more about the work of Scouting with Children in Difficult Circumstances, visit

www.scout.org/strat/news.shtml

