



# GYCO News

Edition 4 July 2021



## Nurturing our youth to become our now leaders

In the recent past we worked together as GYCO teams in Uganda, Austria and Switzerland to ensure that our vision of inspiring a positive mindset change of our beloved youth from post-war Northern Uganda remains at the heart of the organization.

Furthermore, we continue empowering these young adults to lead a life of self leadership through our programs, while encouraging them to follow their desired goals, wishes and aspirations, coupled with individual and GYCO team values as a core guiding principle.

In which case, I am happy to announce to you that Thomas Vava, one of our young leaders from Gulu, passed his entry exams and has been accepted as a student at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, Austria.

This gives us tremendous joy, since he will be the first student from Africa to be accepted this winter semester of 2021/2022. We wish him great success as he pursues his career in fine arts.

Meanwhile, we would like to express our deep gratitude once again to the GYCO team in Uganda which continues to make enormous progress, in improving the lives of our youth, especially young women, through self-development trainings, coaching and sports via the GGSC- GYCO Girls Soccer Club.

We continue empowering these young adults to lead a life of self-leadership.

However, this is only possible due to the tremendous support from our esteemed donors, partners and GYCO ambassadors whose financial contributions, have helped us to follow our agenda in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which lie at the core of what GYCO does. It will be even better, if we improve on resource mobilization to realize our big goal of building the GYCO Art and Education Academy Campus, by the end of 2021.

Lastly, our call to action is to urge the public in general, and those willing to join us to do so. By doing this, we can continue to support this journey of uplifting humanity's consciousness, one conversation at a time, and rise to the challenge of keeping the promise to nurture our youth - for we consider them to be our NOW LEADERS.

Thank you.

Louise Deininger,  
Founder and President of GYCO

## GYCO Girl's Soccer Team: First win in the PanaSoka League



GYCO established the GGSC to empower young women. This has helped to create self-awareness that is, when a woman realizes she can actually do it, as well as self-discovery and living a purposeful life.

The GYCO Girls` Soccer Club (GGSC) was given the opportunity to participate in the PanaSoka League 2021 as one of three other women`s teams organized by the Pana sports Uganda limited.

The big win!!

GGSC played their first match against New Generation FC in Kiryandongo [Diima] at Ogengo Primary School playground. Due to the hard work the ladies and their coaches had put into the game during their training, GGSC managed to win by three goals against their opponent, one scored by Atim Caroline Flavia and two by Agenorwot Irene.

The victory catapulted them to second place in the PanaSoka League standings. This was a good motivation to work extra hard and make a greater effort in the upcoming matches to attain the first position.

“It`s always good to make a toast after a win, even if it`s just the first step. Meanwhile, we are planning our next steps towards the final win. This is not the last game. We still have five games ahead of us in the PanaSoka League and our goal is to be in first place and WIN the title,” says GGSC team captain Akello Brenda.

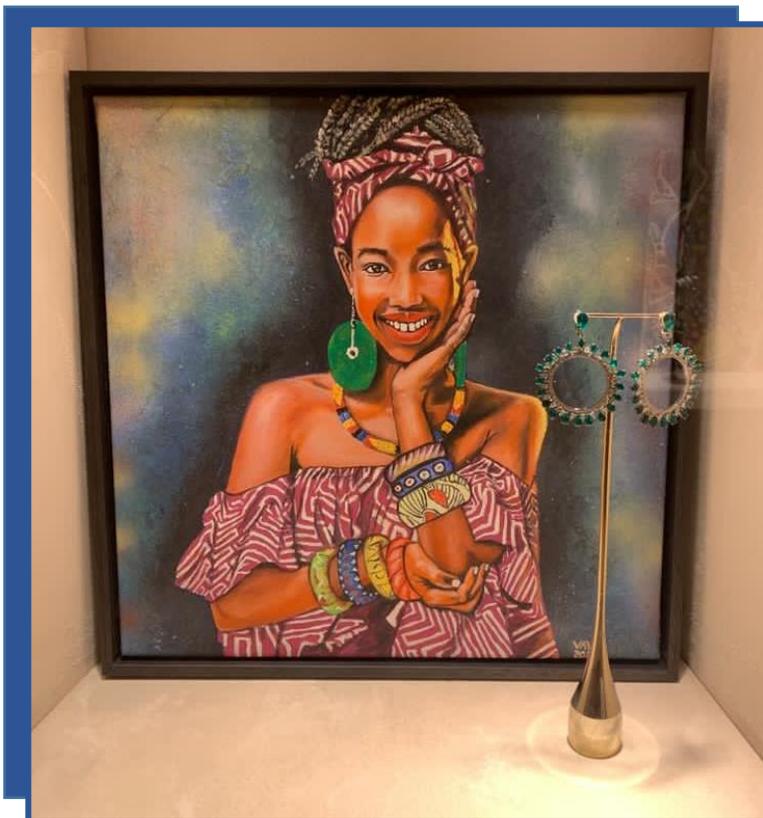
The team is being coached to carry out their trainings from Monday to Friday. They also plan to have friendly matches with teams before the next big game to improve the skills of the ladies as well as learn new tactics and ultimately win the big game.





