

CanHave Clarion

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2001

News from Uganda

School Reports

Last term's school reports for the children have been received and, for the most part, results are predictably low. These children are not only fighting for their very existence, but the overall poor quality of teaching in the public schools, fuelled by the fact that the teachers have not been paid for a long time, leads to a general malaise in the system and a sense of apathy all round.

Despite the circumstances, a couple of the children have managed to perform at an excellent level, and are to be highly commended. We are currently striving to relocate all our children to private schools, as the marginally higher costs are more than offset by the calibre of teaching, and by the positive learning environment.

Due to space restrictions, it is not possible to include these report cards here, but this information is available by contacting us (see '**Contact Information**'

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Recent Events in Canada

Rummage Sale

The Ladies Guild recently held a Rummage Sale, at the Parkwood Presbyterian Church. The proceeds, \$321.41, were donated to the CanHave Children's Centre. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all who donated, and to all those who gave us their time and energy to make this event a success.

Christmas Gifts

This year, as usual, small gifts were bought for each of the children, and distributed by our field worker, Joseph.

❖



Some of the original children

Special Projects

The Library

Discussions are currently under way with regard to the establishment and stocking of a school library. We hope to have more information on this in our next issue.

Other Projects

We will be reviewing a number of other projects as they are identified, during the coming year. ❖

News from Uganda (cont'd)

Letter from Joseph Kabali

Joseph, our Field Worker in Kampala, recently sent us a status report. Below is a summary:-

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Status Report - Children under CanHave care

I wish to extend my greetings to you all and from the children. I sincerely thank you for your kindness and great care towards the children and the rest of us.

During this term, the children tried their level best although some had problems such as family environment and others because of individual weakness. I have delayed the mailing of these reports just because all schools were busy with sports/scouts. The children were given bank slips and they were told to go back after a week for the reports or on the first day when reporting back to school.

HEALTH - LIVING

The children had no serious illness except malaria, cold, small cut but thank God we still have the first aid kits from our friends in N.J, USA. I have one request to make, may you please, buy me a camera because the one I have been using is now broken.

Let me once again thank you for the support you provide to us. We always continue to pray for you and the work you are doing,

May God bless you all.

Yours sincerely

Joseph Kabali ❖

Letter from Robert Kiyaga

The following was received from one of our newest children, a bright young lad who wants to be a doctor when he grows up:-

Muteesa Foundation Primary School

P.O.Box 147, Mukono

16-8-2000

Dear Director

(through Mr. Kabali, Joseph)

I am very glad to have this chance to write to you this letter. Thank you so much for helping me at school, paying school fees and buying books for me.

My class is Primary V. I like all my lessons but when I finish school I want to be a Doctor,

God bless me

Yours faithfully

Kiyaga, Robert ❖

Program Approach

Phased Program Approach

We are currently nearing the end of the first phase of our program, which is planned to solidify funding for our current group of fifteen (15) children. We are now looking forward to expansion in two directions. Within our current mandate, during the second phase, we are planning to increase the number of children we are directly supporting to a maximum of twenty-five (25).

Other Support Groups

At the same time, we will be actively seeking the involvement of other groups such as ourselves, with the idea that they might set up a similar self-sufficient organization to sponsor other Ugandan children orphaned by AIDS. In this regard, we have developed a presentation of material detailing our own approach that may be of some assistance. ❖

A Brief History of each Child

(synopsis from a letter sent by our Treasurer to the LINKS organization in New Jersey).

Racheal Nakabugo 18 years (girl)

Peter Kafeero 16 years (boy)

Penina Namuli 14 years (girl)

Edson Musoke 12 years (boy)

The original group, these four children are brothers and sisters. Their father died in 1993 and their mother passed away a year later. They were left in the care of their 80-year-old grandfather. After watching their mother weeping for the future of her children before she died, we decided to begin taking care of them. Others have been added as funds became available.

Catherine Namazzi 15 years (girl)

Joseph Mawanda 12 years (boy)

These two are also brother and sister, and their parents both died in the same year - 1996, just three months apart. Their unemployed aunt took them in, despite already taking care of her own 10 children, ages from 1 to 15 years.

Moses Bataliwo 16 years (boy)

His mother passed away in 1996, and his father's whereabouts are unknown. He left home and is presumed to have died also, since he was in the last stages of AIDS. Moses was taken in by a neighbour, who was a family friend.

Ivan Nagenda 13 years (boy)

This boy's parents also passed away in 1996. He remained with his stepsister until she married and was unable to take him with her. He remained in the house alone, with some help from neighbours.

Benon Magambo 14 years (boy)

Benon was left in the care of a pastor's family, following the death of both parents in 1997. The pastor has 5 children of his own, together with the 7 children of his late brother.

Jacob Ntambi 11 years (boy)

Jacob lived alone with his mother, until she died in 1997, when his elderly grandmother assumed responsibility, despite no income and many other grandchildren from her dead sons and daughters.

Florence Nabakka 15 years (girl)

In 1997, both her parents died in short succession. Her mother, in her early 20's, had just begun a promising career as a tailor. Her maternal grandmother, a widow herself, had seen her one-time pension as a Midwife and Health Visitor consumed while caring for her only daughter. She was also caring for other terminally ill siblings.

Prossy Nakibuule 9 years (girl)

Prossy's mom passed away last year. A single mother, she was selling used clothing door-to-door in order to support her family. A 15-year-old cousin lives with her, but she has no education and no job.

Suzan Mirembe 8 years (girl)

Suzan was left with the pastor of a local church "because God is the one who gives and takes away", as her young parents told him. Both parents died last year, just two days apart. This gentleman volunteers at the church, but earns his living as an elementary teacher. As with many others, he is supporting many children, despite very limited resources.

Robert Kiyaga 11 years (boy)

This bright little boy's parents are believed to have died in hospital or on the streets. He does not know where they went when they left, over a year ago, but he does know that they both had "Slim" (AIDS), because they were very skinny and had diarrhea. Robert wants to be a doctor someday. ❖

Membership Information

An annual contribution of \$25.00 CAN is required for individual membership, while a family membership is offered for \$50.00 CAN.

The current annual cost of the Special Child program is \$360.00 CAN (\$30.00 CAN per month). ❖

Contact Information

Address: CanHave Children's Centre
P.O.Box 21045,
Ottawa, Ontario,
CANADA K1S 5N1

Telephone: (613) 225-6648

Facsimile: (613) 225-8535

e-Mail: canhave@ncf.ca ❖

Objectives

The objectives of CanHave are as follows:-

- To provide education, food and clothing to a number of AIDS orphans in Uganda. These children have been selected by our local field worker, with advice from the local minister, and will stay in the program, until they graduate from high school.

In the matter of education, we have chosen to select new children for the program early on in their primary schooling, and to send them to private schools where possible when they reach secondary school age. The costs are marginally higher than for the public schools, but the quality of teaching is superior, and the learning environment much more positive..

- To promote their physical, emotional, social, intellectual and spiritual well-being.

- To assist them in finding a satisfying and purposeful place in their society. ❖

From: CanHave Children's Centre
P.O.Box 21045,
Ottawa, Ontario,
CANADA K1S 5N1

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Address Correction Requested