
Five Year Plan

Okora Project Objectives:

Objective 1: Food-\$77,670 Improved knowledge and skills in agricultural production, farm management, diversity, and marketing at the household and community levels to increase food security, nutritional values of the food consumed, and provide income generating opportunities.

Objective 2: Education-\$22,891 Increase the ability of parents, school administration, and the community to support the education and development of the children of Okora to become productive members of society.

Objective 3: Health-\$5,287 Support the Village Health Team in their work to build awareness and understanding of preventable health issues to create health seeking behaviors in the community.

Objective 4: Environment-\$2,400 Support the use of energy saving Rocket Lorena Stoves to reduce negative impact on the environment and the lives of community members.

Cost Breakdown: (Year/Amount)

2011- \$27,860.00

2012- \$27,182.45

2013- \$29,252.70

2014- \$23,575.23

2015- \$ 8,756.24

Total: \$116,626.62

If you have questions about the Okora Sustainable Community Project, please email Susan Jewett (smjewett@charter.net) or Sarah Olson (saraholson2786@gmail.com). You may mail your tax exempt donations to First Congregational UCC, 310 Broadway Street, Eau Claire, WI, 54703 with Okora Project in the memo line.

Okora Sustainable Community Project Committee Members:

Susan Jewett– smjewett@charter.net
Sarah Olson– saraholson2786@gmail.com

Molly Berg

Pat Heins

Lisa Eierman

Jane Edson

Jerry & Mary Foote

Phyllis Kurtz

Verne Miller

Lindsay Harder

Chad Murray

Jill Christopherson



Jill Christopherson and Molly Berg at LWF, Kitgum, Uganda. Summer, 2010

The Okora Sustainable Community Project

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
EAU CLAIRE, WI

2011-2015



And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them

Romans 8:28

<http://firstucceauclaire.org/>

What is the Okora Sustainable Community Project?

First Congregational UCC Mission for the Okora Sustainable Community Project:

Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Kitgum and the people of First Congregational UCC will work in partnership with the people of Okora, in a healthy and sustainable manner, to help them discover durable solutions, and support the development of a community where people are empowered to claim their right to dignified lives.



The Village of Okora:

The village of Okora is in the Lamwo district of Uganda. The people of Okora were forced into the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps in 1997 and returned to their village in February of 2009. Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Kitgum has provided the community with two bore holes to access clean water. Families are looking to rebuild this village, reopen land, replant crops, rebuild homes, reconstruct latrines, and re-establish livelihoods. Okora has 414 households with a total population of 1,854 people

What is the Sustainable Living Paradigm?

Over the years, as our experience and understanding have grown and changed, mission work and methods for approaching poverty in the world have also changed. The sustainable community paradigm contrasts the traditional paradigm of charitable donations. To put it simply, instead of donating money towards a group or organization without truly knowing the groups needs, the sustainable living paradigm helps the beneficiaries grow and self-sustain as a result of the financial contributions. The Okora Sustainable Community Project is designed to address difficult questions about the root causes of poverty with the help and input of everyone, including the people of Okora, the members of First Congregational UCC, and the staff of Lutheran World Federation.



Using the Sustainable Living Paradigm in the Okora Sustainable Community Project:

First Congregational UCC and Lutheran World Federation are working together to support the people of Okora in sustaining their community. The objectives within this brochure outline how this project works with the people of Okora to develop the knowledge, skills, and dispositions for a sustainable future.

Okora, Uganda: A Brief Perspective

Kitgum and Lamwo Districts are located in northern Uganda. These districts were severely affected by more than two decades of insurgency by the rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Thousands of civilians lost their lives, were beaten, and taken as captives. As a result, the population was forced to live in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps. The camps were associated with many hardships including lack of safe water, food, health services and education. Life in the IDP camps was suffocating and dehumanizing.



Even without a final peace agreement between the Lord's Resistance Army and the government of Uganda, significant improvements in the humanitarian situation of northern Uganda began with the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities in 2006. Over the past two years, the Kitgum and Lamwo districts have become relatively calm, triggering the gradual return of people back to their villages of origin.

This transition from a district in crisis to recovery has increasingly improved the household's ability to access land, to cultivate crops and again to engage in agricultural production.

Now people from northern Uganda have been released from many IDP camps and are moving back to their villages of origin.