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# talking points

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## Give background information about AAH

- The Arlington Academy of Hope is a nonprofit organization founded in 2004 in Arlington, VA by two Ugandan immigrants named John and Joyce Wanda. They grew up in remote villages in one of the most impoverished areas of Eastern Uganda and against all odds, eventually earned college degrees and immigrated to the US in 1996 through a State Department visa lottery program.
- In 2004 they founded AAH and opened a primary school, also called the Arlington Academy of Hope, in John's native village in Uganda. The organization has evolved to offer secondary school scholarships, healthcare and community development in addition to one of the most competitive primary schools in Uganda.
- AAH serves as a beacon of hope for children and their communities in rural Uganda who are in a constant struggle against hunger and disease and lack electricity, running water, healthcare and education.

## Introduce the film

- This documentary, entitled *From One Village: A Story of Hope in Rural Uganda*, shows what life is like for 3 young people and how the availability of educational opportunities shape their lives.

## Show the film

- Either play the DVD or stream the documentary directly from the AAH website.

## Post-screening remarks

- The poor quality of the public education system in Uganda has led many families to decide that their children would be better off working the fields than in schools with unqualified teachers and few textbooks.
- Children who do attend find it difficult to learn.

## Post-screening remarks (cont.)

- Only 14% of students across Uganda, with far less in rural areas, continue to secondary school.
- Today, AAH is regarded as a model primary school throughout Uganda. For four consecutive years 100% of AAH graduates have passed the national standardized exams and nearly all have gone on to secondary school.
- AAH's other programs include two rural health clinics, a library, economic development efforts and outreach to 13 local village schools.

## Invite the audience to get involved

- What you've seen in this film – the transformational power of education and the chance to seek a better life – is possible because of the generosity of people like you and me.
- AAH strives to reach more children and expand their programs from one village to another.

## Provide ways to get involved with AAH

- Sponsor a child
- Make a donation
- Volunteer in the US or Uganda
- Host your own screening of *From One Village* or share the online video of the documentary
- Introduce AAH to individuals or organizations who would be interested in helping
- Sign up for AAH's e-newsletter (pass around a sign-up sheet and later mail or email it to AAH)
- Join AAH on Facebook or follow us on Twitter

## Discuss the AAH website

- Write the URL for all to see or spell it out.
- Visit the AAH website to watch the film again, or to learn more about AAH programs and how you can help.