

Experience the Beauty of the African Culture



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INTRODUCTION

African Cultural Services is an educational tribute and community program. It was started in 2003 in Germany. Today we are based both in Germany and the United States. We are a registered non-profit organization. We run African dances, drumming, story time, theater, cookery and craft workshops. With this project we celebrate the beauty and diversity of African culture, music, food, life style and fashion. Our workshops are tailor-made and can be fit into a broad range of individual groups like the school curriculum, school festivals, after school programs, adult groups, Libraries, dance centers, refugee camps, hospital patients etc.,



All our presentations are designed to give our audience an overview of the African culture, history, art, general awareness, the interdependency of our beliefs and values in music, dance, games, poems and life style. Our workshops are fun, educational, inspiring, inclusive, practical and a great experience for everyone.

Our major goal is to promote African cultural awareness around the world. It's our stride to provide an environmental channel through which other people can have the opportunity of experiencing the richness of the African culture. Our aim for the workshops and performances is to enrich the development of people who attend, a time to listen, learn new skills, develop musical ideas, encourage performance, and this often new but interesting culture of Africa.



A further objective of doing this is to raise funds for the needy children, youth and women in Uganda.

We also aim at matching kids and adults with African friends – pen-friends.

Through all the activities we have done we have managed to raise money for a big number of needy children, youths and women in Uganda.

I am a performer and I teach African dance, and other activities. Through the activities I offer, you can gain body fitness, it's lots of fun whereas learning more about other cultures - edutainment.





ACTIVITIES

Over the last 5 years we have worked with schools, play schemes, youth groups, holiday clubs, adult centers, special needs groups, summer event's organizers, colleges and universities. To all the places we've been, the feedback

AFRICAN DANCE

We teach different African dances. These dances are lots of fun, are a good means to work out, create positive self esteem and the participants are more than happy after experiencing this. Dances are offered to all age groups.

An introduction to the dancing is offered as well as a chance to participate in on going workshops. At the accomplishment of given stages a certificate is issued.



Individuals
or groups
can
contract
us to
come and
perform.
60% of the
proceeds
go to our
charitable
projects in
Africa.





CRAFTING

Out of old rags, paper or throw away material we make very interesting toys like dolls, balls, ropes. These toys can be played with and they are great fun, quite unique and at times we use special natural products like real banana fiber to make the toys. We also make jewelry like earrings, necklaces and hand bracelets out of beads or wood carvings.

STORY TIME

We bring our audience into the African World of story telling. Every story in Africa has something to learn out of it. We use the aspect of telling the story while acting it out and the participants love it very much.





AFRICAN FASHION HAIR PLAITING FACE PAINTING

When doing African fashion we create new African outfits or dance costumes with the use of old pieces of cloth.

This boosts the participant's creativity. We then do face painting either in general form or according to a given theme.



AFRICAN PLAY

Theater: „KOKOOLILOOKO“, a play about comparing childhood in Africa and childhood in America/Europe. This play is very useful as a way of learning more about the African culture. I act as one person showing on one side the way a child spends her day in Africa and then on the other side how a child spends her day in the western World. It takes approximately 30 minutes and the children are active from the start to the end. After the play they get a chance to try out some of the things talked about in the play, say jumping a rope made out of banana fiber, getting the feel and sound of a drum etc. The play fits very well in Kindergarten, Library, festivals where kids need their own entertainment. The target group here is ages 3 to 6 years.





GAMES:

We introduce the groups to a variety of exciting African games. In addition to improving the physical and mental ability the participants are more sociable and physically fit. They can be fit into indoor and outdoor activities.



COOKING: Participants are taught how to prepare African meals like bananas, and snacks like samosa etc...



PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES

We have run quite a number of projects and workshops already in Germany for schools, youth groups, Church groups, play groups, family and adult centers, special parties, kindergarten, children birthday, Sunday schools, colleges, festivals, summer events, libraries, universities and more. The ongoing activities include school performances, shows in the areas of Dance and drumming workshops, story time, crafting and theatre. Here are some examples of our past projects.



RAISING MONEY FOR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION "CHILDREN HELP CHILDREN":

Through a range of fundraising events, shows and workshops, some people have been touched and are now helping our projects in Uganda. These children and adults keep in good contact with the students they sponsor. The project started in Jan 2003 with 2 children and now we have managed to get sponsors for 20 other orphans in Uganda. More are on waiting list and if we get more sponsors we can take them on too. Our first university graduate Molly Namwendero is now the project manager of the „Kikonyogo Community Development Organization“



KIKO FARM SCHOOL

Is a project run by Kikonyogo Community Development Organization (KCDO) in Uganda. This is a school for child mothers, school drop outs and poor teenagers and it was started in June 2008. Its aims are to teach the above farming and gardening, accompanied by courses in the basics of life: simple mathematics, bookkeeping, English and writing. The goal is for them to be able to cater for themselves and stay in the village and develop it. (Details about this project is available in German and English language)



CULTURAL AND VOLUNTARY TRIPS TO UGANDA



Some of the guests who attend our shows get interested in visiting Africa. We've had a number of cultural tour ventures to Uganda and the guests loved it. Our Cultural tours to Uganda give the guests a chance to experience real Africa: The country, its people, culture, way of life, music, dances, stories and attractions.

