



SOM Chess Academy,  
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## SOM ACTIVITIES

### 1. CHESS

#### Introduction

The chess program was initiated by SOM Chess Academy to promote critical thinking, problem-solving, analytical skills among the youngsters. The program aimed at empowering the less privileged people in the marginalized communities to realize their full potential in through integrating the chess skills in their day to day life.

#### Background

SOM Chess Academy is a for impact organization registered in Uganda as an NGO. It was founded in 2004 by Mr. Katende Robert. His vision was to help youngsters to realize their full potential in life and be able to break the vicious cycle of poverty and generational illiteracy using Chess as a teaching tool. We teach chess and enable children to enjoy it while integrating the principles of the game into the learners' life style to manage daily challenges in life, enhancing abstractive thinking, creativity, problem solving skills, time management, resource management and innovation.

SOM Chess Academy currently has centers in five different slums of Kampala: Katwe, Nateete, Kibuli, Kawempe, and Bwaise. We also have remote community chess centers in Gulu, Jinja, Kiboga, Masaka, Hoima, Kagadi, and Budaka.

#### Chess in slum projects

The academy is in five slums of Kampala which include: **Katwe, Bwaise, Kibuli, Nateete, and Kawempe**. The chess programs always takes place during holidays from Monday to Saturday from midday till 5:00 pm and during school time the training takes place on Saturdays only.

Learners are divided into four levels that is to say, beginners, level one, level two, and level three depending on their chess understanding.

Chess at Katwe centre is led by instructor Ssali, Mirembe, Wilson, Kato, Tugume, Nakiya, Resty, Solomon, Nanyonga, and Daniel, at Kawempe is led by Richard, Pamu and Ntege, at Kibuli is led by Lydia, at Nateete and Bwaise is led by Hudson. Chess is also in Kiwawu at Sports Outreach Resource center by instructor Opiio.

#### Chess in Schools

Chess is taught in different schools around Uganda in different regions namely; Masaka Region with Mustard seed primary and secondary school in Lukaya, Kiboga region with DAS, Bamusuta, young crane, St. Andres, Progressive, BILU and New vision, Hoima region with Nyamasoga, Kabaale and Kigaaga community schools, central region with Trinity primary school, Kibumbiro primary school, Wakiso region with Rafik Christine foundation.

SOM chess instructors teach chess in different schools depending on the designed time by the respective schools.



**Mustard seed chess training**



**Trinity primary school training**



**Chess training at Kabaale and Kigaaga**

## Chess for disabled

The Academy scaled the differently abled chess program at Kampala school for physically hand capped. The training is led by instructor Ssali and Resty. The training takes place two days a week during the school time period. More families started to overcome the stigma of disability as result of this program.

The program has 24 students of which 08 are beginners, 07 intermediate and 09 club players.

### Impact:

1. Hope and purpose has been developed even though the society calls the disabled.
2. The parents have realized that even their children born in such conditions can do something constructive like representing the country in international events.
3. Wasswa one of the learners has become a message of hope to the differently abled community- see wasswa on TV and Radio Bilal sharing his testimony.
4. They have been able to compete with the national top players during their participation in the Uganda National Chess league.
5. Their Self-esteem has been built because they can now say something with fear. Chess has given them equal platforms and opportunities with others.
6. Some have even graduated like Wasswa Mbaziira who graduated with a certificate in computing and photographic designing by the help of the academy.
7. They have been able to get travel documents through the help of the academy.



## Chess in prisons

The chess training is made possible by the help of SOM Chess Academy in collaboration with Sports Outreach Ministries in which learners in the two prisons, that is to say; Kitalya Farm prison and Kitalya Mini Max prison. The program started on 8/07/2024 where instructor Mirembe Derrick and Ssali Julius introduced the game to the inmates. We have a total of 220 inmates (120 in Mini max and 100 in farm).

## Impact

1. It has helped the inmates not to worry about the file (the case they are charged) and focused on the game to solve the issue of depression.
2. It has restored hope in them because most of them have even given up with life but through the game, they are eager to serve their period.
3. The planning aspect has been embedded in them because even share plans after serving their punishment. Chess has helped them to rebuild their lives comparing it that even if the opening has been bad, the middle game can be good (Wasswa).
4. Confidence skills have been developed through sharing their options during the sessions and even convincing others to join the game.

## Chess tournaments

### 45<sup>th</sup> Olympiad

This tournament was held in Budapest Hungary and took place from 10 to 23 September. SOM Chess Academy had one participant by the name of Kawuma Patricia the youngest on the team. She managed to get 4/8 and it was her second Olympiad to represent Uganda. She also got a fide title of Woman candidate master.





