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# HOPE for the FUTURE

SEPTEMBER 2016 NEWS

## Godfrey's Story



Lubangakene Godfrey, a 21-year-old living with HIV, is talented in football and played with Butabika Soccer Academy for over 5 years. While in Primary school, he was bullied by school mates due to the fact that he was HIV positive, which pushed him to join sports and even become the team captain.

Godfrey is a ROM client since 2007 and has taken part in the most of the annual Adolescent Sports Galas since 2009. "Sports makes me forget my status and increases my hope; it makes me feel that I am part of the team and I can contribute to Reach Out," he said.

"Because of the counseling and support I get, I find that I am not bothered by what people say and I am strong and competitive, I even know that I can live longer than my HIV negative counterparts, What I want is for equality between the positives and the negatives in our society. Just like the females got equality, positives too deserve equality."

He dreams of being a football coach, building the biggest orphanage center in the country and being a great agriculturalist.



## Medical Focus

### Adolescent Clinics

The Paediatric and Adolescent HIV/AIDS Conference kicked off this week with the theme "Closing the Gaps in Paediatric and Adolescents HIV/AIDS care now: Making 90/90/90 a reality." This year, ROM initiated an Adolescent clinic every last Wednesday of the month to give youth privacy, psychosocial and peer support.

Doctors find that the Adolescents engage more freely with them when they are not escorted by their parents and can easily open up about any issues or concerns that they may be having at home. The monthly clinics also allow youth a chance to interact with each other and share experiences. It makes target messaging easier.

## News at ROM

1 & 2) More than 500 youth attended the **9th Adolescent Sports Gala at Mandela National Stadium in Namboole**, held in partnership with Naguru Teenage Information and Health Center. The gala promoted inclusivity of HIV-positive with HIV-negative youth in sports with friendly football, netball and track competitions. ROM's Exploring Talents club brass band marched from Banda to the stadium, and the Talents Club African dance group performed in front of cheering crowds. The Mayor of Nakawa, Eng. Balimwezo Ronald Nsubuga, spoke against problems of youth drug abuse.

3) ROM held the first **ARVs Adherence Trainings for mobile van clients**, most of whom are from the most-at-risk communities. Clients learned the importance of ARVs and shared why they were having trouble adhering, including discussion about the side effects, which they learned were temporary.

4) The Banda community held its biannual **Village Meeting**, where clients and community members have the chance to hear directly from ROM managers and voice any issues they may be having. The community discussed creating a **"Friend in Need" club**, where members can support one another socially, emotionally, and even financially during times of need, especially times of trial like grief.

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## Events

**Discordant Couples Annual General Meeting: Oct. 1**

**Palliative Care Association of Uganda Soccer Gala: Oct. 15, Old Kampala School Play Ground**

**Mother Theresa House**  
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