



As we close our celebration of Black History Month and begin to honor those women of grit and grace for March, Women's History Month, we thought who better to recognize than our own POC staff and ROLE volunteer, Grace Sakwa!

Grace was introduced to POC and ROLE when studying for her GED from Harper College at the Community Resource Center (CRC). It was with her indomitable spirit and humility that she taught all that met her what it takes to be tough and courageous in the face of hardship and danger. Grace left her home of Uganda with the hope and promise to one day return and build a school so that all children could have access to quality education. She started a nonprofit called Shelter Academy of Light and in addition to going to school, working, caring for her family, and volunteering for POC, she also works tirelessly on her project. To learn more about Grace and her work for Uganda you can go to www.Shelteracademy.org.

This picture shows Grace as she patiently and lovingly greeted every person that came to the CRC for COVID testing. Grace had earned her Community Health Worker certificate through Harper College and then interned with POC. When POC secured a grant from the Cook County Department of Public Health in support of the COVID pandemic, POC hired Grace and 2 other CHW students to distribute valuable information to families regarding COVID and to support all projects and services during this health crisis.

Grace pays it forward every day of her life. Like so many of the gifted women involved with ROLE, Grace's generosity and kindness make her a true leader in the community. We are so thankful to support her in her educational journey and proud to call her a member of our POC team! POC also wants to thank all that have had a role in lifting Grace and other women these last months:

- NCH and Palatine Township for collaborating to bring the COVID testing clinic to the Community Resource Center.
- Harper College for supporting the General Education Development and the High School Equivalency programs for adults and the essential certificates such as the Community Health Worker.
- Cook County Department of Public Health for granting funds to POC to hire a quality team of members from the community to help fight COVID and keep families and program participants safe.
- POC generous donors and volunteers for supporting the ROLE program and believing in the importance of lifting all women to excellence.