

elevate

PROGRAM REPORT JULY 2019

Training & Employing
Uganda's Young Adults
in **DESIGN, ARTS & TECH**





elevate

PROGRAM

JULY (2019)

It's been an exciting month for the second cohort for this year's elevate program. Unlike the previous 3 years where the program didn't have an official management team and trainers in the different areas of the program and we had to make use of freelancers which though not bad, those arrangements came with a barrage of various issues.

The elevate program has its roots deep in service to the underprivileged and underserved youths. Due to the scarcity of opportunity to cultivate skills such as graphics and web design which leaves many young people without hope.

In Uganda, many youths who live in the slums find themselves caught up in a cycle of drugs, violence, and prostitution with no concept of a better life. Skill based business training and loan provisions opens the door for these youths to dream big, set goals, and build a new life!

The era92 Elevate program's sole purpose is to empower youths-at-risk in Uganda through skilling them in Design, Arts and Technology, Entrepreneurship, Leadership and Sustainable Development.

By the end of a four-month program, each student is expected to have found a client in their specific field and performed a service for them, be it designing a website, shooting and editing a video, screen printing or graphic designing.

This time round, the cohort has some great and exciting developments which would not have been possible without the great and unfailing financial and spiritual support of The Impact Nations.

We launched our first workshop this July in our new elevate hub. The learning experience was amazing in our new well lit and well-furnished spacious spaces. It was a spellbinding experience to see these great and enlighten men ushering modern creative skills unto our youths. Having seen young adults gain these invaluable skills was amazing. The youths dubbed this as one of the best educational moments ever. giving our students a more open approach in their research (practice) and study hours using the new computers that were added to the program.

This cohort is tendering to more than 15 youths who were recruited in the program to develop skills in website design and development, videography and photography or graphics design. The students are being trained and tutored by highly experienced instructors who are guiding them in their various fields of interest.

Basing on these improved infrastructural changes, we are carrying out more and more skills based workshops and seminars with a Web Design and Development intensive workshop coming up from 21st to 23th August.



CLUTCHED

FROM THE HANDS OF
AN **EARLY MARRIAGE**
TO A LIFE OF A **GRAPHIC
DESIGNER**



From deep down in the dumps of Kosovo, 19-year-old **Joyce Nabukenya** is one of a million youths that toils to have a better life. _____

JOYCE SHARES HER STORY WITH US.

Being a single mother, Joyce's mum was not in position to fully cater for all Joyce's needs and for that reason she was raised by her grandparents in a rundown mud shack down in the slums. Like any young girl growing up and the very curious nature of the young, Joyce always asked her mother about her father but all her questions were in vain.

Run down by the endless pressures and worries of the hustling life, Joyce's mum had to make the hard but final decision of letting Joyce go. She got up one day, packed her bags and never looked back.

At the age of 6, Joyce's grandmother scrapped all she had together and enrolled her in a local school. However, since the grandmother didn't have a stable job, the payment of the school dues was not sustainable and consequently Joyce was out of school by the age of 9.

This started the nightmare of Joyce's young life, it is at this point that Joyce's childhood innocence was robbed. Living in the slums with an old frail woman and man as your protectors is almost always a recipe for disaster. By this time, Joyce's grandfather was ill with typhoid and passed on shortly thereafter. Her grandmother could not get any more work and like many old women in the slum community, she started a banana stall where Joyce helped her out on a daily basis.

At 12, Joyce survived sexual assault from a group of rowdy gang members in the slum community. Unfortunately, this is a common story among many slum dwelling teens. By 15,

Joyce was so toughened by life that she was living a hopeless existence. It was at this point that her grandmother now sickly and frail decided that the best thing to do was to get Joyce a 46-year-old widower with 4 children as a husband. Talk about jumping from the frying pan into the fire.

Two slaps and some punches after their second meeting three weeks before the marriage, Joyce decided that she was not going to go ahead with the marriage. So deep on a rainy night, Joyce escaped from the slums to the streets of Kampala where she started living with a few girls who had also run away from the slums.

And that is how we found Joyce, bitter, hopeless and cold. At a church anniversary function where free food was promised, Joyce and her friends were in full attendance. The elevate program had been given an opportunity to speak to the youth at the function and that's how Joyce heard about us. 4 years after running from home and living on the streets, Joyce came back to her roots, but this time round to study Graphics design.

It has been a beautiful but tasking journey teaching Joyce from the very basics of how to switch on a computer to running and applying graphic design software. Today, Joyce is off the streets and living with one of the other elevate program students in a rented room in Kosovo. It is not much but at least it's off the streets. She is on a journey to achieve her goals and achieve financial independence.

At the era92 elevate program, on the other hand, is happy that we are taking steps to achieve our mission. The program is a practical study training empowering youths with digital skills among which include; website design and development, videography, photography and graphics design. Through these trainings, young adults are empowered with life changing tech and entrepreneur skills.

Joyce has been given an opportunity to dream, believe and achieve all her goals through the guidance and mentorship at the era92 elevate program.



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CREATIVE WORKSHOP

Catching new creative skills and tips from the best Creative Designers in Uganda, Wanzala Herbert and Temale Kawagga plus our very own Trinity.

As elevate, in a bid to continue impacting the youths with up-to-date digital skills, yet again we held a massive and a blastful creative workshop. We were so blessed to have with us Mr. Herbert and Mr. Tamale the finest creative designers in Uganda. These are people who have acquired and undisputed reputation in the creative industry after designing a number of intriguing designs.

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