

Background

FDNC is an indigenous Ugandan Non-Governmental Organisation that supports participatory approaches to sustainable community development and promotes opportunities for young people, the disabled, women and the elderly. In an area beset by high rates of poverty, HIV/AIDS, unemployment, and other hardships, the young people of Mbale, many of whom are orphaned or vulnerable, are at extreme risk.

With the founding of FDNC in 1996, the brass band was formed as a strategy to channel the energy of street children and idle youth into productive activities. At the time, the band had no instruments, yet eagerly studied music hoping that instruments would become available soon.

In 1999, their quest was answered when the U.K.-based Camberly Youth Wind Orchestra donated 50+ assorted brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments to begin producing music in earnest. That was simply the beginning of this dream come true.

Since then, other generous individuals and organizations have donated more instruments, band uniforms, music, and more.

The band, now 72 members strong, has several used instruments and a couple sets of old uniforms. They perform several times per month and recently received their first international invitation.

Objectives

The FDNC brass band is guided by several meaningful objectives:

- To build a sense of hope and pride among youth who have grown up among poverty, malnutrition, and other economic hardships
- To provide guidance, structure, and purpose to the lives of youth who may otherwise be out-of-school and/or unemployed, and at risk of indulging in at-risk activities.
- To equip youth with musical skills in brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments, enabling them to provide quality entertainment to the community
- To provide orphaned and/or vulnerable youth a viable opportunity for income generation to support their families
- To bridge the gaps between young and old, rich and poor, by using music as a means to help people communicate and learn from each other



*Foundation for Development
of Needy Communities
(FDNC)*

Foundation Youth Band



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Activities

The FDNC brass band performs at many different types of functions and events, both public and private, in the Eastern part of Uganda, and beyond. Among them:

- Weddings & Anniversaries
- Graduation Ceremonies
- Civic Functions
- Community Functions
- Garden Parties



- HIV/AIDS Awareness Campaigns
- Sporting Events
- School Functions
- Church Functions
- Charity Concerts
- Other Private Events

For bookings, please contact the FDNC office at +256 (0)45 36404 or send an email to info@fdncuganda.org.

Client List

The FDNC brass band has performed hundreds of times for a range of clients. Among them (partial list):

- State House (Presidential visits)
- Mbale District local government
- Uganda Telecom
- PLAN International
- The AIDS Support Organization
- AIDS Information Centre
- Action Aid
- Makerere & Islamic Universities
- St. Andrews Church of Uganda
- MTN

Wish List

Despite generous past contributions to the band, the needs remain great, including:

- Sheet music
- Music stands
- Instruments (percussion, woodwind, brass, electronic, keyboard, string)
- New set of uniforms
- Music School facility & staff
- Transport facility (i.e., van)

Future Plans

The Foundation Youth Band received its first international invitation to perform in various cities in the U.K. in November 2005. FDNC and the band members hope that this is simply the first of many overseas trips.

Currently, band members play brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments. They also perform indigenous folk music and dance with traditional instruments. Some youth would like to learn string and keyboard instruments and begin a youth orchestra.

Until now, band members have learned most of the music by ear without having proper training in music theory and reading. Efforts are underway to hire a qualified teacher from the Kampala Music School who would offer regular classes to upgrade the musical skills and training of band members.

