

Why it matters – A message from coordinator and supporter Barbara Schuler

When Sylvie died in 2011 I was filled with desperation, sadness and most of all anger. It took me weeks to overcome these negative feelings and leave space for other memories: Sylvie's never ending optimism, her laughter, ideas, passion and strength. Along these memories came the urge to realize one of Sylvie's dreams.

Springs of Peace, a project developed by Sylvie, was very dear to her – in 2008 I had helped her with the project proposal and we were both devastated when the [Davis Projects for Peace](#) did not approve the application. With *Springs of Peace* Sylvie wanted to give back to her community. It was her way of protecting the children in Jjongoza from her own destiny – parents and siblings dying at a young age. By realising *Springs of Peace*, I want to pay tribute to one of the most inspirational women I have met in my life, my best friend, mi corazon!

Springs of Peace will provide clean, potable water to the population of Jjongoza – developed by someone from the community and now in the hands of the Jjongoza RCC – it answers to the needs of the population. It is not donor-led by Europeans sitting in AC-cooled offices miles away from the field. It comes from Jjongoza and will stay in the hands of the Jjongoza community.

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In her original funding application, Sylvie wrote:

“Growing up in Jjongoza, a small village in Rakai District, Uganda, with a population of about 750, gave me an opportunity to live attentively. I grew up at a time when children my age were raised by surviving relatives; aunts, uncles and grandparents, when many of our parents died of the AIDS scourge. The relatives that raised us were themselves old; fighting sickness and poverty. In a community where gender determines everyone's role early in their childhood, many girls miss out on the chance to get an education, because they have to stay home and care for siblings and nurse dying relatives.

*One of the greatest challenges the people of Jjongoza face is finding **clean, potable water** for their household needs.”*

For more information about what inspired Springs of Peace, see

<http://springsofpeace.wordpress.com/about/history-and-inspiration/>.