

ChildLine

AUGUST, 2011

VOLUME VII, NUMBER 2

The newsletter of the Uganda AIDS Orphan Children Foundation

www.UAOCF.org

The Wealth You Provide

Is \$350 *really* enough to completely change the life of a child? Absolutely! But don't just take our word for it. As usual, our children are far more eloquent and powerful in describing what you do for them than we could ever be.

Elizabeth P. is 11 years old and has been part of our program since May, 2005. Recently she sent a letter to her UAOCF sponsor discussing what her life is like. Her report is very straight forward, but so striking we wanted to share it:

"We really eat the best meals at school. We eat sweet potatoes, rice, posho (a corn-based dish), beans, ground nuts, cabbages and meat.

And at school we drink milk, tea, porridge and we can also enjoy playing games. I would like to tell you that our teachers at school always teach us very well. We study English, Science, Social Studies, (and) Mathematics. At school if you get sick, they give you medicine."

Perhaps that doesn't sound very unusual to you. But for an orphan in Uganda, simply being in a school of any quality is unusual – and getting a good education, good food and good medical care is almost unimaginable. Elizabeth goes into such detail about food, school and the rest because this is all so new and wonderful to her. Another orphan hearing her story

might reasonably marvel, "You get *all that!*? That can't be true!"

Elizabeth knows and appreciates how true it is. She wrote, "I would like to thank you because we were in the villages suffering...but because of your mercy you helped us." Other children echo those sentiments. Edward B. recently wrote to his sponsor, "In a village I don't eat good but at school I get enough." Justine N. commented, "Because of eating well I have managed to get good performance in class." No child should ever go hungry – or without a good education. Thanks to you, no UAOCF child ever will know those wants again.

A Visit to Uganda

If you have been to one of our annual Heart to Heart events, you have almost certainly met Magna Gibbs. Magna was one of the founding members of UAOCF's Management Committee, and has visited Uganda before. In July, Magna went to Africa once again and visited our program.

Magna was travelling with a group and took several friends with her to visit Kabale. They stayed there for two nights, met our staff and visited with our children. Magna's friends were not all familiar with UAOCF, and they were very impressed with our work and our children. It was clear to them that our orphans are all well cared for. The children asked Magna and her friends to bring a message back for you, our supporters: a message of thanks. They want you to know that they are very grateful to you and UAOCF for allowing them to be in school and for giving them the

opportunity to have a good education and to achieve their dreams. Magna shared many pictures of the children with us. Take a look: we think you'll see for yourself how happy you've made them.

A group of children Magna and her group visited in Kabale.



Magna's group: Rev. Lawrence Sayer, Msr. Dick Martini & 6 members of Transfiguration Church



over \$800 and also found a new sponsor who "adopted" three of our orphans! Michelle Inoscencio, the President of Grateful Me, told us that some people who purchased art that night were teachers who put the art up in their classrooms, where it helps kids here see a whole different perspective on life. That's a big part of what Grateful Me is all about.

Michelle confessed that she "fell in love" with UAOCF and the work we do from the first she learned about us. She added, "It's a really big deal to always know where the money is going. You see it at work. Grateful Me will always have at least one or two events a year for UAOCF."

A million thanks to Michelle and everyone at Grateful Me, as well as the Terrell Moore Gallery for donating their space and artist Ben Nyende for contributing one of his works. We're already starting to plan next year's art show. With Grateful Me's hard work and dedication, it can't fail to be even more amazing!

Artwork by Irene T. Most of the drawings were in color, and truly amazing!



"Make sure that you always have at least one concrete poor person in your life to whom you are specially attending."

~Gustavo Gutierrez, when asked what one person can really do to fight global issues of injustice

Grateful Us!

Founded just one year ago, Grateful Me is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to empowering children in America to help less fortunate children throughout the world – including our children in Uganda. And UAOCF is very, very grateful for Grateful Me!

In July, Grateful Me organized and hosted an art show to benefit UAOCF. Our children, staff and even members of our Kabale-based Oversight Committee created beautiful artwork to be auctioned off at the show. Grateful Me coordinated everything: space for the event, food and drinks, invitations – a lot of work! It all paid off: we raised

Time to Update Your Ralphs Card Again

It's that time again! Every Sept. 1, Ralphs requires participants in its Community Contribution Program to re-register their Ralphs Rewards cards. In the past year, UAOCF received \$915 in donations from Ralphs' Community Contribution Program – almost enough to fully support three orphans!

For those not familiar with this program, all you need is a Ralphs Rewards card (which you get for free at Ralphs). These are the cards cashiers scan that often entitle you to special discounts. If you register your Ralphs card with the Community Contribution Program and ask to support UAOCF, a portion of your total will go to UAOCF. You don't pay anything more

than you otherwise would, and UAOCF gets a great donation!

If you have a Rewards card and haven't registered, please do it now! Go to the Ralphs home page (www.ralphs.com) and click on "Community Contribution." On the page that comes up is a box titled "Participant," with a button that says, "Sign Up." Click the sign up button, follow the instructions and fill out the form. Enter UAOCF's Charity ID number: 90316. It's a quick and painless way to raise money to help our children! Direct links to the Ralphs page are posted on UAOCF's web site to help you register.

The online registration process may seem a bit complicated for some folks. Never fear, there's another way! Ralphs has a scanbar letter you

can give to the cashier – they scan it and you're registered. Download the scanbar letter from our website: (http://uaocf.org/painless_giving.html). Just click on the words "PDF file" where it says "If you have problems with the online instructions you can print this [PDF file](#) and take it to your local Ralphs" to download the scanbar letter. No computer? No problem! Contact us by phone or postal service and we'll send you a scanbar letter by mail. That's all it takes to register your Rewards card and start benefitting our children.

Coming Soon

Lucy Michel will be hosting another breakfast fundraiser for UAOCF in October. We'll send more details in the next News Notes!



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Thankful Visitor

The Chairman of the Kabale Diocese Orphans and Vulnerable Children Project, Bishop Callist Rubaramira, has visited us in Los Angeles before. This year, health problems brought him: it appeared he needed back surgery. There is not even a physical therapist in Kabale, much less surgeons, so the Bishop came here for a second opinion and treatment. He was met with good will and good news! It turned out that his condition could be successfully treated without surgery. He stayed for physical therapy and, as one person said, received "a wonderful outpouring of love from the community. People were vying to

take him to his appointments!" To all who offered assistance, hospitality, or just good wishes, we and the Bishop heartily thank you. We'd especially like to thank the McKenna family, who once again opened their lovely home to host a reception for the Bishop. And thanks to Gary & Nancy Few for working so hard at the reception!

Michelle Inoscencio and Martha Strickland from Grateful Me enjoy a moment with Fr. Fred



Bishop Callist chatting with Mary Jo McKenna and Letty Afford.

Progress Report

One might reasonably think the economic downturn would lead to a drop in support for our orphans. But that is not so! Our donors are so committed to these children that UAOCF is now sponsoring 339 orphans!

To adopt a child (\$350 a year) or donate any amount, please send a check (payable to UAOCF) to: P.O. Box 64485, Los Angeles, CA 90064. You can also call 310-479-8396, or use your credit card to donate via our website: www.UAOCF.org.