

# St. Nicholas Uganda Children's Fund Newsletter

April 2025

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"I have discovered in life that there are ways of getting almost anywhere you want to go, if you really want to go."

—Langston Hughes



*"Electricians light up the world,  
one wire at a time."*

**Rakib** joined our program in fifth grade. He was twelve years old, two years behind his classmates. He had no memory of his late father, and his mother had died three years earlier. He was one of many orphans staying with their elderly grandmother when he appeared at our office wearing a school uniform passed down from one cousin, and a ragged sweater from another.



After completing primary school with an above-average performance, he advanced to secondary school where he did well in Math and demonstrated an aptitude for technical work. Even then, Rakib knew that he wanted to be an electrician, so we enrolled him at Lady Valeria Vocational & Business College to study for a Certificate in Electrical Installation Systems.

While in school, he started working on weekends and school breaks, building a modest clientele of commercial customers. The head of Lady Valeria's electrical faculty recognized potential in the young man and recommended that he continue his studies at Nakawa Vocational Training College, reputed to be the best technical institute in Uganda. We visited the school and were very impressed with both the curriculum

and the facilities. After Rakib completed his Certificate at Lady Valeria, he began studying at Nakawa VTI for a Diploma in Electrical Engineering.



*Nakawa VTI Campus*

While at Nakawa, Rakib gained extensive knowledge and experience training on large industrial systems, an area of expertise not typically taught at other vocational schools. He also developed relationships with faculty members and fellow students—contacts that would prove valuable in the next stage of his career.

Today, Rakib has achieved his dream of managing his own business: RAK Electrical Controls. He divides his time between servicing his own clients and working as a subcontractor on large installation projects. For private customers, he specializes in installing and servicing generators with specifications up to three-phase 400 KVA units. As a subcontractor, he installs programmable logic controllers (*below*)



which manage power to large apartment buildings and offices. For big jobs, he hires his old classmates from Nakawa VTI.



*Rakib's faithful motorcycle takes him to work sites throughout greater Kampala.*

### Primary Success

Once again, our seventh-grade students achieved outstanding results on last year's primary leaving exams. Four students ranked in the top division, and three others missed by only one point. All fourteen demonstrated excellent qualifications to continue to secondary school. Here are the top four:



Rose (*left*) followed her brother Peter who was the top performer on last year's exams. Abandoned by their father, their mother scrubs floors at a local school. Miracle (*right*), her younger sister, and two orphaned cousins live with their seventy-eight-year-old grandmother. Miracle and Rose competed for the top two positions on our Honor Roll every term for the past four years.



Daniel's father died when he was seven years old, leaving his mother with three children. She works as a house cleaner. Tereza's father's spine was crushed in a work-related accident. Her mother washes clothes for neighbors. Since entering our program, both Daniel and Tereza improved academically each year until they reached the top four in the class.



*Last year's seventh grade class—now in their first year of secondary school.*

Thanks to your support and prayers, these children of the poorest of the poor are being uplifted to a better future!

*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](http://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.