

ChildLine

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The newsletter of the Uganda AIDS Orphan Children Foundation

www.UAOCF.org

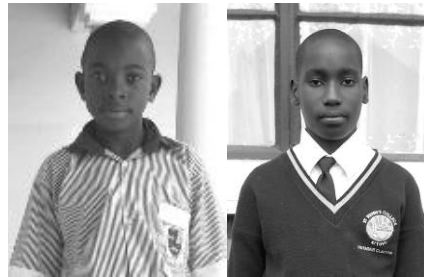
Hope, happiness and change

Lawrence N. and Clinton M. are both 12-year-olds who wrote their most recent letters to their UAOCF sponsors when they were fairly new to our program. Each of these children lost both their parents when they were very young. Their letters demonstrate what UAOCF makes possible for Uganda's orphans, and how the children themselves experience and feel about this important transition.

Lawrence told his sponsor, "I wouldn't have made it without you. Your support has saved me from being a street child." This is, unfortunately, the fate of many young orphans in Uganda. But for these words to come so matter of

factly from a child, just turning 12 this month, highlights that horrible truth in a way that no official report or newspaper headline ever could.

Clinton's letter was quite unique; none of our children had ever explained, in such detail, what he experienced when he joined our



Lawrence

Clinton

program. Here is how he described arriving at his new school: "I was a newcomer. I met friendly people, different teachers and subjects. The weather was not friendly to me. I first

fell sick but later on I got used to the environment." He went on to talk about how friendly and helpful the teachers and other students are. He finished by saying, "As the term is ending, it was a jolly term for me."

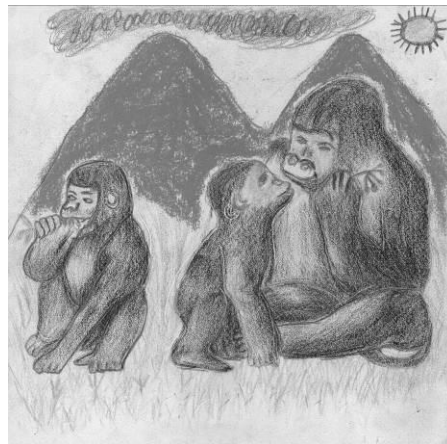
Bravo, Clinton! Congratulations on completing your jolly term! His and Lawrence's experience is one we hope and intend that all our students share: a new start in a warm and supportive place, one that nurtures the child and encourages success. There may be a few bumps at first as the children adjust to this new environment. We do everything we can to help our children over those bumps and down the road to a successful future. Thank you for making that possible. Lawrence was right: he could not make it without you, nor could any of our children.

Art show coming soon to West L.A.

Last summer UAOCF held our first ever art show. Spearheaded by our colleagues and collaborators at an organization called Grateful Me, it was a fun opportunity to enjoy good company; beautiful works of art created by our children, staff and Oversight Committee members; and of course raise funds for UAOCF. This year, we're hoping to make the art show even better!

We wanted to give the children better tools to express their creativity, so when UAOCF's Executive Director travelled to Uganda in May, he took along a

suitcase stuffed with high quality paper, colored pencils and pastels. These supplies were all paid for by generous donors and their investment paid off! When we received



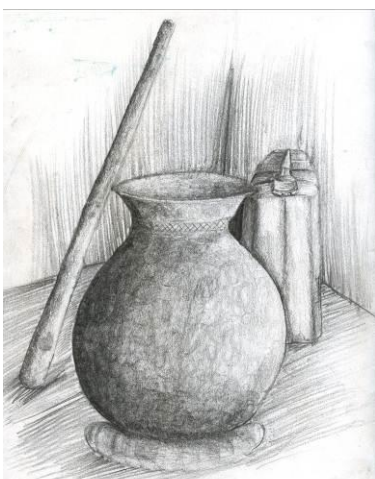
"The Caring Mother" by Aurore Muhoza

the artwork, we were amazed. Some of the pieces are simple and elegant; others vibrant and powerful. All are beautiful expressions of our children's lives and dreams.

