

St. Nicholas Uganda Children's Fund

Newsletter

December 2018

Email: info@ugandachildrensfund.org

"Beautiful is the woman who knows people, places and things don't define her. She is defined by her acts of loving kindness and a generous heart."
— Michael Chatman



Every morning for seventeen years Eva put on her church clothes, attended mass, and reported for work at a local hospital, where she changed into the blue uniform and gum boots of a cleaning lady. To the casual observer, she was no more than that. But unlike Harriet, Christine, and Margaret, Eva was addressed as Mrs. K____. In a country where common law marriage is indeed common, Eva was married in the Church and thus entitled to be called "Mrs."

This is a woman who exemplifies the "Wife of Noble Character" found in the book of Proverbs. She never felt demeaned by her occupation and was grateful for the opportunity to assist her husband in supporting the family. Mr. & Mrs. K____ had four children of their own, but that was not the full extent of the household. Their home was a haven and refuge for any and all orphaned and abandoned nieces and nephews.

Their life has not been free of challenges. They lost one of their grown children to AIDS and another is HIV positive. The bank Mr. K____ worked for was sold and he lost his job. He tried his hand at local politics until he was attacked one evening while soliciting votes. He was badly beaten and hacked by a machete. Since then he's been raising pigs in their back yard despite having developed a severe tremor in his right hand and arm. In 2010, Eva lost her job at the hospital when the entire cleaning staff was inexplicably fired by a new administrator. Undaunted, she found a

cleaning job at a local vocational school. Looking to supplement her income, she was granted permission to open a small canteen to sell snacks and drinks to the students.



Mrs. K____ serves two customers at her canteen.

Our partnership with Eva began in 2006 when she brought us two orphaned nephews, both named Robert. She had supported them through primary school but the cost of high school was out of reach. Later that same year, nine-year-old Priscilla was brought to the hospital canteen where Eva was taking lunch. Priscilla's father was an alcoholic and her mother wanted nothing more to do with the child or the father. The woman never returned and since has died. We were happy to enroll Priscilla in third grade.



Priscilla, nine years old, and today

Two years later, another abandoned nephew, Joseph, came to stay with them. We agreed to accept him into our program when he entered Senior 1. Since then, the two Roberts have completed their

education and Joseph is in the final semester of a course in Motor Vehicle Engineering. Priscilla has completed high school and wants to be a teacher. With our guidance and support, she is taking a course in Early Childhood Education.

A recent addition to the family is their orphaned niece Molly. She is twenty-four years old but has the mental capacity of a ten-year-old. As much as she is able, Molly assists Eva with her cleaning duties at the school. She is a happy, cheerful girl and is loved by the staff and the students.



Mr. and Mrs. K____ at home with Molly

Now in their sixties, Mr. and Mrs. K____ thought their child-raising responsibilities were done. Then their son died of AIDS, leaving them with his two small boys, Ian and Charles. When Eva came to our office, embarrassed to be requesting help once again, we assured her that in light of her life of self-sacrifice, it was a blessing for us to assist with the boys' education.



Ian and Charles

Our oft-stated goal is to prepare our students to take their place in Ugandan society as confident, productive citizens. Both Roberts have demonstrated an entrepreneurial spirit and have established themselves in business. Robert [1] trained in Computer Repair and has opened up a small shop in Kampala selling mobile phones and accessories.



Robert [2] studied Information Technology but decided to use the business skills he acquired in a different direction. He is now the proprietor of a small neighborhood haircutting salon and an adjacent fast-food takeaway restaurant. He also followed in his uncle's footsteps by building his own sty, breeding and raising pigs for sale.

We and all of our Ugandan children wish you the joy of the season and blessings in the coming New Year.

Peter & Sharon

"You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give."
– Kahlil Gibran

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.