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**“Bitone” – means Talents (in Lugandan)**

**T**his was the explanation we learned from a young man, a heart-full soul, whom we had the great fortune to meet nearly two years ago. He had an inspiration, born of his own youthful struggles and hard life growing up in Uganda, East Africa. He wanted to help his own people, the most disadvantaged, the children. He has a God given talent in music and realized early on his ability to tap the same within a child. He believes in the rekindling power of song and dance to strengthen cultural pride, transcend national boundaries, and dispel the pain of disease and violence. His life's mission has been placed upon his heart.

**S**ince 2004, in a small village near the capitol city of Kampala – Lawrence “Branco” Sekalegga, a music graduate from Makerere University, and twenty-five disadvantaged Ugandan children live, learn, sing and dance but most of all help each other grow. Together their lives become whole again... as Branco says ***“In art we unite”***.

**O**n March 26, 2009 – a video production team from Rotary International headed by Mr. Stuart Cleland will visit these very inspirational children of the ***Bitone Home/Troupe for Disadvantaged Children***. We hope the visit will produce a wonderful testimonial for Bitone and cast a renewed focus of attention on the issues, mission and hopes of Branco, the children and our Rotary partners we have in Uganda.

**S**ince LuAnn and my visit to Bitone in May of 2008, a second World Community Service Grant has been secured and initiated, and the Rotary Club of Kampala East along with Bitone will carry on the efforts. We at Traverse Bay Sunrise Rotary along with our many Michigan based donors and partners renew our challenge to your clubs - ***Good Luck and God's blessings!***

*Klaus and LuAnn Heinert*

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