

# THE BEAD

## Stories and News from BeadforLife

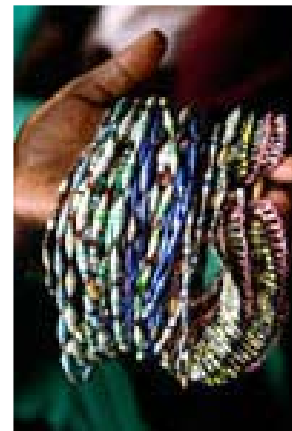
SUMMER, 2005

*HELLO* from the beaders in Uganda, who are rolling beads of hope and transforming their own lives by making beautiful jewelry. Throughout the communities where our beaders live you can see women sitting in the sunshine with their friends rolling triangles of colorful paper into beads and dropping them into their laps. Some women are stringing necklaces or cutting paper. The entire neighborhood is festooned with strings of beads drying in the sun. Our beaders are making a living through their own hard work partnering with BeadforLife to bring beautiful handmade beads to you in North America.

### BEADWEAR PARTIES ARE HELPING TO ERADICATE POVERTY

In the past two months we have launched the BeadWear parties. These are parties where women (and men!) who want to sell our bead jewelry can get their friends together, have fun, and help our Ugandan beaders rise out of poverty. Here are some comments that we have received from women who gave parties in the past two months.

*"I loved throwing this party! Everyone was so interested in finding out about Uganda and the women who make the beads. Thank you for allowing me to participate in helping my "sisters" from Uganda – they make beautiful jewelry. I will wear mine with pride and solidarity with the women of Uganda."* Bloomington, Ill.



*"The soup recipes were outstanding. I made the Yam and Peanut stew and my guests loved it. Thanks for allowing us to open our hearts and homes to the BeadforLife Beaders."* Sacramento, Calif.



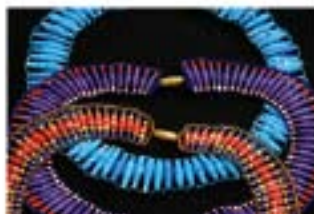
*"Your support of my party was great - very well thought out and thorough. I appreciate the help and ideas and implemented a lot of them. The music and DVD added a lot to the party"* Houston, Texas

*"Holding a BeadWear Party has been such a rewarding experience. Thanks so much – I truly found this to be fun, enjoyable and overall awesome food for my soul."* Lexington, Mass.

*"Thank you so much for letting us share in the lives of the women in Uganda. I felt like we really made a connection across the world. I will definitely host another party."* Keene, New Hampshire

*"I received our package of beads yesterday and let me say I am SOOOO excited! They are beautiful! I have been talking with some friends and I have several groups of people I want to display these beads for on top of my original party April 30th. If we do not sell a lot of them on the 30th, may I extend the return date by another week so I can reach another group of people? I have some great ideas and I really want to get as many sold as possible - this is such a great program!"*

Austin, TX



Torkin and Ginny

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## GIVE YOUR OWN BEADWEAR PARTY - Bring Beads to Your Summer Events

If you would like to sell beads we invite you to give a BeadWear party for your friends and coworkers or represent us at your summer events. BeadforLife welcomes you to bring our beads to fairs, concerts, church and school gatherings, your workplace events, community celebrations, art and craft fairs, and to farmers' markets. BeadWear parties and events are simple to give. We will send you everything you need including educational materials, ideas, booth/table, beads and pricing.

To sign up for a party or an event please go to our website at [www.beadforlife.com](http://www.beadforlife.com) click on BeadWear parties and Events and sign up!

## BEADFORLIFE FORMS A SECOND GROUP OF HIV+ WOMEN

BeadforLife is growing! Thanks to all of you that have supported BeadforLife we have been able to form the Nsambia Bead Group consisting of 50 impoverished HIV+ women. Most of these women are widows supporting numerous children, some of whom are also HIV infected. We have visited each of the new beaders in their homes and learned about their struggles to feed their children, find employment, and get medical care. We admire their perseverance and courage.



It is fun to attend the bead classes and hear the laughter and encouragement that they are giving each other. A feeling of hope is in the air. Please note: It is not possible to catch HIV or any other disease from the beads.

## MEET A NEW BEADER, JOYCE NTABADE

Joyce Ntabade was one of the first members of the Nsambia (In-saam-bia) beaders' group. She is HIV positive. She lost her husband to AIDS several years ago. She now cares for their eight children with the help from her mother and aunt. All twelve people live in a tiny two-room mud home with no electricity or running water. Joyce is only able to send two of her children to school because of the high fees. The family was eating only one meal a day when we first met her.



Because Joyce was very sick, she sent her son Sanfuca to learn to make beads. She also started anti-retroviral drugs for her HIV, and her health has improved dramatically in the past two months. She is now strong enough to come to the group each week and has learned from Sanfuca to make beautiful beads. She is now able to feed her family regularly. Although she only had three years of education herself, she wants all of her children to be in school. She is working hard towards this goal. Her long-term goal is to build a house for her children and to open a small food stall.

Each week Joyce shares her wonderful beads, determination to overcome difficulty, and infectious smile with the group. She hopes you will love the necklaces that she and 49 other HIV+ women in the Nsambia bead group are making.



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## OUR NEW HOME

Last month the beaders gave those of us working in Uganda for the Bead Team such a wonderful surprise. We had been told that we could no longer use the space where we were buying beads each week. Having confidence that we could find a suitable alternative in time for the next sale we were gone for a week of travel. When we returned, to our great surprise and happiness, we discovered that the beaders had formed a committee, taxed themselves, organized work parties, and built a building for BeadforLife.

They made an earthen floor by carrying basket after basket of clay from the hillside. They then went to town and hand carried wooden poles to hold up the roof. They paid for a metal long lasting roof and brick by brick laid the walls. All this without a word to any of us. This determination, hard work, and cooperation are some of the many qualities of the Ugandans that we so admire. They knew that BeadforLife needed a permanent home in their community. They did not wait for someone else to do the work. They are so resilient and understand how to take care of themselves. We love this partnership between the beaders and BeadforLife. It is so mutually satisfying. We had an opening celebration of song and dance on April 10th. Check out the website for pictures of all the fun.

## BEADS FOR MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 8TH

Mother's Day is fast approaching. You can help many mothers by remembering your mother with a special gift from BeadforLife. Our beaders are almost entirely mothers who are taking care of their own children and many orphans as well. They are providing food, school fees, and basic necessities for their children. Your purchase helps to support them. We suggest a beautiful triple strand necklace to honor your mother and tell her of your love.

It is easy to order from our webstore at [www.beadforlife.com](http://www.beadforlife.com). Your gift will be sent within three days. And thank you, "**Way Bali Nyo**" from the beaders.



## DISTRIBUTING EYEGLASSES

This month BeadforLife gave out reading glasses to beaders and to community members who needed them. In all we distributed several hundred pairs of reading glasses. These were donated to us by the Lion's Club of Colorado.

It's wonderful to have generous partners. Thanks Lions Club.

## THE BEAD:

Do you have feedback or want to make a comment about your experiences with BeadforLife? 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. Under no circumstances will our list of names ever be shared with any other organization.

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