## Ugandan artist Thomas Vava accepted for Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

In our last newsletter we introduced Thomas Vava, a young talented artist from Gulu, who was able to present his art works in Vienna through the GYCO Academy. His art works were also on display at our GYCO exhibition for BVLGARI in Zurich. There is another success story about Thomas to report. He had the opportunity to apply to the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and got accepted! The application was inspired due to the Walter Koschatzky Art Prize scholarship Thomas received from the Rotary Club Vienna Albertina. Cross your fingers that Thomas Vava will soon be able to travel to Vienna!



One of his latest art works:  
(exhibited in the BVLGARI boutique  
in Zurich in November 2020)

## Coaching sessions for the GYCO team

Many international Erickson facilitators of the “The Art and Science of Coaching” and of “The High-Performance Team Coaching” (HPTC) programs participated in the first international HPTC online training lead by Erickson International President Marilyn Atkinson and Paul Gossen. After the training sessions GYCO Lead International Coach Carmel Lee Paul together with the coaches Miglena Doneva and Maria Margeta always had a two-hour online team coaching session with the GYCO team in Gulu. There were some technical problems at the beginning, but the situation improved enormously as long as power was working. The team showed great enthusiasm taking part and moving forward. Thanks to Miglena and Maria for joining Carmel Lee on this project.

Here are some video statements of the participants:



## Fundraising by Oxford sm

Thomas Fiala is an associate partner of oxford sm, a consultancy firm supporting strategic sales and marketing.

Every year he organizes a BBQ for his clients and donates to a social project in doubling the donations by the party guests. This year he chose to support GYCO and more than doubled the € 900 guests donated to € 2.000.

Thanks so much to Thomas to have been so generous and help GYCO generate a month's budget for the GYCO Gulu Office and team. Carmel Lee Paul was a guest at the BBQ and talked with Thomas Fiala about his motivation to support GYCO. See the interview in the video.



# Visiting GYCO in Uganda

Depending on how the global situation regarding COVID-19 develops, GYCO Lead International Coach Carmel Lee Paul plans a trip to the beautiful country of Uganda for people who support GYCO or are interested in the GYCO project. Meeting our GYCO team and seeing all they are doing and then travelling to this beautiful "Pearl of Africa" seems like a great combination. Ben Kayemba, our local travel specialist and Carmel Lee's son Matteo will prepare an interesting tour and GYCO would love to hear from you if you are interested. The date for the eight-day trip is February 2022 with the option to extend it to see the mountain gorillas. Please write to [matteo.julian.paul@gmail.com](mailto:matteo.julian.paul@gmail.com) and to Carmel Lee at [carmel-lee.paul@gyco.eu](mailto:carmel-lee.paul@gyco.eu) to express your interest in participating.



## Know-how in institutional fundraising needed

A big thanks to all the supporters and donors who have helped and continue to help us in these difficult times. Uganda is currently experiencing an increase in COVID-19 cases (the Delta variety) and a 42-day curfew is in place.

Please continue to help us! Do you know anyone who could help us get a grant from the EU or any other major organization. Mastering the bureaucracy is a science and something we are not specialized in. It is our dream to build the GYCO Arts and Education Center on land that Dieter Volc and Carmel Lee Paul bought and donated to GYCO. It will take a larger sum to achieve that!



The vision of GYCO is to change the mindset of youth in North Uganda. The Arts & Education Center would give the young people the space they need for their personal development.

## 20 euros for an empowered youth



We thank all our donors for your great support. With your help GYCO can carry out development programs, especially for young women and for youth in Gulu, North Uganda. With just 20 euros monthly you can help us to finance the operational costs for the Youth Center in Gulu.

**Bank:** BAWAG P.S.K.  
**Account:** Verein GYCO  
**IBAN:** AT70 1400 0014 1084 7899  
**BIC:** BAWAATWW

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