

# Brittany Underwood

## International Trade Entrepreneur; Local Social Entrepreneur

Please contact a GDA agent for information.

### Topics

- Activism / Philanthropy / Civic Engagement
- Entrepreneur
- Fashion
- Goal Setting
- Social Responsibility
- Sustainability
- Teamwork / Teambuilding
- Women's Empowerment



### About Brittany Underwood

The Akola journey began with a 10 minute meeting that changed the life of Akola's founder. In 2004, Brittany Underwood was moved to compassion as a sophomore in college after meeting a Ugandan woman named Sarah who cared for 24 street children in her home. Compassion escalated to action as Brittany founded a nonprofit to construct an orphanage home to house children who slept on Sarah's floor.

In 2006, upon graduating college, Brittany moved to Uganda to begin the construction of the orphanage and the drilling of over 20 water wells throughout the country. As the team traveled to different villages, they were amazed by women who cared for 10+ children in their homes. Like Sarah, they had a hope and vision for their families; they simply did not have the income or confidence to embrace their calling. After completing the orphanage, Brittany discovered that by training and employing women and guaranteeing them a monthly income we could care for thousands of children, without the construction of an orphanage home.

In 2007, Brittany launched a new sustainable model to uplift women and children. The women named it "Akola", which means "to work" in their local dialect. After 5 years in the field, she worked with the best development practitioners in the country to develop a sustainable impact model for women.

Over the last seven years, the Akola Project has blossomed into a thriving social business that empowers women across the globe. The hope of Akola is to encourage new thinking about international development and to inspire the next generation of social innovators to deliver the highest level of impact in disadvantaged communities.

### Select Articles

- [This Female Founder Skips The Traditional For-Profit Model For Her Brand And It Works](#)

"It was easy to ship and something the Ugandan women could make," she says on her decision to sell jewelry specifically.