

# ChildLine

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VOLUME V, NUMBER 2

The newsletter of the Uganda AIDS Orphan Children Foundation

[www.UAOCF.org](http://www.UAOCF.org)

## Inspiration...for Orphans, and for All of Us

At UAOCF, we see so many letters from children who thought their young lives had no hope – only to find that the act of a stranger thousands of miles away had changed their lives forever. We thought we would share some of their thoughts with you. They have been inspired by what you have done for them, and we think you may be inspired by the changes you have helped create.

Benjamin Byamukama was a child who thought he had lost everything. So much has changed since we met him. In April, he wrote to his UAOCF sponsor, “Let me take this chance to thank you for bringing me in such a good school, which I could not think of after my parents had died.” He

could not even *imagine* being able to get a decent education! Now he’s not only in a good school, he’s in the top half of his class.

Slivia Kamusingize can understand how Benjamin feels – she has lived it too. As she said in her letter, “Another important thing to tell you is that it was unbelievable that I will reach on this level. But because of your helping hand I managed.”

Then there’s 14-year-old Juliet Rukundo, who is simply overcome with gratitude and marvels at the future UAOCF has made possible for her. She wrote, “I am so happy to be schooling and to have reached where I am because of you. Sincerely, if at all God was to ask who is the happiest in the whole

world, I would be number one...I do not know how to express my feelings about how I love you and how I can thank you.” Would you have thought an orphan would describe herself as the happiest person in the world? Thanks to you, she does.

Perhaps Keneth Twesigye was the most poetic (and humorous) of our young correspondents. He wrote of the “instances of studies that have tirelessly mistreated me.” At just 11, he eloquently expressed his thanks for all that his UAOCF sponsor is making possible for him, and it was clear to him what his studies mean: “My efforts still remain focused on them for the good of my future and the world at large.” Keneth is not exaggerating. By changing each of these children’s lives, we give hope to a nation. And the world.

## Site Visit to Uganda

In May, UAOCF’s Executive Director, Fr. Fred Byaruhanga, took advantage of a foreign trip to visit our staff in Uganda and meet with the Kabale-based oversight committee. His time in Kabale was brief, but it gave Fr. Fred an invaluable opportunity to talk face-to-face with the people who work directly with our children.

One of the hot topics on Fr. Fred’s agenda was Hope House. We are excited to report that the

Bishop in Kabale has spoken with the Provincial in charge of the local Salesians, who has confirmed that they plan to open Hope House in 2010! We still have to purchase about 1.5 more acres of land in order to meet the Salesians’ 10 acre land requirement. We anticipate this will cost about \$15,000.

Because Fr. Fred’s visit happened to coincide with school holidays in Uganda, he did not get the opportunity to visit any of our children at school. He did meet with Judith and Rita, our project

administrators in Kabale, and was again impressed with their dedication and professionalism. One of our UAOCF children happened to visit Judith and Rita while Fr. Fred was there, and he was struck by the compassionate attention they showed their young charge.



*Judith (left) and Rita (right), our project administrators in Uganda*

## Re-Register Your Ralphps Card to Keep Helping UAOCF When You Shop!

Do you remember the Ralphps Community Contributions Program? It’s a way to help UAOCF without taking a single penny out of your pocket. If you have a Ralphps rewards card, you can register it with the Program and designate UAOCF as the organization you want to support. Ralphps then donates a percentage of the money you spend there to UAOCF. With just 19 UAOCF supporters participating, we’ve already received \$286 from Ralphps! Just think how many orphans we

could help if all of our supporters who shop at Ralphps took part!

Ralphps just let us know about some important changes in this program – things YOU need to do in order for your shopping to help our children. If you are already in the program, *you must re-register*. Even if you just signed up in July, you still need to re-register. You can do this at [Ralphps.com](http://Ralphps.com), or use the scanbar letter at the register (program participants should have received this from Ralphps in the mail). If you have not registered yet, please do! Ralphps will

start re-registering existing participants and accepting brand new registrations on September 1, 2009.

