

GWI enjoyed visiting our student teachers in Uganda and meeting with Global Giving Representative, Mickey Rothwell!

Graduate Women International (GWI) Executive Director, Stacy Dry Lara, joined the Uganda Federation of University Women in welcoming Mickey Rothwell from Global Giving for a special site visit to meet GWI's *Teachers for Rural Futures* project. The visit served as a splendid opportunity to check in with our student teachers and monitor their progress, as well as demonstrate the ongoing success of our project with Global Giving.

Rural communities face a shortage of women teachers. Additionally, women and girls often face stigma and barriers to education, forcing them to drop out of school early or indefinitely suspend their enrolment. GWI is currently sponsoring five girls at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda to pursue university degrees with the promise that they will return to their communities as secondary teachers and mentors. "Our students have already become role models to other girls in their communities, inspiring them to stay in school and realize their full potential—a trend that will only increase when our students finish their degrees", said Stacy.

During the visit, the five *Teachers for Rural Futures* student teachers shared stories about the hardships they face in trying gain a university degree and the immense, positive impact the GWI *Teachers for Rural Futures* program had made to their futures. Since starting the program, Hasifa, Jane, Victoria, Benadet and Winfred have changed tremendously. The girls continue to grow in confidence and act with certainty. GWI is extremely proud of the girls and their educational and personal success.



(left to right: Dr Elizabeth Kizito, Victoria Kataike, Mikey Rothwell, Jane Kafuko Benadet Kwagala, Winfred Kaduuli, Hasifah Nabirye, Dr. Alice Kadoga and Dr. Victoria Tamale)

GWI would like to thank all donors to our *Teachers for Rural Futures* Global Giving Campaign for their continued support. Thanks to you, our student teachers have almost finished their first and second years studying a Bachelor of Education. With your support, our student teachers and thousands of additional girls in rural communities will have the opportunity for the education they deserve and continue to dismantle barriers to education. Our work wouldn't be possible without your help.

To read more about our project, please visit our website at <http://www.graduatewomen.org/what-we-do/projects/secondary-school-teachers-for-rural-futures/>.



*Stacy enjoys lunch with GWI's five sponsored students at Mackerere University
(Left to right: Victoria, Jane, Stacy, Winfred, Hasifa and Benadet)*

With gratitude,

Stacy Dry Lara

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Executive Director