## NATIONAL CHESS LEAGUE

This year's Uganda National chess league commenced and SOM Chess Academy was able to register 7 teams that is; SOM Katwe, SOM Nateete, SOM Kibuli (only girls), SOM Kawempe, SOM children's team, SOM Kiwawu and SOM Differently-Abled. The league gives an opportunity to the players to engage at a National level hence improving their chess skills. This gives an opportunity to over 100 children to play because they keep on switching players every fortnight.

The teams are currently playing well and we hope they will keep performing well as it has been in the previous years.



Differently abled team with red shirt



SOM Kibuli with yellow shirts



**SOM Nateete with cream shirt**



## 2. EDUCATION PROGRAM

SOM Chess Academy has continued to support many youths through education and this is because most of the slum families are under privileged which makes most of the children fail to attend school since it's expensive. Many have graduated through system and others are still carrying on with their studies in their different levels of education as described below;

The academy has enrolled 37 students on the Tuition program, 13 at the university that is to say 11 at Victoria University, 1 at YMCA who is in his last year by the names of Daniel Intwari and Gimadu Yokosofat at Gaba PPT St. Baptism.

In primary we have 7 children on the tuition programme whereby 4 are girls and 3 are boys.

In secondary we have 17 students 9 girls and 8 boys.

We have a total of 7 Candidates in the year 2023, 2 in primary and 5 in secondary, 5 girls and 2 boys.

Among the children on the tuition program, we have a boy called Twebaza Solomon, the father got an accident and he wasn't able to pay for Solomon's half school fees. He is the one who takes care of the big family and the mother doesn't work, during the period when the father was bedridden, SOM Chess Academy was able to pay for him full school fees as the father is looking for the food for the family Unfortunately, the children in their family that are not on the tuition program were not able to go to school.

Many of them are performing really well and others are promising. Due to the new curriculum in Uganda by the Ministry of Education and Sports, some of the children are still coping up with it.

We have been able to also give the children school requirements since most of the children do struggle in getting the school requirements to an extent that some are chased back home within the first week of the term to bring the school requirements. We thank God for Reverend Martin and his team for the contribution that they made towards the school requirements of the children. The items that were given to the them are the ones that are hard to get for the children and the parents to afford like Reams, Toilet papers, Soap, Sugar and Pads for the girls, some girls do face a challenge in getting the sanitary pads and they were so excited to receive them.

Some of the recent graduates;

### **Mbaziira Wasswa.**

Mbaziira Wasswa one of the SOM Chess Academy children graduated with a certificate in computer graphics and design from Namasuba College of commerce. Wasswa has been supported by SOM Chess Academy in his studies and his graduation is a testament of hard work and resilience. He is also the captain of SOM differently abled team which is one of the teams representing SOM Chess Academy in the National league.

### **Sarah Ntongo Katende.**

Our Som Chess Academy Mum, Sarah Ntongo Katende switched careers from teaching to community development. On Friday 13th October she graduated with a first class honours degree in community development from Ndejje University. Auntie Sarah you truly lead by example. Your outstanding performance of being the best student and scoring a first class honours degree sets a great example for all of us you are mentoring. Auntie Sarah is very instrumental to all the children impacted by SOM Chess Academy. She has opened her home for many of us and she continues to serve and mentor



man  
y of the children. She has helped many children catch up on their academic dreams through tutoring.

We also had Babirye Stallah and Nanyinga Jennifer graduate in Social work and social Administration and Bachelors degree in teaching respectively.

### TOTAL OF THOSE ON EDUCATION PROGRAM

| SNO | LEVEL OF EDUCATION    | BOYS | GIRLS | TOTAL     |
|-----|-----------------------|------|-------|-----------|
| 1   | Primary               | 4    | 9     | 13        |
| 2   | Secondary             | 7    | 10    | 17        |
| 3   | Tertiary / university | 3    | 4     | 7         |
|     | <b>Grand total</b>    |      |       | <b>37</b> |

### Wasswa on his graduation day



**Sarah Ntongo Katende**



**Nabirye Caroline at school**



### **BIBLICAL AND DISCIPLESHIP SESSIONS**

Daily devotions have continued and the topic focused on has been growing in faith/Hebrews 11

The instructors together with the learners have always had fellowships for the entire year. These sessions are done on a daily basis at the end of each day's activities and here instructors share the word to the learners and at times some of the upcoming leaders from the children get to share to the rest.

