

# ChildLine

JANUARY, 2007

VOLUME III, NUMBER 1

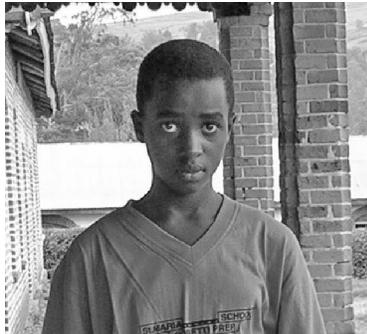
The newsletter of the Uganda AIDS Orphan Children Foundation

www.UAOCF.org

## A New Life for a Child without Hope

Just thirteen years old, Phiona U. learned about loss almost from the time she was born. Her father died of AIDS when she was only one year old. At first she lived with her mother, but then when she was 7 years old her mother chose to leave Phiona and went away to marry another man. Phiona's grandmother cared for her as well as she could, but life was not easy. Everything seemed very difficult for her with no mother or father to care for her.

Everything in Phiona's life changed in 2005. That was the year UAOCF "adopted" her. Donations to UAOCF from the Northrop Corporation's ECHO (Employees Charity Organization) Program support her, paying for her school



tuition and books, personal items and at times providing some pocket money for things she needs at school. While school is in session, Phiona lives at the school; while on holidays from school, she lives with her grandmother.

With UAOCF's support, Phiona felt for the first time that she had a future and a reason to live. Since being "adopted" by UAOCF and

Northrop's ECHO Program, she has blossomed into a successful student, demonstrating that she is a very bright young girl and committed to studying and making the most of her education. She has just completed primary school and will begin secondary school this year.

UAOCF's generous donors make amazing stories like Phiona's possible. Phiona's words are more eloquent than anything we could say to describe how her life has changed for the better. The girl who had no hope wrote this in August, 2006: "I feel so happy and comfortable when at school. I always work hard at school and at home. I eat good and delicious meals at school and at home. May God bless you."

## Hope House: Big Progress, Big Plans

Past editions of ChildLine have provided updates on Hope House, the planned residence and vocational school for UAOCF-sponsored orphans. Our progress recently has taken a big step forward, and we're excited to share it with you!

In 2005, an existing building owned by the Kabale Diocese in Uganda was refurbished for Hope House. Most of the funds for this work came from a grant of over \$42,000 from the Holy Childhood Association of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. While this provided for the building, much remained to turn that building into an operational home and school. The next step came in 2006, when UAOCF made a \$10,000 grant to purchase furniture for Hope House.

Now, we are preparing to open Hope House in Summer, 2007! Initially, 20 orphans who have completed the equivalent of eighth grade will come to live and study at Hope House. Eventually, as many as 65 secondary school-aged orphans will live at Hope House. Our intent is to give these orphans not only a home, but the skills to



*Refurbished Hope House building*

enable them to provide for themselves for the rest of their lives. The vocational school will open with four courses: carpentry/joinery, cooking/catering, sewing/tailoring and bricklaying/concrete practice. Two religious Sisters from the order of Our Lady of Good Counsel will be on staff at the facility and will manage its operation.

The estimated cost of staffing the residence, paying teachers and operating Hope House for this first year is \$50,750. We have already made great strides in raising the necessary funds. Equipment for the vocational school, worth \$9,000--including sewing machines, tools and other necessities--will be donated by Swiss Action Return. We have applied for a grant from

the Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters, which would provide \$15,000 starting in June, 2007. Three individual donors have already committed significant amounts to help us reach our goal of raising the first year costs. But we still need to raise \$5,000 in order to open Hope House this summer! Even more importantly, we need to raise approximately \$25,000 to keep the doors open for an additional year. If you would like to donate to this campaign, please make your check payable to UAOCF and specify on the memo line that your donation is for the Hope House project. As always, your UAOCF donation will be completely tax deductible.

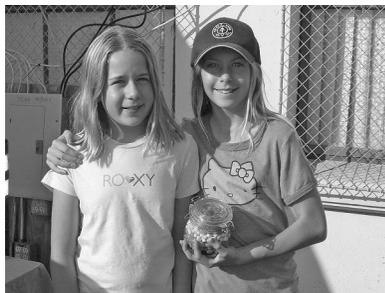


*Dormitory almost ready for children*

## Making a Difference

This past October 29<sup>th</sup>, UAOCF participated in USA Weekend's annual "Make a Difference Day." On this day, charities of every type across the United States carry out some activity related to their mission. Focusing on our educational mission, UAOCF staffed an educational booth at the St. Joan of Arc School Fall Festival. A jelly bean guessing contest for 25 cents per guess attracted people to the booth and raised almost \$100 for our Orphan's Special Education Fund! We also distributed literature and raised awareness about our organization and the important work we do. Because we took part in Make a Difference Day, we were able to nominate our project for a \$10,000 award; this prize is given to several charities and this year's recipients will be announced in March. We are already thinking about how to enhance our Make a

Difference Day activities for 2007. We plan to do even more this year to benefit our educational program. Do you want to participate, or have ideas for us? Let us know!



*Our jelly bean counting winners*

## The Gift of Giving Grows on Trees

You may know that St. Joan of Arc Parish hosts a Christmas Giving Fair every year for the benefit of various outreach groups. This year, UAOCF was one of five participating outreach programs. The Fair was very

successful, raising almost \$11,000 to benefit Parish families in need, the St. Roberts Center for the homeless, the West L.A. Day Labor Center and Ocean Park Community Center's Sojourn program for abused women and their children, in addition to UAOCF. The donors designated that \$4,280 be given specifically to UAOCF. This enabled us to send \$20 for gifts to each of the 200 orphans we are sponsoring in our Foster Care Program, as well as providing gifts to the Uganda staff and Oversight Committee members. Thank you to all the generous St. Joan of Arc parishioners who helped make Christmas happier for so many people!

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.

UAOCF's "Thank You" to our supporters!

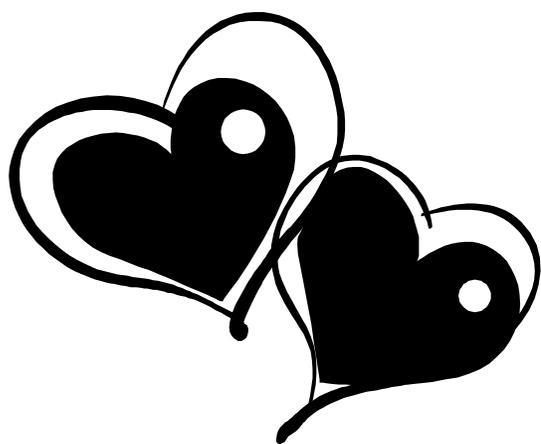
## "HEART TO HEART"

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

ANNUAL UAOCF DONOR CELEBRATION  
In the SJA Parish Hall  
Just East of SJA School, 11561 Gateway Blvd.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2006 AT 4 PM  
Wine and Cheese at 4 pm  
Short update by Fr. Fred at 5 pm

RSVP by February 9<sup>th</sup>  
Mary Jo McKenna 310-837-3447  
UAOCF 310-479-8396



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