

St. Nicholas Uganda Children's Fund Newsletter

June 2016

Email: info@ugandachildrensfund.org

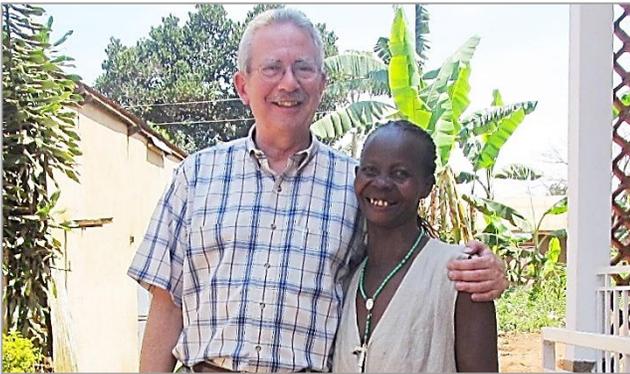
"Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see."

—John W. Whitehead



Two remarkable boys

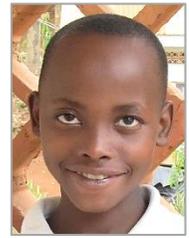
Edward and James are nine-year-old twins we welcomed into our program this year. They are "virtual orphans" as they never knew their father, and their mother abandoned them when they were four. They've been cared for by a peasant grandmother for the past five years. The boys are currently in Primary 2, having fallen behind two years as their Jjajja struggled to pay their school fees.



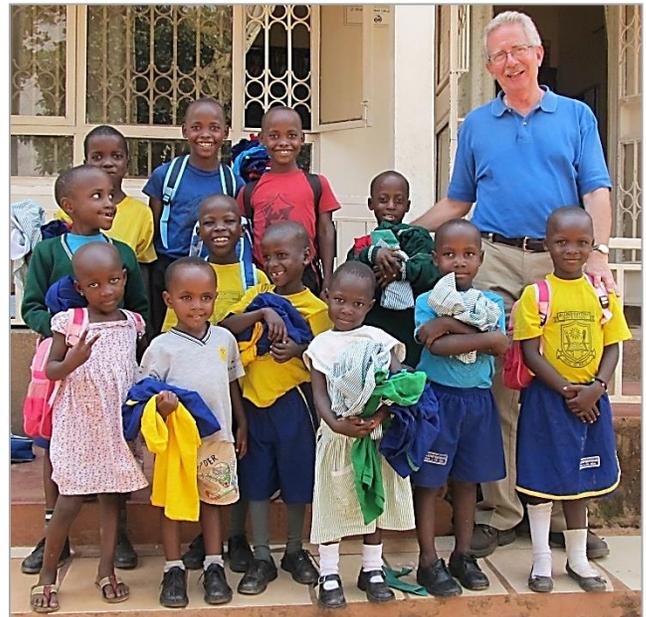
Margaret, the boys' grandmother (Jjajja)

James has an additional challenge: one leg is a few inches shorter than the other, the result of an ill-informed medical decision when he was small. A serious case of malaria can be treated by IV infusion, which is what we insist on for our young children. However, a poor family will often opt for a quinine injection. It's a one-time procedure which eliminates the need for a costly hospital admission or return visits. Unfortunately, a poorly executed injection given to a small child (often in a rural clinic) can result in a massive abscess. In Jimmy's case, the subsequent infection stunted the growth of his leg.

We arranged a visit to an orthopedic clinic where they adapted his school shoe with an extension to align his legs. James is now running and playing with the other kids.



Even after eleven years working with disadvantaged children, we still marvel at how quickly they adapt themselves to our "family" and how readily our existing children welcome them as friends. Edward and James are no exception. On the day we distributed school supplies and uniforms, they were right in the middle of the happy confusion.



Back row: Edward (blue) and James (red)

Attending class without fear of being sent home for lack of payment, receiving daily school lunch, and having all the necessary supplies, the twins exceeded expectations. On their first term report cards in Primary 2, both boys turned in outstanding performances. Edward (left) ranked 1st in their class of thirty students with an average grade of 97%, and James followed with a 96% average. Their class teacher praised them for being well-behaved, hardworking, and active.



A disappearing girl

There was an air of sadness about this little girl of seven when her aunts brought her to us. Shanize was polite and cooperative during the interview, but we had a sense that her very being was fading away. When we learned her story, we understood the hopelessness that was enveloping her.



When Shanize was two, her mother's health began to fail and she took her daughter to live with her grandmother. Shanize's mother died a year later. Jjajja raised the child for five years and managed to get her to Primary 2. In the middle of the school year, Jjajja died. Shanize is now staying with two aunts and their five children. There is not enough money in the household to keep all of the children in school, and the motherless child draws the short straw. Twice orphaned, Shanize saw all hope for her future dissolving.

Now attending school with our other children, Shanize is blossoming. Embraced by new friends and caring teachers, she is growing in confidence and self-worth. On her most recent report card, she ranked 1st in a class of really bright kids.



Shanize (right, in green sweater)

Third grade stars

We assist children based on financial need, not academic potential. Past performance is often suspect because some of our children have missed years of school before they are brought to us. From time to time,

a group of exceptional scholars emerges in a particular class. Such is the case with Shanize's class in Primary 3.

This year, our P.3 girls comprised six of the top ten students in the class, led by Shanize in the first position. All eight of our P.3 students ranked in the top thirteen, including Moses, the lone boy in this group. They learn together and they play together. Success breeds more success, and achievement becomes the norm. Friendships develop which will last a lifetime.



*(L-R) Back: Rosie, Esther, Shanize, Moses, Sylvia
Front: Miracle, Shakira*

May you be blessed by their enthusiasm and their joy. Thank you for your love and support.

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

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