#### **Impacts of Bible classes.**

The teaching of the word explored and these young people's passion for Christ has risen drastically Church is now food to them. Several are even in youth groups at Gospel Messengers' Church and more children have been influenced to attend church *Below: Bible sessions carried out at the project*



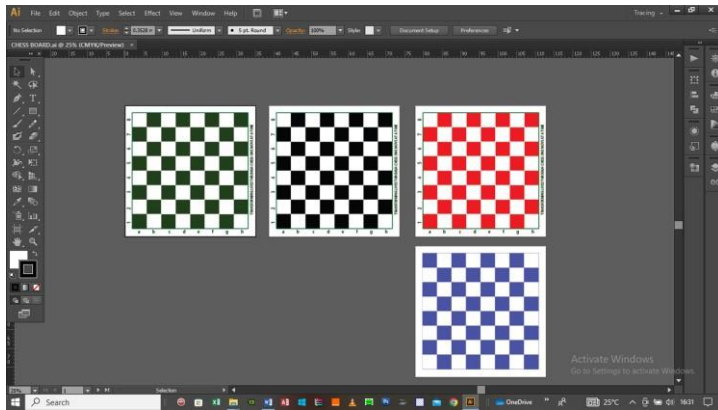
### 3. THE VOCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Activities include; woodwork, computer graphics

#### COMPUTER GRAPHICS

Computer lessons about Adobe Illustrator (CS6) have been conducted by Mr. Lemi Gift beginning at 11:30am to 2:00pm every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday as organized occasionally. Lessons have been attended by 3males and 2females instructors like Kiyaga Samuel, Mirembe Derrick, Nakiyaga Lillian, Intwari Daniel.



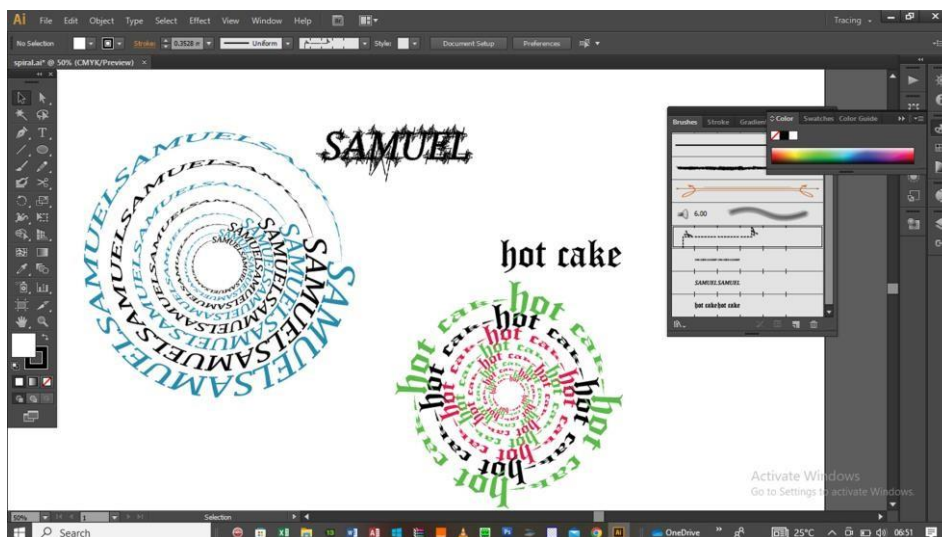


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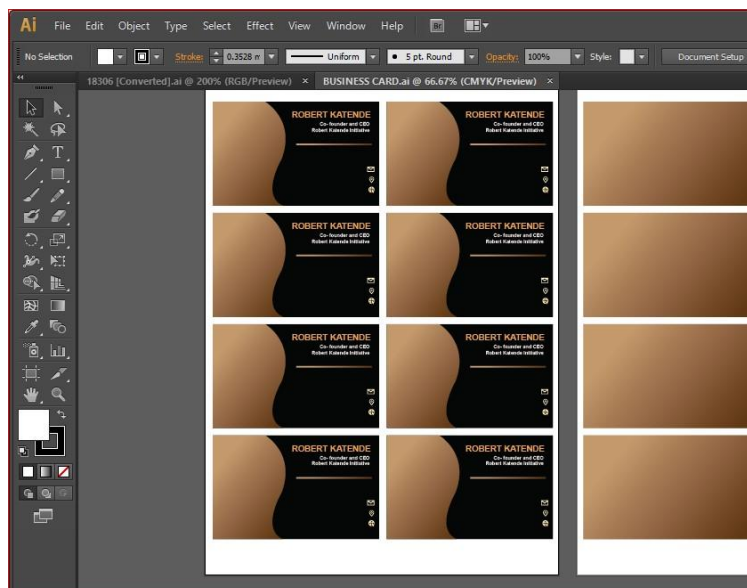


