

# THE BEAD

Stories and News from BeadforLife

SPRING, 2005

Hi. Welcome to The Bead, our first e-news about BeadforLife, the beaders, and you. We want to give you glimpses of the lives of our beaders, tell you about new bead products, interest you in Africa, and thank you for your wonderful support buying the beads. This working together is what eradicates poverty one bead at a time.

*AFRICAN PROVERB: You can only chase one animal at a time.*

*What this means for BeadforLife is that the animal that we are chasing is poverty and our weapon is working with creative but impoverished people to generate income through sustainable employment.*

*BeadforLife helps the artists find markets for their beautiful paper beaded jewelry. We seek to tell our stories to foster friendship and mutual understanding. To that end we are launching The Bead. We welcome your letters to The Bead which we will pass on to the beaders. The beaders meet as a group every Monday and will read your letters of your experiences with the Acholi beads. Please write us. Send to [torkin@beadforlife.com](mailto:torkin@beadforlife.com)*



## JOSEPH COMES HOME FROM THE ORPHANAGE:

*Every week we hear of small miracles that are happening to the beaders' families as a result of having a steady income. Here is one such story. Acan Grace is a young mother of five children: her twins John and Sheila who are one year old, and her sons Innocent, 11, Anthony 9, and Joseph 3. Divorced and destitute she could not care for all of these children.*

*Last year she tearfully put Joseph in an orphanage because she could not manage to feed him. This year at Christmas she brought him home because she now has a steady income through BeadforLife. He is a lovely little boy and so happy to be home with his family. And his mama has a smile on her lovely face.*



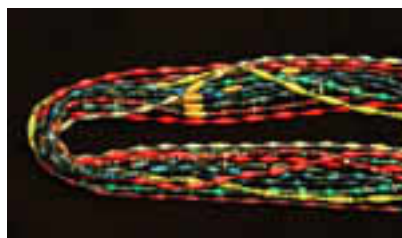
## OUR LATEST CREATION:

*Announcing the Triple Strand Anklet*

*The beaders have come up with a beautiful new anklet made of three strands of beads. The beads hang gently around the ankle, and move easily as you walk. It looks sexy, sporty, and colorful. For something a little different give yourself or your sweetheart an anklet. Available in all colors for \$15. Order yours at [www.beadforLife.com](http://www.beadforLife.com). And thanks for shopping at our web store... "Appoiyo"*



**GREAT BOOK ON AFRICA: *Shadow of the Sun*** by Ryszard Kapucinski, a lively account of his time as a journalist in Africa during the days of the independence movements and into contemporary times. Reads like a fascinating novel.



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MEET ACULA MARGARET, one of our great beaders. MARGARET is a shy and gentle young woman of 25. She learned to make beads from BeadforLife and has become a very good beader. She has led a difficult life. Her first child was born when she was only fourteen years old. Soon afterwards her husband was killed in the armed conflict raging in northern Uganda. Her uncle, trying to remove her from harm's way asked her to come to Kampala and promised to send her to school. But he did not keep his promise. Instead he wanted her to baby-sit his children. Soon she remarried and now lives in a one-room house with her husband and four children. Unfortunately, one daughter died of malaria because there was no money for medicine.

Currently, Margaret says that she has TB but does not get tested since she does not believe she can afford the treatment. Her husband is unemployed and cannot find work. The money that Margaret makes from BeadforLife is spent on food, school fees, and household necessities. She likes to sit in the sunshine with her neighbors and roll beads while her children play nearby. Want to know about more of the beaders' lives? Read them on our website.

## WHAT ARE THE BEADERS BUYING WITH THEIR EARNINGS?

We are often asked this question. February is a month in which parents are paying their school fees so many beaders are sending their children to school with their earnings. Some children are going to school for the first time, even though they are ten or twelve!. One woman has been able to purchase a small vegetable stand and has started a business. Everyone is buying food, medicine, paying rent, and meeting the basic necessities of life. A few beaders pooled their money and bought a small radio so they can listen to music while they roll beads. In general, we can see and feel that slowly things are improving for the beaders, their families, and their community.



## THE BEAD:

Do you have feedback for us or want to make a comment yourself about your experiences with BeadforLife or the beads? Please feel free to forward comments to [torkin@beadforlife.com](mailto:torkin@beadforlife.com). If you do not want to receive The Bead or any other announcements from BeadforLife please let us know and we will take you off our list. Please rest assured that under no circumstances will our list of names ever be shared with any other organization.

We appreciate your support in whatever way feels good to you.

"Appoiyo", thank you, from the beaders and their families.