

First, I want to thank all of you who support iLEAP and make it such a wonderful community and powerful program. Through my experience in iLEAP, I have much more clarity about my passion in life--to empower young people to make positive choices that will enable them to live powerful, productive lives. In Uganda, many young people do not see that they have the capacity to build their dreams and strengthen their communities. I started Teen Empowerment Uganda (TEU) to provide a space where young people can interact, discuss topics such as "changing bodies" and HIV/AIDS with peers and allow them to see themselves as vital community members.

What I learned during the iLEAP program is that it is important to make an organization sustainable and to market TEU's mission. I have been so grateful for the ideas, moral support, technical and strategic guidance that I have received from iLEAP so far. I have also realized that I have to adapt what I have learned to the setting in

Uganda. Here, compliance issues can limit room for innovation and creativity and I have to think around obstacles. I would love to partner more with U.S. based organizations with similar missions to learn from their experiences, adopt what is relevant and customize to our own setting.

I am determined to make TEU a model organization in Uganda and to have the programs available to all youth. To help gain traction, I have this idea of starting a Marching Band with the youth to not only give them a powerful new way to interact, but to draw attention and rally the entire community around youth empowerment.

Hopefully, someday soon, we will be able to play you a song.



FUTURE HOPE:

Build a center where teens can interact and 100's more can participate.



15 TEENS participated in "one-on-one counseling" to address social stigmas associated with HIV/AIDS



12+ volunteer/service learning projects to improve community sanitation and hygiene

FUTURE HOPE:

Start a teen Marching Band as a positive activity and as a marketing tool to create awareness.



127 TEENS Participated in TEU mentoring programs



60 ADOLESCENTS participated in "changing bodies" peer group talk (talking about sexual issues in Uganda is taboo, so these talks allowed Teens to gain proper understanding of why and how their bodies grow)

INDIVIDUAL

COMMUNITY



ORGANIZATION/NETWORKS



6 SCHOOLS participated in TEU's Basic Needs Assessment to help identify critical factors that limit success such as student lack of self esteem, poor parenting, poor nutrition, and cases of abusive/negative teachers



100's of parents, teachers and administrators coming together positively to support youth empowerment.



1 OFFICE which allowed for more credibility, visibility, and physical space



3 VOLUNTEER STAFF who are learning important organizational development skills through Betty's leadership



7 BOARD MEMBERS with iLEAP director Britt Yamamoto and Japanese Ambassador Mr. Kazuo Minagawa as members



2 PARTNERSHIPS with Ugandan Organizations In Movement and Straight Talk Foundation

FUTURE HOPE:

To grow TEU and become a model organization for 100's more teenage empowerment programs in all of Uganda and to achieve sustainability.

I had no idea how much iLEAP would change me, inspire me, and allow me to grow in ways that I could not imagine. It was during my time in the iLEAP program that my passion to empower youth in my community really developed.

Through iLEAP, I became a member of a community of support and sharing that really helped me see what is possible.

After completing the iLEAP fellowship, I worked hard to apply for a grant money and founded Formación Fénix, a program for youth with a focus on education, environmentalism, and cultural preservation. I am from a town situated in a beautiful coastal area in the Rivas state. It is an area that, in recent years, has become very popular for

international tourists. The development of luxury hotels and homes for foreigners created tension between community members, hotel managers, and tourists. Parents worried that the youth were losing traditional values when they were exposed to foreign influences. My objective is to work with the youth in our community to build pride in our traditional values, keep our town clean, and become aware of the opportunities a good education provides. I also wanted to ease tension between the community and hotel managers so I helped a negotiation in which one hotel agreed to build a new library in my town.

I am very proud of my community and I thank all of you who support iLEAP and make it possible for people like me to gain the reflection, knowledge, and network that leads to positive change.



Photo: A Formación Fénix teen displaying a pair of recycled litter earrings.

FUTURE HOPE:

Create more scholarships for local youth and increase the number of participants in Formación Fénix.



7 UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS
created for youth from Limon, Rivas Nicaragua



2,000
new books and several computers purchased for ONE new library

FUTURE HOPE:

Bring more opportunities for locals to open businesses by partnering with banks and organizations that distribute microcredit.



16 YOUTH
participated in Formación Fénix in 2012



1000'S
of pieces of plastic litter collected to produce 100's of fashionable bags and earrings made by Formación Fénix participants which generated funds for the group and cleaned up the environment.



3 PROGRAMS
created for Formación Fénix youth focusing on Education, Environment, and Culture to bring pride, awareness and opportunity to local youth



13 CENTRAL AMERICAN
iLEAP graduates gathered in Guatemala to build community and networks



1,000's
of visitors and tourists from neighboring communities attended 7 community cultural events organized by Formación Fénix youth



100's
of families enjoy a new community park created by collaboration with tourists and Formación Fénix



6 EDUCATIONAL
excursions to museums and cultural sites for Formación Fénix youth to help broaden worldviews and motivate learning.

FUTURE HOPE:

Build Formación Fénix into a sustainable organization with youth leadership, strengthen networks with iLEAP graduates in Central America and consult and mentor new and emerging community leaders to start their own initiatives.