If you are interested in registering (or re-registering) but aren’t sure what to do, or if you find it all a bit confusing, please let us help! Give us a call at 310-479-8396 or send us an email at [admin@uaocf.org](mailto:admin@uaocf.org). If you get our answering machine, leave a message to let us know you need help with this program, and tell us when is a good time to call you back. Don’t lose this painless opportunity to help more orphans!



## Darn Teenagers... We Need More of Them!

So often, the stories we hear about teenagers are negative: youth who don't get along with their parents, who get into trouble. It can be easy to start thinking all teens are like that. So let us bust that myth right now and tell you about Clara Kim.

Clara is a 17-year-old high school senior in Simi Valley, CA. She took a class last summer on international relations expecting to bring back a "cool fact" about some international issue to share with her family. Instead, she brought back an issue, and has touched hundreds of hearts.

After finishing that class, Clara wanted to *do* something. Through her grandmother, she met Fr. Fred and found her inspiration:

UAOCF's orphans. As Clara says, she wanted to "bring friendship to a whole new level," and to raise awareness of the effects of HIV/AIDS on children.

She started by talking to other youth: first those in her Church Youth Ministry, then other kids at her school. Because Clara is a Girl Scout, she adopted this cause as the project for her Gold Award (the highest achievement in Girl Scouts), and started giving talks to Girl Scout troops of all ages. Clara arranged for Fr. Fred to talk to 160 youth at her church and organized a project for the youth to make friendship bracelets to send to the orphans in Uganda. Clara recounts an example of the powerful effect this experience had on the other youth: a high school boy was having trouble making the bracelets and approached her for help. His eyes were tearing up because, he

said, he couldn't do the bare minimum while "those kids deserve so much more." That day, Clara raised about \$700 in donations — much of it in singles and change, presumably from the youths' own pockets.

Clara has organized similar bracelet-making projects for Girl Scouts, as well as letter writing campaigns — including for some troops as young as first grade. The girls love getting involved in this project.

Where will Clara go from here? She hopes that the orphans "will never feel alone...ever again." She plans to continue this work through her senior year, and hopes to keep it going next fall when she starts college. We are incredibly moved by this young woman's drive to better her world, and to inspire other youth to join her efforts.



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## Updates from All Over

♥ Currently, UAOCF sponsors 315 children. We have 15 children who need sponsors right now.

♥ Has the recession affected UAOCF? It's no secret that many people have lost their jobs, and even many who are working have had to tighten their belts. Given these economic realities, we are very grateful for the continuing support we receive. Eight sponsors have had to stop supporting their children (which is why we have so many children who need sponsors). This low attrition demonstrates how committed our donors are to UAOCF and the children we serve. We are humbled and grateful.

♥ Be on the lookout for our updated website! Thanks to a fabulous offer for free web design from DKHudson Design, we are in the process of completely revamping our site. As of ChildLine's printing time, the new site is not up yet. But check back at UAOCF.org to explore our fabulous new look. And if you need any web design work, please remember the company that's providing their services to UAOCF completely free of charge. You can find their website at [DKHudsonDesign.com](http://DKHudsonDesign.com).

♥ We have more exciting internet news! UAOCF now has a FaceBook page. Anyone who is already on FaceBook can access our page. If you're not on FaceBook but would like to see our page, you can register at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)). In the

FaceBook search bar, just type in "Uganda AIDS Orphan." Ours is the only result that comes up. Click on it, and you'll see our page! Write on our wall, start a discussion about fundraising or other ideas, see the information about the orphans we currently need to find sponsors for, and just keep up to date on UAOCF!

♥ Want more UAOCF news faster? Send us your e-mail address and your questions: [admin@UAOCF.org](mailto:admin@UAOCF.org).

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](http://www.UAOCF.org).