Clipping mask; this is where an image is put as a fill in a given shape or text

**Creating a text path;** this helps in making shape based logos in formats of circles, hexagons, pentagons.



## Business Card



## WOOD WORK

As a vocational department, we were graced with the wood work project spearheaded by Pr. Martin and coordinated by Mr. Andi from Germany and Mr. Kennedy who availed electric machines like round saw,

We received the wood pallets and other tools like 4hammers, hand-saws, square angles, crowbars, sanding paper, nails and screws of various inches like 2,3. The project work has been running for two weeks till with 8 people inclusive of coaches like Mirembe Derrick, Intwari Daniel, Kiyaga Samuel, Kalangirire Richard and scholars like Musavuli Noe, Gerald Ssendijja.

Products made include 4tables and 8chairs

### Requirements used include;

Sand paper gauge 120 and waterproof sandpaper, screws and nails, hammers, sea saws, cooking gas, pipe-burner, 2 Pack varnish, sanding sealer



### Working process

1. Disassembling the pallets sets into single and sizeable pieces.
2. Choose a design for the furniture piece and the pieces to be used.
3. Sand them using 120-gauge sandpaper or electric grinder.
4. Measure respectively and cut the wood piece using a hand saw or electric round-saw.
5. Join them using wood glue, them fit in screwed nails using a drill.
6. Apply sanding-sealer and burn using cooking gas.



7. Sand using a water proof sandpaper and apply varnish.

### **Impacts**

The woodwork activities have exposed carpentry knowledge to both Academy instructors and scholars. In which they have learnt measuring skills i.e. reading tape measures, carpentry tools like electric drills, squares, tape measures, round-saw

The activity has produced furniture sets of five tables and ten chairs which provide seats and playing space for children. Also, products made include 4 tables and 8 chairs the tables work as food serving tables on different occasions

From the finishing phase (burning) which was done on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023, scholars learnt how pallet works finishing are done





#### 4. FEEDING

SOM Chess Academy continued with the feeding with feeding program for all projects of Katwe, Nateete, Kawempe, Kibuli and Bwaise, through this program all projects ensure availability of food on a daily basis. The program helps on the learners whose families cannot afford two meals a day and it also curbs crime rate since kids do not have to struggle hunting for food.

Below are statistics of our feeding program considering quantity of food prepared and total number of people catered for;

##### Katwe project

| Month     | Maize flour(kg) | Beans (kg) | Other meals                      | Total of people catered for. |
|-----------|-----------------|------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| January   | 4               | 3.5        | matooke                          | 41                           |
| February  | 4               | 3.5        | matooke                          | 34                           |
| March     | 3               | 3          | cassava                          | 22                           |
| April     | 4               | 3.5        | matooke                          | 50                           |
| May       | 4               | 3          | matooke                          | 27                           |
| june      | 3               | 1          | matooke                          | 20                           |
| July      | 3               | 1.5        | Matooke, irish potatoes, Cassava | 25                           |
| August    | 6               | 4          | matooke                          | 84                           |
| September | 3               | 1.5        | matooke                          | 25                           |
| October   | 3               | 1.5        | matooke                          | 20                           |

Other projects have also been receiving 25kgs for maize flour, 3 bars of soap, 10kgs of beans and sixty thousand shillings on a monthly basis.

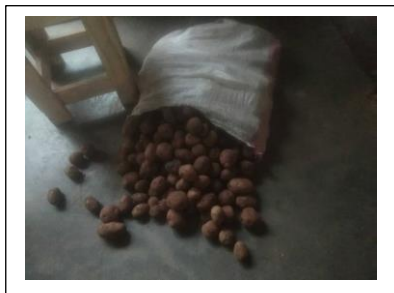
We spend on a daily basis on purchasing ingredients, and on days of scarcity, we are grateful to the collaboration among instructors to ensure availability of a meal.

In order to add clarity on the above table, these unique dishes were usually prepared on Saturdays and Sundays

##### ACHIEVEMENTS;

Consistency improved through the past six years, hence increasing reliability.

## CATERING FOR OUR VISITORS;





# Som Chess Academy

*Transforming Lives Through Chess. One Move at a Time*