

St. NICHOLAS Uganda CHILDREN'S FUND

Newsletter

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Email: info@ugandachildrensfund.org

"Education is like a diamond with many facets. It includes technical and vocational training as well as instruction in science, higher mathematics, and humane letters." --Ronald Reagan



In the opinion of most Ugandans, **vocational training** takes second place to a university education. This misconception has led to an overabundance of university graduates competing for a limited number of jobs. By the time our students complete secondary school, we know them well enough to advise and direct them into programs that match their interests and abilities, whether technical or university. We believe that technical and business courses build self-confidence by allowing students to utilize their unique gifts and talents; and there is no lack of employment opportunities for our graduates.



David (on right) is training to be an auto mechanic

We currently have forty-six students enrolled in vocational programs, and more than seventy-five have completed and are gainfully employed. Many of them found permanent jobs while doing their practical internship, and some have started their own businesses. We work with two quality vocational & business colleges that offer a wide variety of courses. Among the technical training options are Electrical Installation, Motor Vehicle Mechanics,

Tailoring & Fashion Design, Plumbing, Computer Repair & Maintenance, and Hairdressing & Cosmetology. Business programs include Accountancy, Catering & Hotel Management, Travel & Tourism, Journalism & Media Studies, Secretarial & Office Management, and Procurement & Logistics.



Tailoring practical classroom

Overcoming gender stereotypes

We encourage our vocational students to pursue a field of study that will lead to a career which they will enjoy and will give them a sense of accomplishment. Prior to this year, all of our young men have chosen mechanical trades and the ladies have elected Fashion, Cosmetology, or Catering. However, three of our students in the current first-year class have decided to transcend societal norms.

Asia, abandoned by her father after her mother died, was taken in by a young aunt who was a former student of ours. She was not able to begin secondary school until she joined our program at the age of sixteen and she successfully completed four years later. She is now fulfilling her dream of becoming an electrician.



Mahad's father died when he was seven years old and his mother supports the family by selling vegetables at a local market. He surprised all of us when he decided to pursue a course of study in Tailoring & Fashion Design. He's enjoying the experience and is becoming an expert on the manual Singer sewing machine.



When we first arrived in Uganda in 2002, the only upscale restaurants in Kampala were located in three downtown hotels. Today there are dozens of hotels and restaurants offering a wide variety of dining options. When **Ivan** completes his course in Catering & Hotel Management his skills will be very much in demand.



Outstanding results

Each year in the October/November time frame, students completing primary and secondary school take national exams. The

2020 exams were delayed until March of this year because of the COVID lockdown. Results were released last month and our students turned in an exceptional performance. Final scores are grouped into four divisions and all of our primary and secondary students ranked in the top two groups. This is even more remarkable because we take children based on need, not academic potential.

Aisha was our top Senior 4 student and ranked third in her class of 148 students. She earned Distinctions in all eight examined subjects, including Chemistry, Biology, and Math. Her goal is to become a doctor. Our second best Senior 4 student was her sister, Shadia.



Aisha and Shadia have five younger brothers and the eldest, **Ibra**, was our top Primary 7 student on the exams for primary school finalists. He earned Distinctions in all four examined subjects and was not only the top student in his school, but in the entire testing center.



Thank you for your support and your prayers. None of this would be possible without you!

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.