From Washington to Uganda, With Love

When Euland Ramsey embarked on her first mission trip to Uganda in 2009, she originally thought she’d just chalk it up to a great experience and cross it off her bucket list. But as she and the other volunteers were handing out the 200 pairs of flip flops that they brought over for the locals, she saw that the number of people in line far exceeded the amount of footwear they had left in the boxes.

She recalls thinking, “Hey, there is so much work to be done. That’s what got me to keep going.”

Today, the director of enrollment services at Howard is working on constructing a 16-building technical school complex in Uganda to help young adults train in a variety of skills, including carpentry, auto mechanics, tailoring and health sciences. She works with a nonprofit, Dr. Herldleen Russell Ministries (DHRM), where she serves as financial secretary of the board. In addition to bringing various supplies — clothing, books, medical items, toothbrushes and so forth — the nonprofit has helped build primary schools with dormitories and partnered with an organization that would build a well on each of the schools’ properties so the students would have access to clean water. All of the projects are funded through donations.

Ramsey is also working to grow a partnership between the new technical school and Howard University. She has spoken with the School of Divinity about the possibility of having students gain field education experience by teaching English in the school and training teachers as well.

“Anytime you can be a part of something bigger and greater than you are is always wonderful,” Ramsey says. “To know that the fruit that’s going to come from it will go beyond my years is amazing in and of itself.”