**Let Us Move Mountains**

Good Morning/Evening,

My name is Katie Robben. I am from the small town of Breese located in Southern Illinois. I lived there all my life until 2016 when I moved to Uganda East Africa to teach for what I thought would be a year but turned into much more.

On my first day of school in Uganda, the assistant principal, Florence, approached and invited me to be part of a program, she started. This program is called Young Positives Empowered to Adhere, or YPEA for short. YPEA is an association of children living with HIV/AIDS in our village and was founded to teach the children how to live healthy lives, but above all else, learn that God is going to use them for His plan, regardless of the fact they have HIV.

Florence and I spent a year and a half running YPEA, and soon realized the funding for the program was not sustainable. That is when I founded Let Us Move Mountains (LUMM) as an international nonprofit based in the United States to partner with already existing programs and schools within Uganda. We work with local leaders to improve education, employment and agriculture within their communities.

Uganda is full of organizations started by westerners who went there believing they knew how to fix poverty. But the truth is, just because we aren’t living in those conditions, doesn’t mean we know what is best for those who are. LUMM’s purpose is to find out what communities need by talking to local leaders and supporting them in their dreams to empower their own people. We do this by carefully identifying partners, establishing a contract stating what each partner will contribute (which includes a timeline and budget), and making a plan to work together for a few years before we phase out to begin work with other partners.

In our partnership with YPEA, we have set a goal to build an office space on YPEA’s farmland, where adults and children living with HIV can come together to share experiences and positive living practices. The children currently do not have a place to gather, and the experienced adults willing to guide them have only a small rented space.

Kihara Office is a giant step toward YPEA’s mission to promote positive living and minimize discrimination for children living with HIV and AIDS in the community of Kyarusozi. The entire project consists of five phases including latrines, a farm managers home combined with a storage space for harvests, a four-room office building, a piggery project and finally a poultry project. We have completed the first two phases, so today, I ask that you help us raise the $15,000 we need to complete the four-room office space. We realize this is a large ask, so we are grateful to any amount you are willing and able to contribute. Our work will not only serve the Kyarusozi community, but will forge a new path in international development and missions.

 If you would like to learn more about our mission, please visit [www.letusmovemountainsorg](http://www.letusmovemountainsorg). Thank you so much for your time. God Bless.