



St. NICHOLAS Uganda CHILDREN'S FUND

P.O. Box 285
Chardon, OH 44024-0285
www.ugandachildrensfund.org

When Sharon Georges returned to Uganda in January 2005, one of her goals was to follow up on two children she and her husband Peter had begun sponsoring in school during their first missionary tour in 2003. What started as a simple inquiry developed into a ministry that would grow beyond anything she could imagine. Fiona and Henry, siblings and orphans, were not the only children in need in that particular family. Their grandmother was caring for them and seven others in a deteriorating mud hut wedged between a major road and a swamp. There were more grandchildren living nearby, some with a single ailing parent, some with another relative. Within weeks, the two became thirteen. After Peter joined Sharon in Uganda, other situations presented themselves: a family of five kids living completely on their own, a little girl abandoned to a neighbor, children living with HIV-positive single parents, and many more.

Half the people of Uganda are under the age of fifteen and there are 2.5 million orphans in a total population of 31 million. When Uganda's bloody civil war drew to a close in 1986 and the country started rebuilding, the AIDS pandemic hit with full force. The result of these two devastating blows, combined with pervasive malaria and poverty, is that a large percentage of the "middle adult" age group has been wiped out. Children are being cared for by grandparents, aunts, uncles, and neighbors, and some are completely on their own. Many young adults find themselves without parents—and without the wisdom, guidance, and safety net that parents normally provide.

Education is extremely important in Uganda. Parents, guardians, and children see education as their best way of escaping a lifetime of poverty—scraping by as subsistence farmers or unskilled labor, and often early marriage for teen-age girls. Although primary education is partially subsidized by the Ugandan government, no schooling is completely without cost. The place of education in the Ugandan family's priorities is evident in the fact that hospital admissions regularly drop off during the three times a year when school fees are due. Parents choose to do without medical care in order to keep their children in school. Although fees and expenses are low compared to western standards, they are still beyond the reach of many Ugandans, especially for people who are caring for orphaned children of relatives and friends as well as their own.

As Sharon and Peter became more involved with the children's education, they realized that there was more to it than school fees, uniforms, lunches, and books. As in the case of the grandmother's orphans, miserable living conditions can seriously affect a child's ability to learn as well as jeopardize their general health. So their assistance became more extensive—improved living quarters, shoes, clothing, beds, mattresses, sheets, blankets, mosquito nets, food staples and health care. Although the cash outflow was now exceeding their modest missionary stipend, they continued to proceed in faith. And as word of their efforts became known, people of good will began to ask how they could help. Thus was born the St. Nicholas Uganda Children's Fund.

Peter and Sharon resigned as missionaries in October, 2007, in order to devote themselves full-time to the work of the Children's Fund.

Mission Statement

**To provide for the education, health,
and welfare of Ugandan children, teens,
and young adults.**

Fundamental Principles & Goals

1. We are driven by the biblical imperative to care for the least among us (Mat. 25:40) and to provide for "widows and orphans in their distress." (James 1:27)
2. Beneficiaries are assisted based on need, regardless of age, gender, tribe, or religion.
3. Primary activities are directed to paying school fees and related expenses, including lunches, school uniforms, learning materials, and health care.
4. Essential related activities are directed to improving living conditions for vulnerable children and their families, including nutrition, medical treatment, clothing, bedding, shelter, clean water, sanitary facilities, and mosquito nets.
5. We maintain complete financial transparency in all our activities.

Contributions

Checks should be made payable to **St. Nicholas Uganda Children's Fund** and sent to the U.S. address above. As a general guideline, a child can be sponsored in primary school for \$120.00/year, and in secondary school for \$420.00/year. These amounts will cover school fees, learning materials, uniforms, shoes, socks, lunches, health care, and boarding fees if necessary. Donations of any amount are welcome and appreciated.

While the majority of recipients have lost one or both parents, that is not a requirement for selection. Each and every case is evaluated on the basis of need. The use of funds is also contingent on our ability to keep track of the child and the school. If you would like to sponsor a particular child, please contact us by email or postal mail, or visit our web site.

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

Contact Information

Email: **info@ugandachildrensfund.org**

Uganda address

**P.O. Box 12662
Kampala
UGANDA**

The St. Nicholas Uganda Children's Fund has received the endorsement and blessing of His Beatitude JONAH, Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada (OCA).