

# Swaddled in Safety

## AIDING EXPECTANT MOTHERS IN UGANDA

According to the National Library of Medicine, "The first 24 hours following childbirth (immediate postnatal period), where the majority of morbidity and mortality occurs, is critical for mothers and babies. In Uganda, less than 50% of women reported receiving such care." Following is the story of one woman's efforts to change that statistic.

I remember sitting at Lacor Hospital in Gulu, Uganda. I was face-to-face with their leadership team, discussing their persistent needs and challenges. I

Having taught in the U.S. inner city, Jamie Nollette thought she'd seen what poverty looks like. But nothing could've prepared her for the suffering and lack of resources she found upon visiting Kenya and Uganda in 2007. Determined to do her small part, she began by sponsoring a few children and volunteering when she could, but she wanted to do more. In 2010 she co-founded Pipeline Worldwide with the goal to give others the opportunity to change their lives, their worldview, and uplift the lives of others. To date Pipeline has leveraged 130,000 volunteer hours, provided 500,000 people access to clean drinking water, and donated over \$10 million in goods and services.

and supplies we'd recently shipped, but it took a different turn when they asked if we could send more baby blankets. This is when I learned about the strife of expecting mothers in the region.

In Uganda, in order to deliver a baby at a hospital or birthing center, you're responsible for bringing all of your own medical supplies — including a baby blanket. Diapers, sanitary pads, and cute pink and blue hats, all the things automatically provided to patients in U.S. hospitals, are not simply available for one's convenience. If women are too poor to bring even a baby blanket, there's devastating shame associated with it, so much so that most mothers choose to deliver at home. This increases risks, and often results in preventable deaths of both mothers and newborns.

Several months prior to our meeting at Lacor Hospital, we donated hundreds of baby blankets to the hospital and neighboring birthing centers in Gulu. These blankets were donated to Pipeline Worldwide by two sewing groups in Arizona, and we were happy to pass them along. What we learned later is that the

anticipated the conversation would find its way to the 40 foot container filled with \$500,000 worth of medical equipment and supplies we'd recently shipped, but it took a different turn when they asked if we could send more baby blankets. This revelation weighed on me heavily. Being a mother of three and needing medical intervention for all of my deliveries made me feel both blessed and guilty. I was never afraid of dying during childbirth or losing my babies, but this fear is a reality for women living in Uganda. We had to do more.

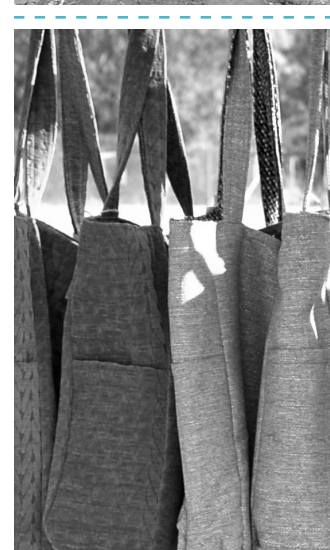
Pipeline Worldwide facilitates connections between donors and vulnerable communities in East Africa, based on the needs voiced by local leaders. They provide funding, time, and resources for projects that deliver access to clean water, sanitation, education, healthcare, and development in the region's most impoverished communities. Their purpose is to change people's lives by giving them the chance to change the lives of others. Their efforts impact East Africa's most impoverished communities through the donation of time, talent, and resources.

Following the meeting at Lacor Hospital, Pipeline

Worldwide got to work designing and developing reversible totes from luxury remnant fabric donated by the furniture manufacturer Plural Studios. For every tote purchased, Pipeline donates two birthing bags that each include a baby blanket and baby cap for expectant mothers in Uganda. So far we've helped over 1,000 women have safe deliveries! Our goal moving forward is to include transportation vouchers to and from the village (in the two ambulances funded by Pipeline!) as well as cloth diapers and sanitary pads.

For more information on Pipeline Worldwide and the other projects they support, visit [pipelineworldwide.org](http://pipelineworldwide.org) and follow them on Instagram @pipelineworldwide.

By: Co-Founder of Pipeline Worldwide Jamie Nollette



### How Can You Help?

It's easy: shop for yourself or a loved one! Visit [pipelineworldwide.org](http://pipelineworldwide.org) and pick from their reversible tote bags made out of recycled textiles.

### How it Works:

Plural Studios donates excess luxury fabrics that are tailored into uniquely beautiful designer tote bags. A portion of the proceeds goes to the Sewing Hope Foundation led by Sister Rosemary Nyirumbe. They help the most vulnerable women in Uganda transition out of extreme poverty through tailoring, adult literacy, and entrepreneurship programs. Tailors-in-training make and donate birthing bags to delivery centers to give to expectant mothers. Sister Rosemary's programs not only elevate these women's livelihood, but also give them an opportunity to save the lives of others along the way.

