

Friendship Delegation from Kasese, Uganda



Dear Friend,

Can I ask your help in an exciting local opportunity to help one of the most worthy causes that I know of in the world?

In November 2011 the City of Santa Cruz' Sister City committee approved **Kasese, Uganda** as a "Friendship City" the first step to becoming a Sister City of Santa Cruz.

A Friendship City delegation from Kasese is planned for Spring 2013 -- The mayor of Kasese and five government leaders will visit the City of Santa Cruz for one-week to kick off the Sister City relationship.

One delegate is Godfrey Kasozi, 1999 alumni of the UCSC "Farm" Center for AgroEcology, and Director of CETRUD Center for Environmental Technology and Rural Development. Kasozi initiated the application for Kasese to become a sister city with Santa Cruz

While I was in high school in the 1970's one of the most evil villains in the world was Idi Amin, dictator of Uganda, who massacred 300,000 of his citizens. Then in the mid-1980s Uganda had an AIDS rate of 30%, highest of any country in the world. Horrible times!

But now, 35 years later, thanks to new national leaders with new policies of openness and education, Uganda changed from one of the worst cases in the world, to one of the biggest success stories in Africa, reducing its AIDS rate to its current 6.4%.

Transformation of a nation is possible, if the leaders want it!

I don't understand a lot of the politics involved, but I know one man who is helping that process. And he is inviting us to be part of it.

In 1999, Mr. Godfrey Kasozi, was chosen for an internship at the University of California Santa Cruz "Farm" Center for AgroEcology.



Godfrey Kasozi, UCSC Farm alumni 1999

While here, Godfrey joined my ISI Santa Cruz friendship program for



Godfrey (center) and people of Kasese

international students. Now after 13 years of friendship with a lot of Santa Cruz area people and groups, Godfrey initiated the Sister City relation with Santa Cruz for cultural exchange.

Will you be part of this exciting story?

Be a sponsor! Give a tax deductible donation of \$20, \$50 or \$100 to support the Kasese, Sister City "Friendship City" delegation. Approx \$3,000 more to is needed bring all the delegates.

Double your donation value!: An anonymous sponsor is pledging Matching Donations up to \$1,000 total for **any donations or pledges given by June 30**

DONATIONS for the Kasese, Uganda Friendship City delegation may be made

- on Santa Cruz Sister Cities webpage: <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/index.aspx?page=712>
AND email me (Peggy) to designate it for Kasese Delegation. I will send you a receipt
- by check to "Santa Cruz Sister Cities Support" (with note for "Kasese Delegation")

Mail to: Lisa McGinnis, Kasese Delegation / Santa Cruz Sister City Committee / 323 Church Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. For more info on Godfrey Kasozi, Director of CETRUD educational center and child school sponsorship in Kasese click here

→ www.isiwebnet.net/sites/PeggyPollard/CETRUD www.isiwebnet.net/sites/PeggyPollard/Godfrey

→ 2009 article in Santa Cruz Sentinel newspaper on Godfrey and CETRUD
http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/ci_12707163

→ 2005 article <http://www.67.15.208.115/story.php?sid=28101&storySection=Local>

When the leaders of a nation decide to change their nation, they can!

Uganda is still one of the poorest countries in Africa. But even so, a look at the Kasese District government webpage <http://www.kasese.go.ug/> shows their relentless hope for their own future.

Kasese District's vision: To have a poverty free society by 2025.

Kasese District mission: To achieve sustainable socio-economic development through efficient provision of quality services to the people in conformity with national and local priorities

(from World AIDS day news 2012)

Back in the 1980s more than 30% of Ugandans had contracted the HIV virus. Now the national prevalence rate is around 6.4%, an achievement attributed largely to the country's rapid acknowledgment of the crisis it faced, the roll out of national prevention and treatment messages and its embrace of open discourse around causes and solutions to the virus. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine/2008/dec/01/world-aids-day-uganda>

Support Santa Cruz's first Sister City "Friendship City" Delegation from Africa!

Sponsored by the Santa Cruz Sister City, Kasese subcommittee "Friends of Kasese"

Peggy Pollard

Santa Cruz Sister City Committee, Kasese, Uganda subcommittee

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