

# ChildLine

JANUARY, 2012

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The newsletter of the Uganda AIDS Orphan Children Foundation

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

## Heartbreaking Past, Hopeful Future

Silverio O. is 18 and the oldest of three brothers. The boys lost both parents to AIDS: their father when Silverio was three, then their mother three years later. Silverio, who has been in the UAOCF program fewer than 18 months, recounts his story in a letter to his sponsor. We generally publish very short excerpts from our children's letters due to space constraints, but we present this one almost in its entirety. Silverio's story so clearly describes why UAOCF exists and what your donations accomplish that we wanted to share it all:

"My heartfelt appreciation for paying my school fees. My parents died when I was still young. I lost

hope of studying but my grandmother started paying my school fees in a universal primary education school. But when I reached Primary 7, she died and I felt unhappy and I lost the hope of studying completely in my life. But with God's mercy, you restored my hope.



"I am working hard to improve, for example, I improved from the average of 56.1 to 65.0, while in position in class I improved from 202 to 110 out of 312 students in the whole class. I promise you that I will keep on

improving until I get the best position in the class and have good behaviours to my teachers."

How much loss this boy has experienced, and from such a young age! It is frightening to think what might have become of him – and what *does* become of thousands of children like him. But what a transformation, and in less than a year and a half! We have no doubt that Silverio will succeed. And his successful future is only possible because of donors like you. Your support turns these heartbreaking tales of tragedy and despair into demonstrations of the wonders of the human spirit and its capacity to overcome adversity. Silverio said it: you restored his hope. Martin Luther wrote, "Everything that is done in the world is done by hope." Hope. It's what UAOCF is all about.

## Ralphs Reminder

If you're ever seen one of our newsletters before, you're probably familiar with the Ralphs program to donate money to non-profit organizations (including UAOCF). We remind our supporters of this program frequently because it's **free money** for UAOCF! All you have to do is sign up!

Perhaps you're thinking, "Oh, I did that a long time ago!" You might have – but don't forget that Ralphs requires shoppers to re-register for the program every September if they want to keep donating to their cause. In August we had 40 households signed up to support UAOCF. Only 22 support us now – which means that 18 families have not renewed! Last year UAOCF received about \$1000 from this program – that's enough to fully feed, house and educate three children! If our supporters don't renew their participation in the program, however, we won't be able to help as many children.

Signing up is easy. Check out our website to download a letter that you can take to any Ralphs!

The checker will scan the letter, and that's it! You'll be registered to have a percentage of the money you spend donated to UAOCF.

If your printer is down or you're not so internet savvy, give us a call to let us know and we'll be happy to mail you the letter. And if you've never signed up before, you can sign up now! Every little bit helps. Think of it as one extra book, one extra meal, one extra visit to the doctor that you make possible – just by doing your regular shopping at Ralphs!

## Matching Funds

Many employers match charitable contributions that their employees make. For example, one of our donors supports three UAOCF children. His employer, Johnson & Johnson, matches every dollar he gives. So instead of helping three children, his donation helps six! Please check with your employer to see if they provide matching funds. It could make a huge difference for UAOCF.

"It is difficult to say what is impossible, for the dream of yesterday is the hope of today and the reality of tomorrow."  
~Robert H. Goddard

## Breakfast, anyone?

Did that Ralphs story get you thinking about food? Hungry? Then join us for another fabulous breakfast hosted by Lucy Michel! We'll be at the St. Joan of Arc Parish Hall on Sunday morning, March 18. It'll be a St. Patrick's Day breakfast bonanza to benefit UAOCF, complete with raffle prizes and great company. Yum!

## Holiday Giving

Christmas, Chanukah, the end of 2011: Many of you celebrated your holidays by truly embracing the spirit of the season and sharing with our orphans. St. Cyprian's, St. James, St. Joan of Arc, St. Paul the Apostle – all these parishes reached out to these least fortunate ones to make our orphans' Christmas – and indeed their lives – a little brighter. Other groups and individual donors also made special Christmas or end-of-year donations. We thank all of you!



# Heart to Heart 2012 Hitting our goal... with your help

We extend a warm invitation to you and any guests you would like to come along to attend our annual donors meeting: Heart to Heart 2012! It's hard to believe another year has gone by. It's been an exciting one for UAOCF, and we'd like to let you know why we're excited. Please join us!

Sunday, February 12, 2012

St. Joan of Arc Parish Hall  
11533 Gateway Blvd.  
(just west of Pico)  
Los Angeles, CA 90064

4 o'clock: appetizers  
5 o'clock: presentation

Every year we evaluate how many orphans we currently support and set a goal for how much we think we can grow that number in the next 12 months. The goal we set for our 2012 fiscal year was 350. The fiscal year ends on June 30, so we have about five more months to hit our target. How are we doing? As of the end of January, there are 341 orphans in our program. That's more than we started the year with, but still 9 shy of where we'd like to be.

You can help us hit that goal and rescue innocent children from lives of poverty and despair. "Adopt" an orphan for \$350 per year. Give a

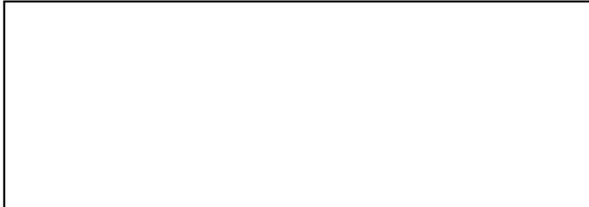
donation in any amount. Tell your friends about UAOCF and the important work we do. Invite them to come to Heart to Heart with you. There are so many ways you can contribute to the work we do! Maybe you have more ideas of your own. We want to hear them! Give us a call at 310-479-8396 or send an email to [admin@UAOCF.org](mailto:admin@UAOCF.org).

"Hope is the thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul.  
And sings the tune  
Without the words,  
And never stops at all."

~Emily Dickinson



P.O. Box 64485  
Los Angeles, CA 90064



## Becoming the future of Uganda

Education is a major focus of the work UAOCF does. We want our children to become self-sufficient and contributing members of society. The letters they send us provide evidence of where they start before they join the UAOCF program, and how well we are succeeding in moving them forward. In many cases, even we have been surprised at the changes these children undergo.

Joseph B. describes just how much he lacked before UAOCF: "I don't know, if you weren't the ones who are helping me, what I could be doing because it's you that made me

to put on shoes. And I also joined a good school and now I can speak some English which I never knew."

Most (if not all) of our orphans come from the same background as Joseph. But being in UAOCF changes them. They don't just get a good education. They blossom into good citizens who want to serve others. Agnes K. says, "I have been able to try my level best in order to be a good student, and I was nominated as a leader of publicity, secretary of the school. I am doing my (turn) well for good of myself and the school at large." Another writes, "My future plan is to become a university teacher, so you help me both financially and

morally to achieve my ideal." Daphne A. set her moral and ethical goals high: "I want to be a lawyer in the future so that I can fight corruption in Uganda."

Children are every country's future. In a country that has lost so many to AIDS and to war, the leaders of the future are even more precious. It looks to us like UAOCF children are already becoming the leaders their country needs.

To adopt a child (\$350 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](http://www.UAOCF.org).