

► ROWAN, FROM PAGE 1

Presently operating on a budget of just \$5,000 a year, the organization also strives to improve education for the lives of children and is offering free literacy classes for adults twice a week. Its goal is to one day build a community center and school.

ROWAN serves 30 villages in the eastern region of Uganda, directly touching the lives of 350 widows, orphans and people living with HIV, and indirectly helping thousands in the community. The program includes exit strategies for individuals so those served "don't depend on ROWAN forever," Kelsey said.

On Kelsey's last trip to Uganda, she brought with her 13-year-old West Grand student Emily Vance, who had helped to collect \$1,000 in change for ROWAN at the school through the program "Let's Make Cents." According to Kelsey, Vance visited more than 30 huts, heard families tell stories, and helped operate a children's camp for orphans. "She was really a sponge," Kelsey said. "It was a life-changer for that girl."

With ROWAN being the only active help organization in that region of Uganda, in the face of that country's lack of education for its children, its poor roads, infrastructure and lack of government assistance, "the burden can be heavy at times," Kelsey said. But, "it will always be a part of my life, if not all of it."

Antlers for Orphans

The Hargadines, who met each other in Uganda and married longer than a year ago, are now branching out their ROWAN fundraising methods to include donations from wildlife, so to speak.



Thaddius and Kelsey Hargadine of Kremmling, seen here during a past trip to Uganda, have launched a campaign to collect elk antlers to help fund ROWAN, Rural Orphans & Widows AIDS Network, an organization committed to helping villagers in eastern Uganda. COURTESY PHOTO

With a new campaign "Antlers for Orphans," the Hargadines hope to collect shed elk antlers from community members and collectors, from which full proceeds generated will be donated to the ROWAN cause of providing scholarships and health care for 110 orphans in the program. Kelsey calculates 18 antlers can put one student through school.

All antler donations are tax-deductible, and those who donate

On the web

For more information about ROWAN and the antlers donation program, visit: www.loverowan.com and www.antlersfororphans.com

antlers receive an "Antlers for Orphans" hat and/or T-shirt.

As Thaddius states on the Antlers for Orphans website, antlers can make a real difference in the world "one time at a time."

Collectors should use care in antler country

SPECIAL TO THE SKY-HI NEWS

As antler collectors travel the backcountry in search of fresh sheds this coming spring, Colorado Parks and Wildlife reminds them to avoid stressing wildlife still struggling to survive the cold weather and the lack of forage.

Many collectors use freshly shed antlers to create artwork, furniture and other goods. Although most are responsible, state wildlife officers occasionally receive reports of peo-

ple on motorized vehicles chasing elk or deer herds in hopes of collecting a fresh pair of antlers dropped by a startled animal.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife reminds the public that harassing wildlife is unethical and illegal and can result in significant fines for violators.

"We caution everyone to be respectful of animals still dealing with tough conditions," said Lyle Sidener, area wildlife manager in Hot Sulphur Springs. "Loud noise, fast

moving vehicles and other disruptive human activity is a serious concern because it can stress animals that are trying to conserve energy, leading to higher mortality, especially in fawns and calves."

In some cases, the spooked animals will seek shelter on private land increasing the likelihood of game damage conflicts, or they may run across highways and railroad tracks leading to injuries or death from collisions.

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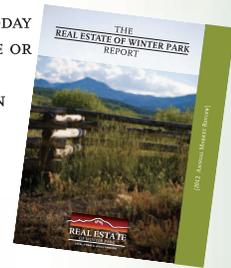
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