

# ChildLine

JANUARY, 2006

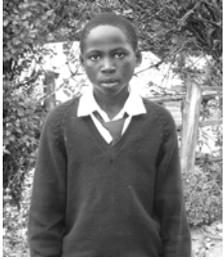
VOLUME II, NUMBER 1

The newsletter of the Uganda AIDS Orphan Children Foundation

[www.UAOCF.org](http://www.UAOCF.org)

## From Tragic Past to Hopeful Future

Francis T. was among the very first group of orphans “adopted” through UAOCF. His story was a heartbreaking one: both parents



died from AIDS when he and his three siblings were young. His uncle began to help supporting the children, but did not live with them; young

Francis was responsible for heading the family and making family decisions. When Francis finished primary school, his uncle tried to make sure he could keep studying, but the situation was extremely difficult for an orphan.

Things changed when UAOCF got involved. Today at age 16, Francis is a happy and successful student who feels he has new “parents” looking after him. His teachers and mentors report he is one of the best students in his school. In the last term, he ranked 9<sup>th</sup> out of over 200 students. As in the USA, it is generally agreed in Uganda that education is the key to success; Francis understands this and is tremendously grateful for what he and his family have received. In the “Thank You” letter he wrote to his UAOCF sponsors, he said, “I will try to maintain my position and to improve my performance as well as I can so that the assistance you are giving me is not in vain. I will always pray for you.”

## Corporations Care

We hear a lot in the news about corporate wrong-doing, but we don’t often hear about the positive contributions that some companies make. Currently, UAOCF receives support from two foundations that are related to corporate sponsors: the Northrop Corporation and the Conrad Hilton Foundation. The Hilton Foundation has made a generous grant of \$15,000 to support 25 children in foster homes for one year and to provide salaries and expenses for our Uganda-based staff (including transportation costs that allow Judith, our Program Administrator, to visit the children who live in outlying areas and see how they are doing). The Northrop Corporation has also been a generous UAOCF supporter, this year providing a \$4,000 grant with the aim of supporting our children and nurturing future leaders. The grant will provide for 10 foster children for one year, start an educational fund for children with exceptional potential, and help to promote UAOCF activities.

It is important to note that these grants help cover operating costs in Uganda. That makes it possible for us to spend every penny you donate

directly on the children. If your company has a philanthropic arm that might be interested in supporting UAOCF, please let us know! You can reach us by phone at 310-479-8396, or send an email to [admin@uaocf.org](mailto:admin@uaocf.org).

## Reaching Out, Touching Hearts

Each year, the Northrop Corporation hosts its ECHO Volunteer Fair, allowing organizations like ours to publicize their mission and present volunteer opportunities to Northrop employees. UAOCF participated in the 2005 Volunteer Fair on October 26. Carlos Girona, a former Northrop employee, joined us at the UAOCF booth, explaining our work and distributing brochures. As we have seen many times before, our children’s stories touched the hearts of some of the people we talked to.

Christina Bertsch is a Northrop employee whom we met at the Volunteer Fair. Hearing these children’s stories, seeing their pictures and reading some letters they had written made her want to get involved. “I wanted to show them that someone they never met cares about them, that even though

## Very Merry Christmas

Once again, UAOCF took part in St. Joan of Arc Parish’s Christmas Giving Tree program to support our children and our programs. This year, the UAOCF Giving Tree was one of four; there was also a Giving Tree to support needy families, one to support a day laborers’ center and another to support a battered women’s shelter. In order to “share the wealth” and not overtax the community’s generosity, we set a limit on the amount of money we would try to collect for the UAOCF Giving Tree. But your giving spirit would not be held back! Once again, the Parish community responded with great compassion and love: we collected over \$4,400! Your donations allowed us to purchase Christmas presents for 125 children and the Ugandan oversight committee that manages the program in Kabale, with the balance going to our Foster Home Support Program.

they’re orphans, they’re valuable people.” In November, she wrote to two of the orphans that Northrop supports, sending along a picture of herself and asking them about their lives. She expects to hear back soon, and she’s excited. “This is a really wonderful cause. I’ve always wanted to get involved with something like this.” Christina is inspired, you can hear it in her voice. And stories like hers are what keep us inspired. This is what UAOCF can do: bring people together across continents, and change lives on both sides.

If you would like to adopt a child (\$300 a year) or send a donation in any amount, please make your check payable to UAOCF and mail it to: P.O. Box 64485, Los Angeles, CA 90064. Or call 310-479-8396.

## Grateful Bishop Thanks You

In our last edition, we reported that the Most Reverend Callist Rubaramira, Bishop of Kabale, would be coming to Los Angeles. The Bishop's visit was a wonderful opportunity for everyone in the UAOCF family to meet him and hear first-hand about the impact our efforts are having on the lives of orphans and vulnerable children.



*Bishop Callist meets parishioners after Mass.*

Msgr. Terrance Fleming, the Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, introduced the Bishop at a presentation he made at the

Archdiocese. This was hosted by the Mission Office (with special thanks to Lydia Gamboa) and focused on mission activities in Uganda. Staff from various departments attended and were especially eager to learn more about orphaned children support.

UAOCF held two receptions in the Bishop's honor. Many people had a chance to meet him at the SJA Parish Hall, and others had the opportunity to dine with him at Keith and Cecelia Albi's house. The Bishop spoke to this group of donors movingly and from his heart about the difference he has seen in the children they "adopted," and the hope for the future that their generosity has created. Upon his return to Uganda, he sent us a letter to express his gratitude to everyone who supports UAOCF and the children in Kabale:

"I thank each one of you for the support, which you send to a particular child. Today as I write

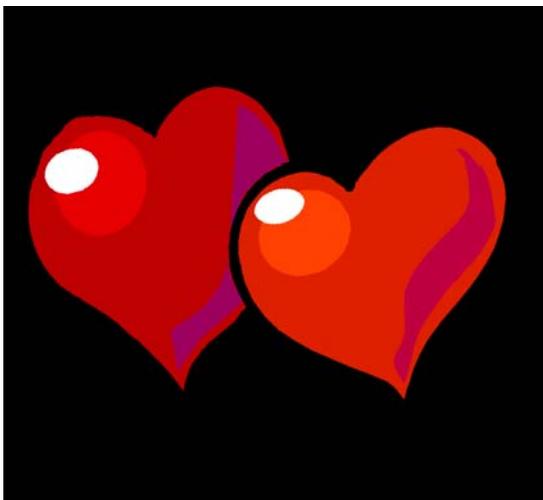
this letter Judith has left to take the money and needs to the children in the different schools. It means a lot to these children."

It was wonderful to have the Bishop with us and to feel that much closer to the children we strive to help. The UAOCF Management Committee would like to thank all those who helped make the Bishop's visit a success, particularly those who hosted events in their homes: the Albis, Jisun and Monica Ryoo, and Paul and Cassie Bull. We also want to thank all the volunteers who helped at the reception in the parish hall. Your efforts are appreciated!



*The Bishop, SJA pastor Fr. Jim Barnes and others applaud Fr. Fred at the Albis' house.*

**It's time again for UAOCF to say "Thank You!"**



## "HEART TO HEART"

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

### ANNUAL UAOCF DONOR CELEBRATION

In the SJA Parish Hall

**SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2006 AT 4 PM**

*Wine and Cheese at 4 pm*

*Short update by Fr. Fred at 5 pm*

RSVP by February 26<sup>th</sup>

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