

Saturday, December 23, 2006  39° F Partly cloudy ■ MORE WEATHER

timesunion.com
Serving New York's Capital Region – Albany, N.Y.

104.9 THE EDGE
CAPITALAND'S PURE ROCK



CLICK HERE TO ROCK

■ **SEARCH ALBANY**

- Jobs
- Homes
- Autos
- Place an Ad
- NEWS**
- Local News
- Capitol/State
- Nation
- World
- Weather
- Opinion
- Blogs
- Sports
- Business
- Movies
- Entertainment
- Travel
- Life
- Calendar
- Communities
- Special Reports
- Photo Galleries
- Lottery
- Obituaries
- Archives
- MARKETPLACE**
- Classifieds
- Merchandise
- Shopping
- Yellow Pages
- Today's Ads
- Online Store
- ABOUT US**
- Home Delivery
- E-Edition
- Advertising
- Privacy
- Help
- Corrections

NEWS IN YOUR INBOX: Receive e-mail updates of Capital Region breaking news each afternoon

■ **HAPPY HOLIDAYS**
 A list of **what's open/what's closed** for Christmas.
 » **Religion calendar of events**
 » **Poll shows Santa endures**



NEWS IN PHOTOS: View breaking news via images with story links.

- » **Security Council slaps sanctions on Iran** 
- » **Bin Laden associate killed, U.S. says** 
- » **Phoenix slayings informant speaks out** 
- » **Top Shiite cleric balks at plan for Iraq** 
- » **Israel agrees to free Palestinian funds** 
- » **Knight ties Smith with 879th victory** 

More news: [National](#) | [World](#)

■ **AP VIDEO**

 **Tiger Attacks Trainer at Zoo**

 **Attorney: Duke Case 'Clearly Not Over'**

 **There's 'Snow' Place Like Home**

 **Marines Charged in Iraq**

» **More video**

■ **STRANGE NEWS**

■ **NEWS BULLETIN**
 » **Police investigating home invasion in Troy**
 Intruder possibly armed with sawed-off shotgun



Stephanie Van Dyke displays photos of the health clinic she is building in Uganda with money inherited from her grandmother. (Will Waldrom / Times Union)

Med student's gift brings hope
 Albany woman uses inheritance to build clinic in impoverished Uganda

■ **TIMES UNION HOLIDAY FUND**
 Annual campaign to aid Capital Region neighbors in need. **TODAY'S STORY:**
 » **He's down, but never out** 
 » **More about the Holiday Fund**



■ **IN TODAY'S NEWSPAPER**

- » **Day of disgrace for Hevesi**
 Comptroller steps down after pleading guilty to defrauding government
- » **Bruno defends his dealings**
 "We've followed the letter of the law," says Senate GOP majority leader
 » [Capitol/state section](#)
- » **Woman admits role in daughter's abuse**
 Delia Hernandez to serve seven years for assault of Xctasy Garcia
- » **Fund benefits music groups**
 Proctor's Theatre among those receiving grants in pay-for-play settlement

■ **HOME DELIVERY**



Save 50% on home delivery today

Boscov's



Get Your Happy

Happy™ a hint of citrus a wealth of flowers, a mix of emotions.
 Happy Heart™, a romantic floral.

CLINIQUE

DUNKIN' 'Thanks to You'



STORY TOOLS

- » E-MAIL STORY TO A FRIEND
- » PRINT-FRIENDLY VERSION

1 of 4 Capital Region stories:
 << PREVIOUS | NEXT >>

OTHER STORIES

- » Let's live story of Christmas
- » He's down, but never out
- » Interpreter's assistance enables greater access at church
- » Ruling opens door to demolition

SPONSORED LINKS

Lower Blood Pressure

Doctors agree, it's a safe and natural way to Lower Blood Pressure
www.resperate.com

Low 4.625% Mortgage Rates

Mortgage rates near historic lows! Click for Details/Intro Terms
www.nextag.com

Chase Free Checking

Get \$75 When You Open A Checking Account with Direct Deposit - Apply Now
www.chase.com

Your FREE Credit Report!

