

Eight Children Have No Sponsors; Six Are Less Than Ten Years Old

Daphine is just eight years old, and lives with her uncle because both her parents died. Racheal won't turn eight until October. Her parents died years ago, and she lives with an uncle as well. Little Ivan turns eight in September. He has no memory of his parents at all; they died when he was just an infant.



Daphine (left) and Ivan (right)

Such stories are all too familiar in AIDS-ravaged Uganda. These are not just statistics: they are beautiful children whose lives we at UAOCF hope to change forever. We can't help Daphine or Racheal or Ivan yet, however, or five other children who are waiting for us, because we don't have anyone to sponsor them.

Abel is one of those other children without sponsors, a boy with a haunted face to match his sad story. The youngest of five children, he was born in 2000, the same year his mother died. His father died the following year, and Abel is cared for by his peasant grandmother. If only Abel's grandmother had some help, if only

there were money to send him to a good school and take care of him, if only someone would share their love with this wonderful boy...what would he look like with a smile on his face?

Can you help us answer that



Seven-year-old Abel

question? Help put a smile on Abel's face... or any of the other seven children who are waiting for a UAOCF sponsor right now. Sponsor a child. Or share their stories with people you know who might want to change the future of a child in need. Help us find hope and love for children whose lives have had so little.

Focus on Education: The Ugandan School System

Aristotle said, "Education is the best provision for old age." The average Ugandan would agree. That is why UAOCF puts so much of our focus (and money) on giving children a good education. The Ugandan school system is different from the way schooling is structured here in the United States, though, and some of our donors become a bit confused when trying to understand where their child is in the school system.

In Uganda, most children do not attend nursery school or kindergarten; formal education usually begins with primary school. Depending on their individual situation, children may begin primary school anywhere between the ages of six and ten years. School is in session year-round and has three terms per year. There are seven years of primary school. A child in his or her first year is said to be in P1, second year is P2, and so on.

Secondary school in Uganda has two levels. The Ordinary Level (or "O Level") comprises four years, and most students who complete the Ordinary Level go on to High School. High School lasts two

years, after which students either get a job or continue their studies at the university.

Although in theory free primary school is available to all children in Uganda, the quality of public education is extremely poor. This makes it very unlikely that a child in a public primary school will be sufficiently academically prepared to pass the entrance examinations for secondary school. Given this situation, the only way to ensure that the orphans UAOCF cares for get a meaningful education that will allow them to support themselves as adults is to place them in private schools.

When UAOCF (and you, our donors) support a child, we commit to financing that child's schooling through high school. UAOCF pays for tuition, books, uniforms, and any other items the child may need for school. Our staff in Uganda visit each school personally to check on the children and make sure they have everything they need. We try to do just what a parent would do: provide the children with the practical necessities, but also with the encouragement and support they

need to succeed. We often find that the children themselves express what our donors allow UAOCF to achieve better than we ever could. As one wrote, "Your support has brought light to my life and has set up a firm foundation for my future."

Orphan Update

Truly, UAOCF has an amazing group of generous and highly dedicated supporters who make miracles happen for more and more children. As of July, 2007, UAOCF donors have "adopted" 285 orphans! We want to help as many as we can. As noted above, we still have eight children waiting for sponsors to adopt them. We know you'll make it happen!

Quote to Ponder

"Many things can wait. Children cannot. Today their bones are being formed, their blood is being made, their senses are being developed. To them we cannot say 'tomorrow.' Their name is today." – Gabriela Mistral (Chilean teacher 1899 - 1957).

Letters from Our Children

The children your dollars help are immensely grateful for the ways their lives have changed, and they express this in the letters they send. We thought we'd share some excerpts from some of those letters:

"I am trying to work hard in class and I think with God everything is possible so I know He will help me to get a bright future because I hope to be a doctor in future." – Paula, age 13.

"Thank you very much because you have done wonderful thing for me and for my aunt and also you put me in a nice school...My aunt is praying for you and she is very serious." – Resta, age 12.

"I have been always thanking you for school fees you are paying for me, and uniform of our school, even the money for bread...at home I stay there with my sister only... others died, and we do not have any one to care for us at home...She is 17 years old." – Julius, age 13.

"I thank you very much for paying my school fees and taking care of me. I wish you would come here at school and visit me one day." – Sharon, age 13.

"Pray for me so that I may pass my final exams for O level." – Agnes, age 16.

"Remember your daughter Moreen. She is reading hard to be like you in the future. Your work of paying for my school fees is very wonderful to me." – Moreen, age 13.

"First of all I send my sincere appreciation for the great work you have done...providing school fees and other scholastic materials, even not only that but even other essential needs for my life... Secondly I humbly beg you to continue helping me because without your help it is impossible for me to continue studying." – John Baptist, age 20.

"I pray for you every day. Thank you for being there for me." – Editor, age 10.

work closely with the Bishop and the KDOVCP to help monitor and guide our work. Fr. Fred speaks with the Bishop and the program staff frequently by telephone, and visits Uganda periodically.

Before each school term (3 each year), the KDOVCP submits to UAOCF a proposed budget. Once the term budget is approved, we wire the money to the program staff in Kabale. Our KDOVCP program administrators make payments directly to schools and vendors to pay for tuitions, uniforms, supplies, etc. All expenditures are recorded and accounted for in a computer-based accounting system. The staff

What to Give? UAOCF Gift Cards!

The holidays will be here before you know it! And there are birthdays, anniversaries, all sorts of occasions that call for gifts. Don't know what to give? How about UAOCF gift cards! We have lots of attractive designs to choose from, for all kinds of occasions. Check them out on our website (www.UAOCF.org) or just give us a call at 310-479-8396.

November Plans

We always have to plan ahead to get Christmas presents to Uganda on time. In November, we'll be soliciting contributions to provide our children with Christmas money. If you'd like to help, please send your donation to our address.

To adopt a child (\$300 a year) or donate any amount, please send your check (payable to UAOCF) to: P.O. Box 64485, Los Angeles, CA 90064. Or call 310-479-8396.

Where Does the Money Go?

If you are a UAOCF supporter, you may wonder what happens to your donation. How do we get it to Uganda? How do we assure it is spent as it should be?

The answers lie with our dedicated collaborators working with the Kabale Diocese Orphan and Vulnerable Children Program (KDOVCP). UAOCF pays for two of their staff people in Kabale who manage our operations there. Their offices are co-located with the offices of the Bishop of Kabale who is the head of the KDOVCP. We

provides the UAOCF with detailed reports (by expense category and by each child) of all expenses. In this way, we know where all the money goes. We are able to assure that every child is receiving full benefit of the money given by their donor.

Updated Website

The UAOCF website is a labor of love that our volunteers have designed and help maintain. And now it's been completely revamped, thanks to the work of Paul McKenna. Thank you, Paul! Please take a look at the great work he's done. You can find us at www.UAOCF.org.



P.O. Box 64485
Los Angeles, CA 90064

