

St. Nicholas Uganda Children's Fund

Newsletter

December 2022

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"Some people dream of success, while other people get up every morning and make it happen."

—Wayne Huizenga



When we began this ministry seventeen years ago, most of our children were total orphans. AIDS had ravaged Uganda and free antiretrovirals (ARVs) were not made available until 2004. Today, thankfully, a person who is HIV positive can live a normal lifespan if they follow the treatment protocols.

Orphaned teenagers who were born in the 1990s were especially at risk. Taken in by impoverished grandmothers or other elderly relatives, they were a burden that had to be fed and clothed. There was no money for school tuition. Recognizing this reality, we began to accept more high school students into our program.

Prossy was one of the first. Her father died when she was seven years old, and her mother followed two years later. There were no adult relatives willing to take her and we found her living with cousins in a child-headed household.



High school

After she completed secondary school, we enrolled her at Lady Valeria Vocational & Business Institute for a diploma course in Fashion and Garment Design. Prossy was a talented student and after graduating, she was hired by a garment factory in the industrial area of Kampala. She worked diligently, saved her money, and bought a second-hand sewing machine so she could work from her small flat and earn some extra income.



The garment factory

Prossy worked at the garment factory for seven years while building up a private customer base by working evenings and weekends at home. In March of this year, she left the factory and established her own workshop called Divine Garments.

She now has three employees and six sewing machines, including specialized machines for buttons, buttonholes, and overlock stitching used for edging and seaming. Her workshop produces menswear, ladieswear, overalls, bridal, medical, corporate wear, and school uniforms. Her customers range from Kampala to western Uganda, Busia on the Kenyan border, and even into South Sudan.

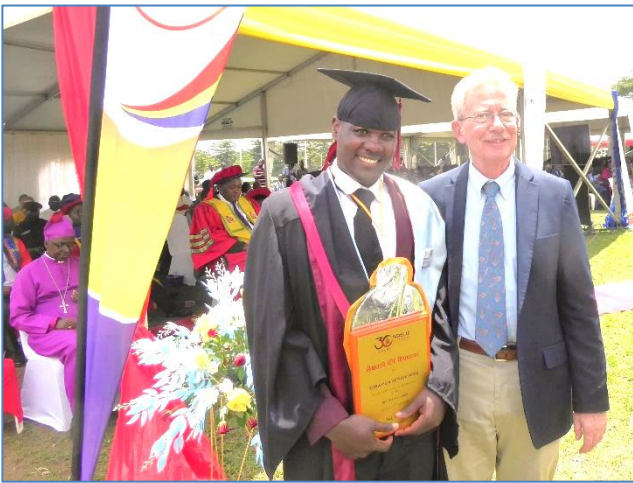


Divine Garments workshop

A true entrepreneur, Prossy has plans to expand the business by adding additional machines and hiring more employees. We're very proud of what she has accomplished and look forward to an even more promising future.

In our April newsletter, we featured one of our outstanding university students, Bertram, who for his final project designed an ingenious device to deter power theft from the electric company. We rarely feature the same student twice, but his academic achievement upon graduation is worthy of recognition.

Ndejje University graduated more than 1,500 students this year. The university, at its annual graduation ceremony, honors the male and female students who earned the highest GPA. This year Bertram received the Award of Honour for the Best Male Student—Graduating Class of 2022. This is even more remarkable because his degree is in Electrical Engineering, by no means an easy course. Congratulations to this amazing young man!

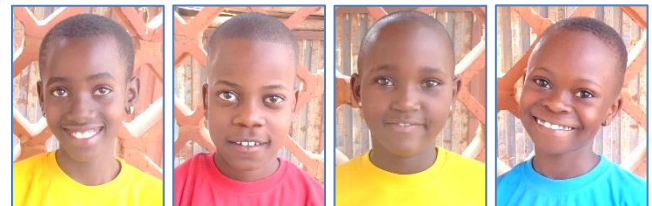


Third grade stars

We are grateful that the school calendar returned to normal this year after the lengthy COVID shutdown. The academic year has come to an end, and we've received grade reports for the final school term. Our primary school students attend Alund'Entono Nursery and Primary School near our office. The school had sixty

students enrolled in third grade in 2022, and the top five students in the class were ours.

Sheebah was the best student in third grade in all three school terms. This was her first full year in a classroom since she was in first grade in 2018. Having lost both parents by the time she was three years old, she and her older sister have been cared for by a young aunt. Sheebah came to us last year with no previous grade reports, so we placed her in second grade during our COVID home-schooling phase. The disruption in her education did not affect her performance as her average grade this term was 95.3%. These four students followed her by less than two percentage points—five really bright children!



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Thank you for your love, support, and prayers. We wish you all the joy of the Christmas season and a bright and blessed New Year!

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.