

St. Nicholas Uganda Children's Fund

Newsletter

August 2026

Email: info@ugandachildrensfund.org

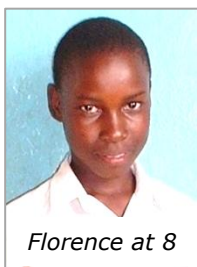
"Faith is not limited to affirming the existence of God. No, faith tells us that God loves us and demands a loving response. This response is given through love for human beings, and that is what we mean by a commitment to God and to our neighbor."

– Gustavo Gutiérrez



When we began this ministry more than twenty years ago, the primary cause of orphanhood in Uganda was the death of parents due to HIV/AIDS. The first children we took into our program fell into this category. They were born in the 1990s and early 2000s when HIV prevalence reached its zenith, corresponding with staggering mortality rates. Free ARVs were not made available until mid-2004, thanks to the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).¹ Almost all our children at that time were being raised by grandparents and other relatives. Here are the stories of two of them.

Florence was born in 1997 and was one of the first children in our program. Both parents died when she was very young, and we found her and her sister, Carol, staying with their grandmother in one of the teachers' houses on the Orthodox Church compound. The grandmother's sister had been a teacher at the Orthodox primary school, but because she was no longer actively teaching, they had to leave the house a few months later.



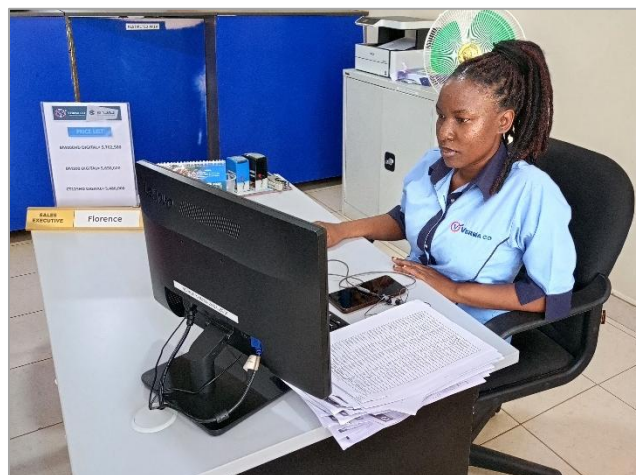
Florence at 8

JjaJja died the next year, and they lived with their great-aunt until she died the following year. The girls then stayed with

various relatives until they ended up with a paraplegic uncle, the only family member who was willing to take them.

After secondary school, Florence studied at a Business Institute, earning a Diploma in Catering & Hospitality Management. She worked for several restaurants, eventually ending up with the catering department at the Marriott Protea in Kampala.

Last year, she heard about an opening for a Sales Executive position at Verma Co. Ltd., the premier authorized nationwide distributor of Bajaj motorcycles, genuine spare parts & accessories, and custom lubricants. They also have a finance company on prem. The working hours were better than the food service business, and so was the pay. She confidently applied and was hired.



Florence's responsibilities include sales, customer service, title, registration, and license plates. Her manager had nothing but positive things to say about her, praising her character and work ethic. She faithfully follows up with customers and solicits referrals. Business has improved since she came on board and he assured me that she has a bright future with the company. Florence dreams of eventually opening her own restaurant when she has saved enough to purchase the necessary equipment.

¹ Since then, the HIV prevalence rate began a sharp, historic decline, dropping to around 6%.



Verma's Bajaj Boxer motorcycle inventory

Frank was born in 2000 and joined our program when he was eight years old. He has no memory of his parents and was raised by his maternal aunt, Josephine, together with her two daughters. Both girls are outstanding students, as was Frank, with Esther in University, and Elizabeth excelling in sciences in high school. Josephine's husband died of complications from malaria, and she supports the family by operating a cottage laundry service out of their home.

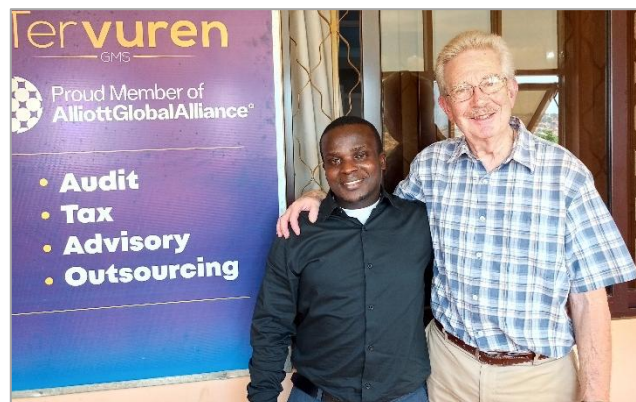


Frank at 9

Frank completed high school as our top student, scoring 19 out of a perfect 20 on the national exams. He won a partial academic scholarship to the Makerere University Business School for a Bachelor of Commerce degree. After graduation, he volunteered at Holy Cross Orthodox Hospital where he had done his internship. He then worked for a credit company for six months before he learned of an opening at Tervuren GMS in Kampala. Tervuren offers a variety of financial services, including accounting, auditing, and management consulting. Frank began as a trainee. Within two years he successively was promoted to Associate 1, Associate 2, and finally Senior Associate.

Frank's current duties include preparing financial statements for clients and auditing clients' internally prepared financial statements for accuracy. He also is responsible for training new hires. He

has been sent by the company to the far corners of Uganda to meet with remote clients. He reports directly to the Managing Partner, and it was clear from our visit to the offices that he greatly values Frank's contributions to the organization.



Outside the Tervuren Offices

Secondary School Success

This past school year, all ten of our high school graduates qualified for university-level education. Our top student on the national exams was Frank's cousin Esther, who also ranked 9th in a class of 130 students. This month she began her first semester studying for a degree in Civil Engineering. Among her classmates, we have two more in engineering, one law student, three in business administration, two in clinical medicine, and one in dentistry.



Thank you for your support and your prayers!

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.