



Mary's Story

Mary Kiganda, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

My cause is basic needs. My philosophy in life is that we are "our brother's/sister's keeper" and that we're blessed to be a blessing. This cause is important to me because it gives me a chance to live this out in a real way by partnering with organizations that are providing the basic needs of life, including food, water, shelter, and education. There is a story of a family of very young children being reared by an elderly grandmother who were found living in a dilapidated hut and having extreme difficulties in obtaining these very basic needs of life. An organization worked with the village chief and elders to build a new house for this family and ensure daily meal provisions. They also provided a water tank and education for the oldest children. One girl grew up to enter the professional field, and then turned around and paid it forward by providing funds for her siblings' education so they too could have a fighting chance in life. By providing funding to many organizations that help others, we in turn help these organizations thrive. Combining my efforts with other federal workers, I feel that together we have a greater impact than I would alone. The CFC is important as it enables me to think about others' needs instead of just myself.

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