OUR MISSION

Through our work we seek to help develop respect for other world cultures, promote African cultural awareness, its beauty and diversity.

Our aim is that people understand that despite physical, material and cultural differences, there is a lot that connects Africa with the rest of the World.

We aim at giving the people of African origin living in other countries the chance:

To know more about their family history and be proud of their identity

Respect and value diversity where ever they live

Make their own judgment to make the world a better place

Think critically and challenge injustice in the world

The workshops and performances are aimed at enriching the development of those who attend; creating a time to listen and learn new skills, developing different ideas, thereby encouraging the acceptance of this often new but interesting culture of Africa.



Connect African culture throughout the World

Raise awareness of conditions of people in Africa. This way we get sponsorship and help the people out of these hard conditions like poverty and illiteracy.

As we perform people get interest and are willing to help out with the problems in Africa. Just by inviting us to work with you we normally charge a small fee for the performance. When we take off the expenses the rest of the money is sent to Africa for the projects.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

In our programs we seek to inspire a lifetime acceptance of other cultures, built upon propagation of respect of other culture's values and beliefs to nurture the rapidly growing multi-cultural communities throughout the world. To achieve this, we design our performances with the flexibility to accommodate audience participation and on some occasions we may present with the locals. These could be our students in the nations where we have offices (USA and Germany)

In such performances we share and relate concepts and celebrations that are similar in both cultures, and also learn about those that are different yet common.

As well as providing learning opportunities, our activities further:

Allow people to gain confidence in their own abilities

Work in positive collaboration with others

Maybe be used as a tool to work positively towards multi-cultural education

Engage participants in active participation

Help one to learn about as well as make contact with a variety of African oriented organizations

Encourage collaboration between school and youth work groups to visit Uganda, learning from personal experience how Africans actually live.





Another special aspect of our program is the cultural tours to Uganda. These are meant to give our guests a chance to get a one on one experience with people from Uganda.



HOW YOU CAN WORK WITH US

African cultural services has a variety of offers which can be fit in many different settings. Therefore anyone with interest can work with us. You make your request and we work around it since our projects are tailor-made. The normal setting is up to 20 participants in a group. But there are special occasions like festivals, story telling events and extra moments where the groups can be bigger or even smaller. Further ways in which you can work with us.

You may invite us to your school, party, function, fashion or any event of your choice and we will perform there.

Part of our proceeds together with help from sponsors, is redirected to orphans and poor families in Uganda. We take pride in giving back to our mother land and that we have made some head way to this effect already attribute to our Germany friends!. You too can help us and support the charity projects we have.

Help us, help others....., partner with us by way of attending our shows or sponsoring a friend or a group to our shows.

You can tell other people about us

ACS projects are designed to suit the needs of a broad range of individual groups including kindergarten apprentice, school pupils, young people in youth settings, after school programs, summer program, assisted live-ins, people with disabilities, refugees, hospital patients, festivals etc...

Among the range of activities during school time which you offer, this could fit into the school curriculum by cultural opportunities thereby making a positive contribution to pupils' broader cultural development:

The African Cultural Awareness workshops can also be fit into the school festivals, after school programs etc.,



WHAT DO YOU GAIN FROM US?

There is a great opportunity for pupils to learn about other cultures to enrich their multi-cultural knowledge and understanding.

By introducing ACS to your organization, the pupils will have a chance to know more about the African culture through this educating yet entertaining program. The major goal of this program is to promote African cultural awareness whereas entertaining the participants.

ACS uses authentic African tools like costumes, drums, music, and other African material, giving a deep insight into Africa and the people's way of life.



ACS would be good for the participants because they learn to accept other ways of life easily if introduced to these early enough. If the program is then integrated into the school activities, the children would on and on develop a greater cultural awareness of communities who have originated from Africa, thus be able to tackle key issues with confidence, accepting and understanding.

This program also uses adults of African origin as mentors for youth of African origin. By acting as advocates, challengers, nurturers, role models, and friends. These older mentors help youth of African origin to understand their history, develop awareness, self-confidence, and skills to help them fit into the American Life style and overcome obstacles.



THE FOUNDER



African cultural Services was founded in 2003 by Mrs. Juliet Najjumba. Juliet was born and raised in Uganda and she studied and accomplished her high school there. After high school she went to Germany and accomplished a bachelor's degree in the field of Tourism. During her studies she participated in the university exchange program where she went to Spain and did the Spanish language. She speaks Luganda, English, German and Spanish, and is well versed with these people's way of life and culture.

African Cultural Services has the major aim which is to educate about the African culture while at the same time entertaining – edutainment.

Juliet learnt the dancing, storytelling, cooking and craft making skills that she shares, as a child growing up in Uganda. She learnt all this by imitation and that is what she passes on, to enhance people's creativity. She is a performer, teaches African dances and other activities. Since she started the African cultural services, Juliet acts as a spokeswoman for Africa and Uganda in particular. Her aim to encourage participation and self-learning by exciting people's imagination and creativity with as many visual and practical challenges as possible.

We are dedicated to promoting African cultural awareness all over the World. We are currently based in Germany and the United States. Parallel to these endeavors we support poor, vulnerable youths and women in Uganda. A part of the African cultural Services incomes are directed to these charity projects.

FOR MORE INFORMATION YOU MAY CONTACT

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