



Years ago Carol and Scott Kellermann were visiting settlements encouraging the Batwa pygmies to educate their children. The best school in the district was a boarding school named the Bishops Primary School where Carol and Scott suggested that they send their children. A heated discussion arose among the Batwa; one camp was arguing that since they had been displaced from the Bwindi they needed survival skills for their new environment. Their children needed to become teachers, nurses, accountants and lawyers. Another segment argued "don't we have anything to teach our own children"- the ways of life in the forest need to be retained! Addressing the latter concern, a Batwa Cultural Experience has been created where 8 to 10 Batwa children spend two days weekly with Batwa elders. At the Cultural Center the children are taught the Batwa traditions, legends, songs and life in the forest.

Formal education though remains a key to the Batwa's survival. There are now 80 Batwa children at the Bishops school and several hundred others at a variety of other schools. The Batwa children have shown a remarkable propensity for education and have performed at a very high level. One young Batwa woman named Sylvia has risen above much adversity. She is a single mom but has prevailed due to an indomitable spirit, support from the Batwa Development Program and a generous sponsor. Sylvia may be attending Uganda Christian University in the fall to study law. She is a leader in the Batwa community and is well respected. Recently at the Annual General Meeting of the Batwa Development Program, attended by 750 Batwa and 250 other guests including government officials, church leaders and representatives of NGOs, Sylvia discussed the finances of the Batwa Development Program and answered several complicated questions. Many in attendance were very impressed with Sylvia's poise and intelligence and noted that with Batwa like Sylvia in leadership positions that the Batwa now have a voice and an opportunity for a quality future.

The Batwa Cultural Experience provides an opportunity for the Batwa to retain their rich traditions but students like Sylvia are needed to forge a new path for the Batwa as they strive for self-sufficiency. Nineteen Batwa, new students this term, were turned away from the Bishops School due to lack of funds. So much more could be done with adequate funds to uplift schools and insure excellent education opportunities for all Batwa.

If you would like to sponsor a Batwa student at Bishop's Primary the donation amount is \$600/year. To sponsor a high school student the donation level is \$1,200/year, for a student in non-boarding primary school is \$75/year or to support any of our other projects and development you can make a donation in any amount. Every donation made is helping us reach our goals of educating the Batwa children (people) and helping them become a self sufficient. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Help them to thrive, not just survive.

[www.pygmies.net](http://www.pygmies.net)    [www.kellermannfoundation.org](http://www.kellermannfoundation.org)



"Nabingi" at  
Batwa Cultural Experience



Sylvia greeting  
MP Amama Mbabazi



Mukongoro school



Pres' Christian school