



# Why raise Money for New Brainstorm School?

The memory of my first meeting with Mr. Nikolas John Kintu, founder and headteacher of New Brainstorm School still radiates as brightly today as it did back in October 2013 during a trip to Uganda. I have heard him described by others as not only a truly wonderful man but the most welcoming and charismatic person they'd ever met. A recent visitor to Brainstorm School, Charles Capel on meeting Mr Nikolas blogged, **'His enthusiasm is infectious, his love for what he does, and everyone who helps him with it is borderless. It is at moments like these that I detest the way that the world doesn't reward hardwork and passion in the same way that it rewards pot luck, and natural talent.'**

Mr. Nickolas (as he is fondly known) started his career as an educator of Kampala's impoverished children a few short years ago. Using funds from his small 'juicing' business he decided that he would take it upon himself to teach 8 street kids in a very small rented premises completely free of charge... little did he know how fast word would spread about his project. Parents and guardians, unable to afford an education for their children, came in their droves to see if he could offer them a place at the school. So many in fact that teachers had to be employed to help. In a short time, Mr Nikolas' small juicing business could no longer cover the expenses.

A parent with 7 pupils at the school and aware of the financial issues it faced gave Mr Nikolas a piece of land for free; a thank you for everything he had done for her children. The village soon set to work donating pieces of wood, nails, anything they could find to help build temporary wooden structures which would become classrooms. Parents and guardians were asked for voluntary contributions so that he could continue to pay the teachers. And so **New Brainstorm School** ([facebook.com/newbrainstorm](https://www.facebook.com/newbrainstorm)) was born and it was here that we met for the first time.

Having been so inspired by his devotion and determination to help Kampala's impoverished children I quickly began building relationships between New Brainstorm School and Cookham Rise Primary School as soon as I returned from our trip. As a result, the children have become pen pals and share videos, stories and pictures of their very different lives.

Unfortunately, during February, Ugandan government officials inspected the school and whilst full of praise for the school's endeavours they deemed the classroom structures unstable. As a result, Brainstorm School will face closure if they do not rectify the building work. Resilient as always, Mr Nikolas set about a fundraising campaign. His pupils made posters and marched around the town calling for people to stand with them, they made contribution cards and gave them out everywhere they could but for all their endeavours it has been the children of Cookham Rise Primary school who have come to their aid. With passion to match his own our determined young warriors have forged ahead with a SAVE BRAINSTORM SCHOOL campaign - letters have been written - the press have been informed - posters have been displayed - fund raising boxes decorated - cakes have been baked - sponsored silences have fallen over homes and pocket money offered.

The pupils of Cookham Rise Primary School have shown great empathy, true entrepreneurship and determination in their endeavours to save Brainstorm. After experiencing first-hand the love and respect the children have for this remarkable man coupled with their passionate desire to learn, I find myself in a situation where I simply cannot walk away until I positively know that I have tried everything I possibly can to help these extraordinary people in their quest to educate these children and give their families a better life.

To hold off the closure, New Brainstorm school needs immediate funds of £3,000 followed by a further £9,000 to ensure that the school's infrastructure will pass the necessary inspections and stand the test of time. To have any hope of achieving this, Mr. Nikolas will have to rely on partners such as the friends he has made in the UK and it is on his and the children of New Brainstorm School's behalf that I am writing today to ask if you might be able to help. It is a tall order, but together we just might be able to ensure the survival of this special institution for many more children in the future.

Given that the fund raising for New Brainstorm would not be through a registered charity, Mrs Daniels has kindly offered to channel any donations through the school to ensure that it is protected and then I will ensure that the money goes directly to Mr. Nikolas and is added to the fund in Kampala. If you can help, any donation is not too small and if you might find your way to letting business colleagues, friends and families know about our cause the mountain may not be insurmountable.

There will also be a separate collection for the school on Comic Relief day.

**Thank you so much for any support you are able to give.**

**Lisa Peters**

