

ChildLine

JANUARY, 2014

VOLUME X, NUMBER 1

The newsletter of the Uganda AIDS Orphan Children Foundation

www.UAOCF.org

Exec. Director of Mission Doctors Assoc. to Speak

It's time once again for us at UAOCF, on behalf of all the children we support, to offer our heartfelt thanks to the people who make it all possible: you, our donors. Please join us Sunday, February 9, for this year's Heart to Heart celebration.

At last year's event, Sr. Enda Gregan spoke about the work she and her sister have done in Uganda. This year, we hope to keep the inspiration flowing with a presentation by Elise Frederick,

the Executive Director of the Mission Doctors Association. For more than 50 years, the Mission Doctors Association has trained, sent and



supported Catholic doctors and their families to work in some of the poorest areas of the globe, including Uganda. MDA physicians stationed in Uganda have helped train Emergency

Nurse Practitioners, built an emergency department, taught medical students, and of course, provided direct patient care. Ms. Frederick has travelled to Uganda many times and will share her insights and experiences with us. We hope you share our excitement in welcoming her to our celebration. Come join us!

Heart to Heart

Sunday, February 9

4 PM: appetizers and drinks

5 PM: program begins

St. Joan of Arc Parish Hall

11533 Gateway Blvd.

(just west of Pico)

Los Angeles, CA 90064

“May You Live to Blow More Than 1000 Candles”

These are among the words that Grace K. wrote to her UAOCF sponsor this past April. Like so many children sponsored by UAOCF, Grace was very young when she became an orphan: she was still a month shy of her second birthday when her mother died. Grace's father, a peasant, was left to raise six children alone. The future did not hold much hope for Grace, and certainly didn't promise a warm bed, good food and a good education. That is, not until she was “adopted” by UAOCF.



It's been 8 years now since Grace joined our program. But the gratitude and wonder for what she has been given has not worn off. She wrote, “I would like to thank you for your anchorage since I was 7 years and now I am 15 years old. To me that is very, very great. By the way, did you know that your love is inexplicable?”

It is easy to see why she might feel this way. How does a child who had nothing, not even a mother, understand the willingness of a stranger half a world away to care for her? Pierre Teilhard de Chardin once said, “Love is the most powerful and still most unknown energy in the world.” He could have been speaking to Grace.

There's one other thing Grace wrote to her sponsor that we want to share with you – because we feel exactly the same way about our donors and supporters: “I will continue thanking you until you get tired.” Thank you for making stories like Grace's possible. Thank you for turning a 7-year-old orphan into an eloquent and thoughtful young woman on the way to a productive life. Thank you for the power of your love.

A Loss to the UAOCF Family

One of the joys of our organization is the opportunity to spend time with some people who seem to just radiate happiness. We lost one of these great souls recently. Cecilia Albi, together with her husband Keith, supported 50 orphans and changed the lives of everyone she touched. We miss her smile, her laugh and her joy, and send our condolences to Keith and the entire Albi family.

Congratulations and Best Wishes

You may know that UAOCF employs two staff in Uganda: Judith Orikiriza Nyangoma and Rita Tushemereirwe. Both Judith and Rita recently welcomed a new baby boy to their families! We send our hearty congratulations. With heavier hearts, however, we must also offer Rita our best wishes as she leaves her position with UAOCF. Rita's husband has been working in the capital, Kampala, and she is leaving Kabale to join him there. Thank you for all you have done for us, Rita, and good luck!

An act of love, a voluntary taking on oneself of some of the pain of the world, increases the courage and love and hope of all.

Dorothy Day

The Numbers

As of January 1, 2014, UAOCF is supporting 360 orphans in Uganda! That includes 354 in primary and secondary school as well as 6 in technical school.

This Year's Ralphs Reminder

Once again, it's time for our annual reminder to sign up for the Ralphs Community Giving Program. Even if you have signed up in the past, remember you must renew your participation every September. Otherwise, you could spend thousands of dollars at Ralphs and it wouldn't help UAOCF at all. The money we receive from Ralphs is enough to sponsor as many as three children, and that's with just a small number of registered participants! We call it "painless giving" because it doesn't cost you a penny more than you'd otherwise spend. So it doesn't make a difference to you, but it makes a huge difference to our children.

It's easy to sign up. Our website has everything you need here: http://uaocf.org/painless_giving.html That includes a letter you can give to a checker at any Ralphs. The checker will scan the letter, and that's it! You'll be registered to have a percentage of the money you spend donated to UAOCF.

If you need a hand, we're happy to help. Give us a call at 310-479-8396 and let us know; we'll just mail you the letter and you won't have to worry about how to download or print it. Christine Schmidt has also taken to carrying extra copies of the letter with her when she shops, so if you bump into her at Ralphs, ask her for one! It's the easiest way to provide for an orphan while taking care of your own family.

I Love Lucy!

Once again, Lucy Michel will be sponsoring a breakfast benefit for UAOCF. The breakfast will be some time this Spring in the St. Joan of Arc Parish Hall. Look out for updates to tell you the exact date.



P.O. Box 64485
Los Angeles, CA 90064



Transportation Project Update

In the August ChildLine, we told you about UAOCF's plans to purchase a 15-passenger van so our staff would not have to rely on the availability of a borrowed vehicle. We began raising the estimated \$55,000 needed to purchase this van. Since then, we have seen an amazing response to our fundraising campaign, some changes along the way, and great progress.

As we were soliciting donations to purchase the van, we continued to assess our transportation needs and how to make the best use of our donors' money. In consultation with our management committee in

Kabale, we determined that we rarely need to transport as many as 15 people, but we may need to frequently carry food, supplies or other cargo. Given this, a twin cab pickup truck would be a more versatile and practical option. At \$37,000, it also has the benefit of being much less expensive, as well as having four-wheel drive, which is much better suited to the rural Ugandan terrain.

Thanks to the generosity of 37 sponsors who donated to the vehicle campaign, we have raised all the money necessary to purchase the truck. The vehicle will be identified with the name of our Kabale-based committee painted on the side: Kabale

Diocese Orphans and Vulnerable Children Project. There will also be a plaque to identify and recognize the seven extremely generous donors who gave \$1,000 or more to the vehicle campaign. We hope to have a photo of the new truck to show you at Heart to Heart! Thanks to all who made this possible. With this truck, we will be better able to serve our children today and able to serve even more children in the future.

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.