

ChildLine

JANUARY, 2009

VOLUME V, NUMBER 1

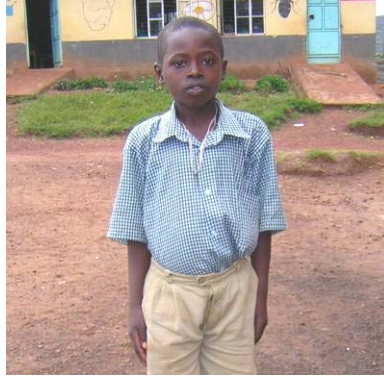
The newsletter of the Uganda AIDS Orphan Children Foundation

www.UAOCF.org

What a Difference a Year Makes!

When a nine-year-old boy loses his father to AIDS, life changes. That's what happened to young Hilary A. in 2006. His mother did her best to raise Hilary and his four sisters and brothers, but it was almost impossible for her to make sure her children got all they needed, including a good education.

When Hilary was "adopted" by UAOCF in 2007, his initial school reports reflected how difficult his young life had been: in his class of 100 students, he was almost last, ranking 93rd. His teacher remarked that he might need to repeat the grade. But Hilary just needed the support and opportunity that UAOCF could provide: a good school, good nutrition, and a great



big dose of hope. He just received his latest school report in December, 2008. How did Hilary do? Great! From 93rd in his class, Hilary rocketed up to 26th! His teacher's comments now? "Very good," and "Keep on aiming higher!" He was always an intelligent boy. He just needed to be in an environment that would allow

him to learn and thrive. And once he'd had a chance to catch up with his classmates, he proved it. Hilary expressed his appreciation to his UAOCF sponsor: "Thank you for putting me in such a nice school. I am very grateful. God bless you."

Success stories like Hilary's are exactly what UAOCF wants to make possible. In this way, we are helping to rebuild a Uganda that has been ravaged by AIDS, to produce educated young people who will be Uganda's leaders of tomorrow.

Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation.

~John F. Kennedy

You are invited to
HEART TO HEART
Our annual donor celebration

Sunday, February 8
4pm in the SJA Parish Hall
(just east of SJA School
at 11561 Gateway Blvd.)

Wine, cheese and appetizers
A brief progress report

We hope to see you there!



Too Happy to Sleep

We received this letter from 14-year-old Julius T, who wrote it after receiving new clothes bought with Christmas money from UAOCF. We had to share it! "I have written to thank you for the best thing you did to me...we are all very happy, that we can even fail to sleep. It is a wonderful thing that you sent for us, wonderful clothes. What a wonderful thing this is! I wish you the best everywhere you are."

Status Report: Second Term Evaluation

At the beginning and end of every school term, our staff in Uganda visit all nine of the schools where our children live and study. The visits allow us to take care of practical matters like paying tuition, but we also do it to check on the children's welfare and performance, identify any challenges they might face, and work to address any issues. Based on these visits, every four months our staff sends us a report to describe the status of our work, progress that has been made, challenges faced, and any suggestions for changes or improvements that they might have. We received the latest report in November.

One of the most important things the report tells us is how our children are performing in school. We were pleased to see that Hilary A.'s story is far from unique; most of our children are doing "from good to better." Those who are not doing as well also reflect Hilary's experience: they are newly enrolled in the UAOCF program and their school, and likely need some time to get up to speed. We will continue to monitor their progress, and make

sure they get any extra help that they need, but we expect that they will catch up and do well.

We continue to test all of the children who join the UAOCF program for HIV, so that we can make sure that any who are infected can get the care that they need. Happily, all of the 23 children screened during these four months tested HIV-negative. Some children did have other health issues, however: five became sick with malaria, which is very common in Africa. As you might expect, these children did not do as well in school, but they have received the necessary treatment and have recovered well.

Our Kabale team received 54 applications for children wanting to join the UAOCF program during this reporting period, and selected ten children who demonstrated the greatest need. We have already identified sponsors for seven of these children, bringing our total to 315 orphans supported. All of this is possible thanks to your generosity. We thank you!

New Members of the UAOCF Family

UAOCF would like to welcome the newest member of our team: in November, Rita Tushemereirwe joined our Uganda-based staff as Assistant Program Administrator. She replaces Ambrose Aheisibwe, who left us to pursue his education. We wish Ambrose well, and are very pleased to be working with Rita. Rita has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, and before joining UAOCF, she was the manager of a savings cooperative. She has settled in well to her new position with us, and has already demonstrated how hard working and productive she is! Together with our Program Administrator, Judith, Rita will be responsible for ensuring that the children are doing well, that their tuition and other UAOCF-sponsored costs are paid, and that every penny of the money you give to support our children is

spent exactly as it should be.

While Rita and Judith are our only paid staff, we have many tremendous volunteers (both in Los Angeles and Kabale) who work hard to guide our work and raise the money needed to support these needy children. And we are delighted to welcome two new members to our all-volunteer Los Angeles-based Management Committee: Melissa Lee and Tim Palanca. Melissa has a Masters of Education from Harvard University, and works as the Director of Operations for a large commercial property management company. Tim's degree is in Business Administration from UC Riverside. They've brought great energy, enthusiasm, and new ideas to UAOCF, and we're excited and lucky to have them on our team!

UAOCF would also like to introduce you to Clara Kim, a junior at Simi Valley High School. Clara is passionate about doing something to help UAOCF's orphans. She's already involved her school, her church's youth ministry, and her Girl Scout troop! As part of her work towards a Girl Scout Gold Award (the highest award a Scout aged 14-18 can earn), Clara will be raising awareness about UAOCF and the plight of these children. She believes that many teens like her want to contribute to important social causes like ours. What an amazing ambassador! We can't wait to see what she accomplishes!



Rita Tushemereirwe



Tim Palanca

What UAOCF Gifts at Christmas Mean

Every year, UAOCF sends \$20 per child to buy our children presents. This year, as the quote from Julius T. indicates, the money went to buy them new clothes. We received this response from Bishop Callist:

"On behalf of the children supported by Uganda AIDS Orphan Children Foundation, and the Oversight Committee Kabale Diocese Orphans and Vulnerable Children Project, I send lots of thanks to the parishioners of St. Joan of Arc Parish for the big contribution you have invested in the future of these children. You have really made our children what they are!

"The money that was sent by the parishioners to the children was

used to buy nice church clothes for them. These included dresses, trousers, skirts, blouses and shirts. The children were so happy you really should have seen them. Some of these children had never in their lives worn a new cloth so Christmas time always comes with a lot of excitement. This can be evidence for the end of term letters that these children always write you their sponsors."

Bishop Callist included some of the things the children said in his letter, including these two quotes:

"I was very grateful and thankful for the gifts you sent me on Christmas. I was very overjoyed that I even shaded (sic) tears."

"The main aim of writing to you is to thank you for the gifts of clothes you sent me for Christmas. I looked nice and felt very happy. I looked so smart."

We share this to let you know how much you affect the lives of these children. By supporting UAOCF, you bring hope and happiness to orphan children who otherwise wouldn't have much of either.

If you would like to adopt a child (\$350 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. You can also donate with a credit card on our website: www.UAOCF.org.



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