

St. Nicholas Uganda Children's Fund Newsletter

August 2023

Email: info@ugandachildrensfund.org

"We must choose faith over doubt, hope over despair, and love over fear."

—Ranal Currie



The Student Guild

Students at every institution of higher learning in Uganda elect a body of leadership called the Student Guild. The Guild acts as a liaison between students and the institution's administration. All students are eligible to contest for any of the officer positions of the Guild. The Guild Office is led by a Guild President along with a cabinet which is vetted by the school administration based on academic performance, moral conduct, and ethical behavior. Once the candidates have successfully passed the college vetting exercise, they are allowed to proceed with their campaigns.

Mr. President

Enock joined our program when he was in fifth grade, shortly after his father died. His mother had passed on nine years earlier. He was referred to us by his cousin, also an orphan, who had been with us for four years at the time. Enock has the distinction of having ranked as our top student at each level of the national exams: Primary School, and both O Level & A Level in Secondary School. This is his final year in medical college where he is studying for a Diploma in Clinical Medicine and Community Health.

At the beginning of his final year, he decided to run for Guild President. It is an indication of the respect he earned from his fellow students that he won the election and was installed in office at



the official swearing-in ceremony. We are so proud that he was able to overcome the challenges of his childhood and develop the confidence to run and the character to win. We're looking forward to the day when President Enock becomes Doctor Enock!



Enock is sworn in as the new Guild President.

Our methodology

In Uganda, a bursary has come to mean any organization that supports children in school. Many bursaries in Uganda will sponsor only one student per household, reasoning that they can help more families with the available funds. Most pay tuition only, leaving it to the family to pay for uniforms, lunch, and school supplies. We decided early on that if a family evidenced real need, we would accept all the children in the household. We couldn't bear to think of one child going off to school every day while the others stayed home. We are also committed to providing everything necessary for our students to succeed in school, including healthcare. A hungry child in a ragged, second-hand uniform is not going to perform to her full potential, even more so if she lacks pens and paper.

Juliet's Family

Because of our comprehensive approach to educational assistance, we were blessed to make the acquaintance of a very special family. Juliet was in Senior 2 when she first came to our office seeking help. Her father, a builder, had died the previous year, and without his income, she and her siblings could not continue in school. Through the interview process, we met her mother, Ellen, a skilled tailor who was supporting the family by washing clothes

for lack of a sewing machine. Also, in their one-room flat were two brothers and two sisters in primary school and Ellen's orphaned sister Irene, who was in high school. Ellen's and Irene's parents had died before Irene was two years old and she had been staying with Ellen's family ever since.

One of the first things we did was to provide Ellen with a second-hand sewing machine. She immediately set up shop near her home and has successfully been able to feed and clothe the children with her earnings. Each one of the children has been a model student. This is what they have accomplished.



Juliet completed high school and graduated from Makerere University with a B.A. in Social Sciences. Irene graduated from Nkumba University with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. Daniel graduated from medical college with a Diploma in Clinical Medicine and Community Health. Ewalord completed a course of studies in Journalism and Mass Communication. Joanne was our top performer on the national O Level exams and is doing well in Senior 5.



Juliet



Irene



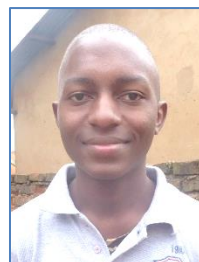
Daniel



Ewalord



Joanne



Karim

Lydia's situation was particularly troubling. She had been sent to relatives in the village who promised to put her in school, but their actual intent was to marry the young girl to an older man and collect the bride-price. We quickly brought her back to Kampala so she could continue her education. In October, she will graduate from Ndejje University with a degree in Surveying Engineering.



A sixth child joined the family when Ellen opened her crowded home to her nephew Karim who had been newly orphaned. He is now in his final year of high school and is our best student in Senior 6.

Recently, Daniel sent us a letter of appreciation. Here is an excerpt:

"You restored the hope we had lost. People told us we would never make it in life. After a time, we felt the same—we felt like losers. We thought that orphans can't become anything. Your coming into our lives restored our dreams. On behalf of my brothers and sisters and all the St. Nicholas family, I thank you so much!"

And we thank you, our faithful friends!

Peter & Sharon

We welcome your donations.
Checks may be sent to:

St. Nicholas Uganda Children's Fund
P.O. Box 285

Chardon, OH 44024-0285

Or you can donate online at

www.ugandachildrensfund.org
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The St. Nicholas Uganda Children's Fund is a registered non-profit 501(c)(3) organization eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions.