

ChildLine

JANUARY, 2008

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 1

The newsletter of the Uganda AIDS Orphan Children Foundation

www.UAOCF.org

An Orphan with a Spirit that Shines

Little Bruce K. is in first grade, and he will turn seven this month. His life hasn't been an easy one. His father died when he was just one year old, leaving his mother to care for Bruce and his five brothers and sisters—one of whom was just an infant. In spite of this, he is a happy child. Just look at him! That



Bruce at school

irrepressible smile must warm everyone who meets him. One can't help but think that this boy is someone special.

Bruce happens to be the only one of the 285 children that UAOCF currently supports who has not yet been "adopted" by a family or other sponsor. We can't help but think that someone will see that beautiful, smiling face and want to help. Will it be you?

For just \$300 a year, you or someone you know could provide an education and all the basic necessities to Bruce. That's less than \$6 a week, and that would *really* give him something to smile about! A bright future, and the chance to make something good out of his life. Our sponsors tell us that it gives them something to smile about too, knowing that they've forever changed the life of a child.

A Visit to Uganda

In September, UAOCF's Executive Director, Fr. Fred Byaruhanga, returned to Uganda, giving him the opportunity to meet with everyone involved in our work and to personally monitor the progress we are making. He returned impressed with the hard work and dedication of our staff and volunteers, and reinvigorated by the children he met.

At least twice during each school term, UAOCF staff visit every school to pay the children's tuition and other expenses, to meet with school staff in order to understand how the children are doing and get a picture of their welfare, progress and challenges, and to meet with the children themselves. Fr. Fred participated in some of these visits. He found the children doing well. In

the past, our staff had been concerned about some children's poor academic performance. Before UAOCF's intervention in their lives, they had been in a poor educational environment and were well behind where they should have been. We can now report that these children have significantly improved, catching up with the other students in their schools and performing well.

Fr. Fred also met with the Kabale Oversight Committee, who reported on some issues that they have been discussing to facilitate greater improvements in our children's lives. A principal recommendation is to provide a caretaker teacher at each school attended by our children, with an allowance of approximately \$12 per term. This amount, modest by

US standards, will compensate these teachers for ensuring that all our children attend classes regularly; identifying any concerns or challenges the children might have; working with the children to resolve these issues; providing counseling and career guidance; and facilitating the collection of data for reports to UAOCF.

The Oversight Committee also recommended that all our children

UAOCF's New Year's Resolutions

It's the time of year when people set new goals for themselves. UAOCF sets new goals each year too, for how many additional children we hope to be able to help. Right now, including Bruce K., we support 285 children. Our aim for 2008 is to find enough new funding for 25 more children, a total of 310. Our plan is to apply for grants from new corporate or philanthropic sponsors, hold fundraising events, and raise general awareness about our work so that individual sponsors will also take the opportunity to support children in need.

Christmas Giving

Every year, UAOCF tries to make sure our children have a truly happy holiday. This year was no different. Through generous donations from our major donors, our regular Adopt-An-Orphan donors and the St. Joan of Arc Christmas Giving Tree, we were able to fund \$20 gifts to each of our 285 children. We also sent gifts to our two Project Administrators in Kabale and to the volunteers who comprise the two committees in Kabale that guide our work and make it possible: the Oversight Committee and the Hope House Committee. Through your generosity, we sent a total of \$6,700 to Uganda to help bring your UAOCF children, staff and volunteers a merry Christmas.

be screened for HIV so that we can ensure that those who are HIV-positive will receive appropriate medical care. This screening will cost about \$4 per child. UAOCF agrees that this should be a priority, and we will need to raise additional funds to pay for these expenses. If you would like to make a contribution towards these medical costs (or any other donation to UAOCF), please use the enclosed envelope. Contributions in any amount are welcome!



One of the groups of children visited by Fr. Fred, seen here in front of their school building

UGANDA  **IDS** Orphan Children Foundation

A Great Opportunity for Hope House

UAOCF has been working for a few years to turn an abandoned building into a home and technical school for orphaned children—Hope House. With your help, we have come closer and closer to making that dream a reality. Now we have the opportunity to make this a school beyond our greatest hopes, with help from the Salesians.

The Salesians are a religious society founded in 1859 by St. John Bosco to reach out to poor and needy youth. Education is one of their main missions, and the Salesians have founded and run educational programs on five continents. Soon, they may add Hope House as their newest school!

Why is UAOCF interested in working with the Salesians to run Hope House? There are two primary reasons: first, their experience and track record, which offer convincing evidence of the resources they will offer our students; and second, their ability to staff the school. One of the most tragic impacts of the AIDS epidemic in Africa has been that among the many who died were many teachers; this complicated UAOCF's ability to hire local teachers and other staff for Hope House. The participation of the Salesians also adds significant stability (financial and otherwise) to the Hope House project, ensuring its long-term viability. It is very likely that Hope House will be able to open

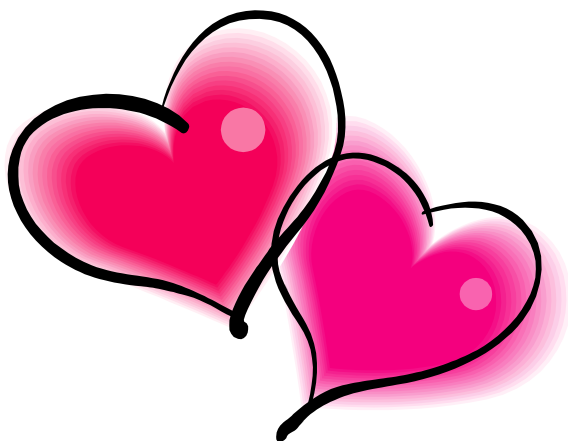
under Salesian leadership in 2009.

UAOCF already has most of the "raw materials" ready for Hope House: the refurbished buildings, furnishings, and land. The Salesians require at least ten acres of land (enough for agricultural and other training). Currently, we own about seven acres; we therefore need to purchase some additional plots. If you would like to contribute to the Hope House Land Fund, please use the enclosed envelope.

To adopt a child (\$300 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.



P.O. Box 64485
Los Angeles, CA 90064



It's time again for
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 10, 2008 AT 4 PM
Appetizers, Wine and Cheese at 4 pm
Short update by Fr. Fred at 5 pm

RSVP by February 2nd
Mary Jo McKenna 310-837-3447
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