

ChildLine

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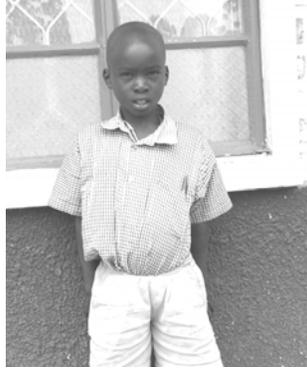
The newsletter of the Uganda AIDS Orphan Children Foundation

www.UAOCF.org

Creating the Leaders of Tomorrow

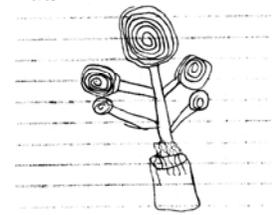
There are many reasons why we believe the work we do at UAOCF is critically important, for each individual child and for their communities. We often talk about giving the children hope for their futures, but our work is about hope for the future of all Uganda as well. With so many teachers, doctors, nurses and others lost to the AIDS epidemic, who will be Uganda's leaders of tomorrow? UAOCF is helping to answer that question.

Bruce K. is a great example of how your support is helping a nation, one child at a time. Bruce just turned 10, and he's been an orphan for as long as he can remember: his father died of AIDS just a year after Bruce was born.



With five brothers and sisters, life has been challenging for his family. But no matter how difficult things got – or perhaps precisely because of how difficult things were – they always held on to the belief in the power of a good education. With six children to support on her own, Bruce's mother could only afford to

send him to the local public school, which was poor in resources and quality. Bruce joined the UAOCF program three and a half years ago, and he's just starting sixth grade. Now he's getting the quality schooling that only support from people like you makes possible. He still believes in the power of education, and he's set his sights high: he recently wrote to his UAOCF sponsor, "I [want to] become a doctor. I thank you." We thank you, too.



Bruce included this drawing in a letter to his UAOCF sponsor.

New UAOCF Video

The UAOCF Management Committee is always looking for effective ways to reach new audiences with our message. We know that if more people knew about our work and the impact it has on these children, they would want to support us. Now, thanks to the hard work of two dedicated volunteers, we have a tremendous new way to communicate: our first promotional video!

David Brodie and his wife, Melissa Lee, have been working for months to put this video together. They incorporated interviews shot in Los Angeles with our local team and the head of the Kabale Oversight Committee, Bishop Callist Rubaramira. They also used segments shot in Uganda featuring

our team members there and, most importantly, children in our program. The result is powerful and emotional: people who have seen the video have been moved to tears.

We'd like to share the fruit of David and Melissa's efforts with you. Come see the premiere of our video at our Heart to Heart event on February 20! We hope you find it as wonderful and exciting as we do. Thank you, thank you, thank you David and Melissa!

Our plans are to feature the video on the UAOCF website and to use it in presentations to civic groups, schools, or any other group or person who might be interested in contributing to our organization. Is there a group you are part of that might be interested in seeing the video? Let us know! We are happy to attend a meeting, or simply to give you a copy of the video to share with your group.

completed or are enrolled in alternate educational programs (nursing school, business school, teaching, etc.)

6: How many graduates received government scholarships to attend institutes of higher learning.

Important Numbers

300: The number of orphans UAOCF currently supports.

29: How many UAOCF children graduated from high school in 2009.

8: The number of UAOCF children who took the high school graduation exam in December, 2010.

7: How many of our students have

If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one.

~ Mother Teresa

Save the Date

The head of the Kabale Oversight Committee, Bishop Callist Rubaramira, will be returning to the United States this summer.

Unfortunately, it will not be a pleasure trip: Bishop Rubaramira will be having back surgery while here. This will limit his activities, but nothing can suppress his energy in support of these orphans. We are in the process of finalizing details for an event in July – look for more information in our June News Note!

You are invited to
HEART TO HEART
Our annual donor celebration

Sunday, February 20
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!

New Fund to Pay for Uniforms

At the end of every term, our staff in Uganda send us a report on how our children are doing, any issues or problems encountered during the term, and suggestions they might have for changes or improvements to our program. In their most recent report, they highlighted a problem that might seem superficial but can actually have an important impact on how our children do in school: the state of their uniforms.

All of the schools that our children attend require that their students wear uniforms. Just as private schools do in the United States, Ugandan schools require the children's families to pay for these uniforms. Not surprisingly, many of our children couldn't afford new

uniforms, and even at the beginning of the school year some children's uniforms were tattered and worn. We were concerned that these children would feel – and perhaps be treated – inferior to their classmates, marked as poor orphans. We want them to feel confident and successful in school. That is why in our most recent budget, we approved \$4900 for the purchase of new uniforms for every primary school child. The money for uniforms in this budget was available thanks to your donations and the thrifty management of our staff in Kabale. They make every dollar stretch as far as possible!

Uniforms are likely to be an annual expense, and we cannot guarantee that our staff will always be able to pinch enough pennies to purchase them with

existing funds. That is why we are setting up a separate uniform fund to which our supporters may donate. You may wonder, why is this separate fund necessary? Shouldn't the \$350 I pay every year to support my child cover the uniform costs? We do our best to make the answer to that question, "Yes." When someone sponsors a child, the \$350 they donate covers the costs for tuition, books and similar school supplies, food and housing. For the most expensive schools, there may not be anything to spare for uniforms. In fact, UAOCF may still sometimes need to cover additional costs for some children. We want every UAOCF child to be guaranteed a proper uniform, just like all the other children in their school have. We want to give them every possible tool for success.



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Thoughts for the New Year

We received this message from Judith and Rita, our staff in Kabale, at the start of the new year. Because it is directed to our donors as much as it is to our Management Committee, we wanted to share it with you:

"We are back with in office with all the new year's blessings. We wish the whole team of UAOCF Management team and all our Donors God's blessings as we start up our new year's programmes. We pray for God's guidance in all our tasks so that we get to the end of this year with good health and more achievements. We too pray for our children in their respective capacities

Education is a social process.
Education is growth. Education
is, not a preparation for life;
education is life itself.
~ John Dewey

that our Good Lord may enlighten them more to understand the reason for each one's efforts so that they do well in their respective future preparations." We share those good wishes, both for our children and our donors. Here's to a happy, healthy and successful 2011!

Fundraising Update

Thanks to the tremendous generosity of our donors, we were again able to provide all of our children in Uganda with cash gifts for Christmas. They use these gifts every year to pay not for toys but for

basic expenses like mattresses.

We face a new fundraising challenge this year: the Hilton Foundation is no longer able to provide \$10,000 in annual funding for administrative costs. In 2010, we spent over \$17,000 for our administrators' salaries, transportation, communication and other related costs – so we have a big gap to fill. This will be one of our major focus areas for 2011.

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.