

ChildLine

AUGUST, 2006

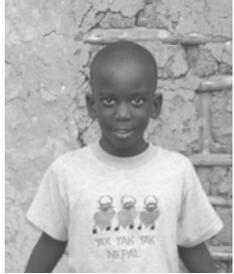
VOLUME II, NUMBER 2

The newsletter of the Uganda AIDS Orphan Children Foundation

www.UAOCF.org

Seven-Year-Old Gets a Second Chance

Ronald M. is only seven, but he has learned some very adult lessons in his short life. He and his older brother lost both their parents to



AIDS; now they live with their aunt. Ronald wasn't doing very well in school; there were too many other things for him to worry

about. And where would the money come from for school, for food, for so many things? The answer, it turned out, was from a generous family in the United States.

Christine and Gene Schmidt have been involved with UAOCF since

the organization was founded. They "adopted" Ronald in November 2004. Now, Ronald is in school and has flourished. He has written several letters to the Schmidts. His first, sent in May 2005, said, "I thank God for having given me a good benefactor like you." In September, he let them know about the progress he was making: "I have improved so much this term...my teachers are happy that I have school fees and that I have improved in the class." He finished that letter with a small, loving gesture, the gift of a child who no longer felt like such an orphan.



This flower is for you.

Orphan Update

UAOCF is delighted to share the latest update on the number of orphans we currently support. Thanks to your generosity, we have been steadily growing and now sponsor 183 children! Many of the children have written to tell us that their grades in school are improving since they've been "adopted," and that their health is improving too. Some families that sponsor children tell us that they can see the improvement in the letters their children send them. This progress is exciting, and we hope to keep moving forward. Our goal is to find sponsors for at least 17 more children and reach 200 by the end of December.

Our Website Is Getting a Facelift!

When one of UAOCF's fabulous volunteers, Dan Van Treek, moved to Texas, he had to give up the work he did managing our website. Luckily, we've found an amazing new volunteer to help us make it better than ever! Paul McKenna, a recent graduate from Loyola Marymount University, is in the process of revamping the UAOCF website. We hope to have the "new and improved" site up and running by the end of August 2006. It will be more informative and attractive than ever, with more frequent updates and even more pictures from Uganda. Check it out at www.UAOCF.org!

Is there something you'd like to see on the website, or some way you'd like to be involved with it? Let us know! You can email us at admin@uaocf.org, or give us a call at 310-479-8396.

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.

On the Ground in Uganda: The People Who Turn Your Dollars to Progress

You may have wondered how an organization like UAOCF, based here in the United States, can work effectively to help children all the way across the world in Uganda. The answer is simple: a committed group of volunteers and two paid staff people in Uganda make it happen.

When UAOCF was formed, a group of volunteers was also formed in Kabale. The thirteen Kabale committee members are people with the passion and the power to make a difference. Members include the city's mayor, the Assistant Education Secretary, the Bishop, and others. They helped set the priorities for how to get the best "bang for our buck," encouraging us to focus most strongly on education. They also are responsible for selecting which children will be sponsored, taking several different factors into account. We make sure that children are not excluded on the basis of religion or HIV status. Each of 28 communities nominates orphans to the committee as potential adoptees; the committee selects among these children based on level of poverty, sending us information on the neediest children.

Once a child is selected, Judith Orikiriza Nyangoma takes over. Judith was the first (and until recently, the only) paid UAOCF staff person. Part of her job is to collect and send the information on the children to be adopted to us in the US. When children are adopted, Judith travels to visit each child and every school, paying school fees and checking to see what the child might need. When you receive a letter from your child, it is Judith who has mailed it. She also manages all the finances and does the accounting. As UAOCF has grown, her job has also grown. In May, we welcomed Narciso Twinomujuni to our staff to help Judith. Judith and Narciso work closely with UAOCF's Kabale and US committees, and they're doing a great job!

If you would like to see pictures of the Uganda committee, including Judith and Narciso, check out our website (www.uaocf.org) and click on "Our Uganda Colleagues."

Sponsor Focus: The De Miranda Foundation

Jay and Shirley De Miranda feel very lucky. Both come from humble beginnings. When Jay came to the United States as an immigrant years ago, all he had was \$25 in his pocket. When their business became successful and their days of poverty were over, they wanted to help others who were in need. That's how the De Miranda Foundation was born.

The Foundation's mission is to provide a long-term financial umbrella for needy children, one child at a time. The De Mirandas want to link up with other organizations that share their mission and that are small enough that the Foundation's donation makes a material difference. Jay and Shirley started out on this

mission locally, supporting the El Nido Family Centers here in Los Angeles. Then they moved out to help needy children internationally. First it was by supporting Rock Ministries, a faith-based organization that focuses on abandoned children in Romania. Jay and Shirley met Fr. Fred Byaruhanga, UAOCF's Executive Director, after Janice England of Lay Mission Helpers told them about Fr. Fred and UAOCF. And since January 2006, they've become the biggest non-corporate donor to UAOCF, sponsoring 48 children. For Jay and Shirley, it is about more than just giving money. They want to be truly involved in whatever organization they support, to give their time and experience as well as

their money. They're still getting to know UAOCF and aren't sure yet how they can best help us to have the greatest impact possible. They hope to travel to Uganda themselves to visit our program there, including Hope House.

Jay summed up the De Mirandas' philosophy and feelings this way: "We feel very fortunate that we are able to do this in some small way. We've been successful and blessed and lucky. We're thankful that we can return some of these blessings to the community, and that's what we're trying to do by giving our time and our money." We at UAOCF are thankful too, for people like Jay and Shirley De Miranda. We share their mission to help the neediest of children, and their belief that when each of us does what we can, we can change lives.

Heart to Heart 2006

Every February, UAOCF hosts our annual donors' meeting, Heart to Heart. It's our chance to let our supporters know about our progress and what we've been able to accomplish with your dollars. Just as important, it's your opportunity to meet UAOCF's Management Committee members and share your ideas and thoughts. This year's meeting was held February 26, 2006. This was a change from our originally scheduled date, made because the St. Joan of Arc Parish Hall where the meeting was held was having a new floor installed. Unfortunately, the new date also happened to be Oscar Night!

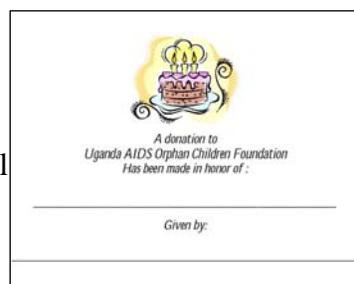
Happily, many of UAOCF's supporters chose to skip their Academy Awards parties and come

to Heart to Heart instead. About 65 people came to hear about the organization, and to share some good food and good company. If you had to miss it—for any reason!—copies of the presentations are available on disk. As always, we'd like to thank everyone who helped make the evening a success: Mary Jo McKenna, our fabulous troupe of volunteers, and everyone who attended!



UAOCF Gift Cards

If you've ever struggled to choose a gift, UAOCF has a unique answer: UAOCF gift cards. The brainchild of Cassie Bull, this program is managed by Cassie and features cards designed by Jeanne Bull. For a minimum donation of \$20, you can choose a card to send for birthdays, Christmas, Easter, graduation, other holidays, or to acknowledge the death of a loved one. Each card tells the recipient that a donation to UAOCF has been made by you in their honor. UAOCF will even mail the cards for you! Want to know more? Call Cassie at 310-397-8240.



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