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Changing Communities One Couple at a Time

The whole village of Kitanyata admires the Rukoba's marriage. As a neighbor explains, "When you meet them on the road, you find John carrying his wife on his bicycle. They always go together." John and Angelica Rukoba have raised seven children over the past thirty years. They have a lot of experience in marriage, and young couples have always sought their advice. Now the Rukoba's have been trained as couple counselors by the Tuko Be Faithful project.



John Bosco Rukoba

The Rukoba's were one of fifteen couples to attend the first couple counseling training in Kyenjojo. In this five-day training, they learned about good communication, HIV/AIDS, and how to build trust in a marriage. One of the lessons that Mr. Rukoba learned at the training was the importance of involving his wife in financial decisions. After the training, he and his wife put this lesson into action by opening a joint bank account.

John and Angelica have now taken the messages they learned at the training back to their village. Angelica tells the story of a woman who came to their house one night, crying. The woman had tested positive for HIV, but she was afraid to tell her husband because she knew he would be angry. After listening to her story, the Rukoba's helped the woman make a plan. Over the next weeks, John went to see the husband a few times and eventually told the man about the benefits of testing for HIV. The man agreed, and the couple went for testing. Both were HIV positive, and now they are living together in peace. Using their training, John and Angelica helped this woman avoid a dangerous situation and make steps toward a healthier life. Now, John and Angelica are proud to say that they have counseled 44 couples and brought them to test for HIV.

Through couple counseling training, an older couple learns how to build a healthy relationship and becomes inspired to share these lessons with the rest of the community.

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