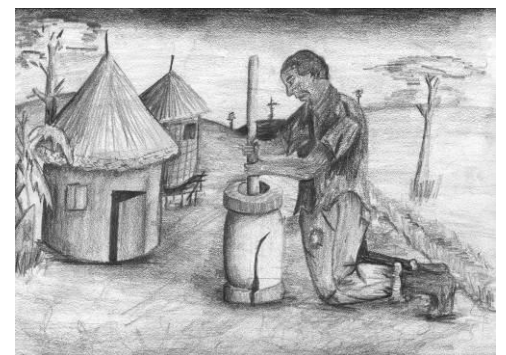
We invite you to come view these terrific works of art and to purchase your favorites on Friday, August 24. Donations for the art start in the \$5-\$10 range and vary by the quality of the piece and whether it is framed. The art will be on display from 4PM to 9PM in the historic St. Joan of Arc Convent, located at 11545 Gateway Boulevard, L.A., CA 90064.

Dating from the early 1900s, this home was one of the earliest buildings in the area. Come peruse the art and explore this quaint building. We will be serving complimentary light snacks along with wine and soft drinks.

A featured event during the art show will be the drawing for winners in UAOCF's raffle. Prizes include a 32" flat screen television, a week at a time share (with many destinations to choose from) and more! Tickets are just \$1 each, or a book of six for \$5. Contact any member of UAOCF's Management Committee to purchase tickets. Or mail us a check at P.O. Box 64485, L. A., CA 90064. We'll fill out the tickets for you and send you your stubs. Winners need not be present, but we do hope you'll join us!



"Home Cooking Items" by Neelia Kesande



"A Responsible African Man" by Samantha Ahimbisibwe

Our orphans today, and how we got here

In May, UAOCF's Executive Director visited Uganda for the first time in three years. We took the opportunity to ask Fr. Fred about his visit to Uganda, and how he came to found UAOCF in the first place. Here is Fr. Fred's story:

My service as a priest in a rural parish in Uganda exposed me to the plight of orphaned children. My heart always went out to them, but I could not do much because there were no resources. I came to the U.S. to study, and on a visit back home, I was surprised that after all the effort by international organizations, rural western Uganda was still left out. An idea to form a charitable organization



Fr. Fred with UAOCF staff and some Oversight Committee members

to help the most disadvantaged children struck my mind.

Back in the U.S., a colleague who runs a nonprofit graciously helped me. I looked for volunteers to help develop the foundation; the response was overwhelmingly positive. I'm ever grateful to all who volunteered to help, in the U.S. and in Uganda. UAOCF owes them everything.

During his visit to Uganda, Fr. Fred met with our Uganda-based Oversight Committee as well as some

of our orphans. The members of the Oversight Committee volunteer a great deal of their time to the program and display a tremendous sense of commitment. They are truly concerned for the welfare of the children. Fr. Fred visited five schools and reports that the children's gratitude is overwhelming. This gratitude generally translates into enthusiasm for learning and success. The children were happy and healthy; see for yourself!



Visiting Bwanga Progressive School



P.O. Box 64485
Los Angeles, CA 90064



How are we doing?

As of June 6, 2012, UAOCF was supporting 342 children in primary and secondary school, and another ten in technical school or institutions of higher learning.

We request school reports on our students so we can monitor their academic progress. We haven't yet received all our students' most recent grades, but for the 268 whose reports we do have, the results are quite impressive. Most scored in the top half of their classes! And the longer our children stay in the UAOCF program, the better they do: while 70% were in the upper half of their class at the end of 2011, that figure has now risen to 75%. What is even

more exceptional is that 32 of our students scored in the top 10%, and four of these were first in their class. These are wonderful scores for any student but even more remarkable for this group. Before UAOCF, most were in very poor schools (if they attended school at all). They had a lot of catching up to do, but they're doing it!

For a few of our students, however, catching up has been a challenge. In the last term, three students were singled out as "poor performers." Identifying low performers is the most important reason we monitor grades; we want to help them turn their performance around and succeed.

We are exceptionally proud of

the 34 UAOCF children who have graduated from school. Counting these 34, together with those who have completed or are attending vocational programs and another who started his own business, we have launched 46 children towards a successful future! We never forget that donations from you are what make it all possible. In a world with so much strife and pain, you plant a garden of hope.

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.