

# St. NICHOLAS Uganda CHILDREN'S FUND

## Newsletter

September 2019

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"Today's accomplishments were yesterday's impossibilities."  
—Robert H. Schuller



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### Sobering statistics

For every 1,000 Ugandan children who enroll in first grade, only 200 will complete high school, and only half of those will make it to tertiary level. The 10% that emerge from Uganda's education system primarily consists of students who come from well-to-do families. Children from low-income households usually fall through the cracks, lacking the basic skills they need for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace.

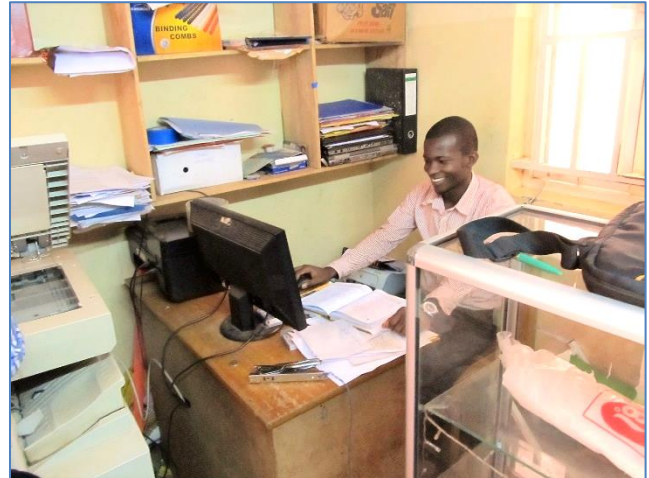
**Take a walk** through areas of downtown Kampala where ex-pats and tourists never venture and you will see where the street kids hang out. See the ragged boys passed out from whatever substance they've been inhaling. Visit any middle-class home and you will notice a teenage housegirl, waiting in the shadows for orders from the lady of the house. These are the hopeless and forgotten victims for whom education was a dream abandoned long ago.

**Orphans from the slums**, having been given the opportunity for education, are highly motivated to succeed. Our students contend successfully for employment while many young adults from the privileged classes are still living in their parents' big houses, bemoaning the shortage of jobs in Uganda. Not only do our graduates find work, but many of them show a remarkable entrepreneurial talent.

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**Emmanuel** lost both of his parents when he was two years old. He and his sister were raised by their grandmother until she also passed away while the two were still in

high school. He graduated from university with a bachelor's degree in Banking and Insurance, and after working for a few years, formed a partnership and opened a secretarial and consulting service on the campus of Kampala's best business and vocational training institute. Emmanuel is now completing (on his own) a master's degree. His career goal is to do market research for one of the many international NGOs operating in Uganda.



*Emmanuel in his business office*

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**Maxencia**, like Emmanuel, was an orphan by the time she was two. She lived with a married brother who had three children of his own and resented her for the additional burden her presence placed on his family. During her first year in high school, her academic performance was poor because she was forced to spend the evenings as a housemaid for her sister-in-law, leaving no time for school work. We found another relative that was willing to take her in if we would take responsibility for her education.

Max performed well enough on the national exams to qualify for university, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in Journalism and Mass Communication. We first began to suspect her potential when she landed a front-page article in the student newspaper two months into her freshman year. In her final year, she interned with the largest media firm in Uganda and had articles published in two of their magazines.



*Freshman Max's article on the front page*

Upon graduation, Max landed a job with the publicity department of the Uganda Cancer Institute. Within a year she was put in charge of editing the glossy magazine celebrating UCI's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She is now working for a major television network as the producer of an informative medical segment called the DOctalk! Show.



*Max the producer*

**Sheila** was three years old when she was taken in by her maternal aunt after the death of her father. Her parents had been separated and her mother died when Sheila was ten. Her aunt and uncle treated her like a daughter and raised her with their own three children. However, the family struggled financially because Sheila's uncle suffered from advanced diabetes and was unable to walk unaided. Sheila earned a Diploma in Business Administration and was hired by a local primary school as an assistant cashier.

Last year, she learned that one of her neighbors owned a plot of land containing a block of one-room apartments. She

convinced him to partner with her and they opened a nursery school, converting the apartments to classrooms. Initially they had thirteen students, but within a few months the number had grown to thirty-eight, from pre-school to second grade. Using her business acumen, Sheila made a contract with a tailor to provide uniforms and negotiated a deal with a local mom to prepare lunch for the children.



*Sheila's school*

These are but a few of our many success stories made possible by your support and your prayers. Thank you!

### *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.**