US average credit score is 678. How do you compare? Find out NOW!
www.privacymatters.com

[Buy a link](#)

Med student's gift brings hope

Albany woman uses inheritance to build clinic in impoverished Uganda

By **CATHLEEN F. CROWLEY**, Staff writer
 Click byline for more stories by writer.
 First published: Saturday, December 23, 2006

ALBANY -- Stephanie Van Dyke has sat at the bedside of dying people as a hospice volunteer. She baby-sat children while their drug-addicted mothers were in therapy. She cared for orphans in a rural village in South Africa and fed diseased monkeys quarantined in Thailand.



But it wasn't until Van Dyke traveled to Uganda that she found the despair that would redefine her life. An African country about the size of Oregon, Uganda borders Sudan, Kenya, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Van Dyke taught English in a rural village where there was no running water, electricity or medical

care. People with broken legs crawled on the ground with limbs that never healed properly.

Van Dyke wracked her brain for a way to help. "I couldn't think of anything other than becoming a doctor that was more effective," she said.

So Van Dyke, who had avoided science classes during her education, applied to medical school and was accepted. Today, she is a second-year student at Albany Medical School.

Van Dyke, 29, a native of Portland, Ore., speaks rapidly, with her eyes stretched wide open and her hands fluttering. It's 10 a.m. and she's already had three cups of coffee.

She considered buying a house in Albany. Her grandmother, who owned a German bakery, died and left Van Dyke \$35,000. She searched Albany neighborhoods for a nice place. "But it just didn't feel right," she said. "Why am I buying a house here when I want to be in Africa?"

She used the money to build a health clinic there.

Last summer, she returned to Uganda with a small group of friends and family. With the help of John Kalule, a Ugandan volunteer that Van Dyke met on her first visit, and dozens of villagers, they constructed the clinic and two buildings to house the medical staff. It took two months.

The Engeye Clinic is located in Ddegeya Village, about 100 miles south of

TOP JOBS

Teacher The Greater Amsterdam School District Has Immediate openin...

Teacher MONTICELLO CENTRAL SCHOOLIMMEDIATE OPENINGS English Tea...

Entry / Mid-level Web Applications Developer Newkirk is se...

COTA
 We want you on our team. Let's talk ...

Auto Appraiser for lg independent adjusting co. Must have ...

Mid-level Applications Developer Newkirk is seeking qualifi...

Nurses
 Columbia Memorial Hospital Be part ...

» All Top Jobs

Kampala, the capital. Villagers, who were paid about \$3 a day for their work, strapped water buckets to their bicycles and walked them up a hill to reach the clinic. It took three days to collect enough water to mix the concrete. A Ugandan latrine specialist dug a 50-foot trench, without supports, to serve as the clinic's toilet.

When the project ran out of money, Van Dyke's parents contributed \$10,000.

The buildings are empty now, but Van Dyke will spend spring break there with two doctors, a nurse and several fellow students from Albany Med. One of the doctors is Dr. Robert Paeglow, an Albany physician and an administrator at Albany Med. Paeglow devotes most of his vacations to practicing medicine in Third World countries.

"Stephanie is an incredible person," Paeglow said. "She's a ball of fire and energy and really dedicated to helping people. I'm almost tired out when I'm in her presence because of her energy."

Van Dyke's decision to spend her inheritance on the health clinic impressed Paeglow.

"In a place like Africa, a relatively small investment can reap huge dividends and because she invested what others might consider a small amount of money, hundreds of people will be helped," he said.

Van Dyke struggles to explain why Uganda so completely enticed her.

"This was the first time where I saw such suffering where people weren't already doing something," she said.

In Ddegeya Village, she said, she has an opportunity to make a difference where no one else dared to try.

Crowley can be reached at 454-5348 or by e-mail at ccrowley@timesunion.com.

50% off Times Union home delivery. Subscribe today!

■ **OTHER STORIES**

- » [Let's live story of Christmas](#)
- » [He's down, but never out](#) 📺
- » [Interpreter's assistance enables greater access at church](#) 📺
- » [Ruling opens door to demolition](#)

[back to top](#) | [e-mail story](#) | [print version](#)

All Times Union materials copyright 1996-2006, Capital Newspapers Division of The Hearst Corporation, Albany, N.Y.

[CONTACT US](#) | [SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEWSPAPER](#) | [HOW TO ADVERTISE](#) | [YOUR PRIVACY RIGHTS](#) | [FULL COPYRIGHT](#) | [CLASSROOM ENRICHMENT](#)