

St. Nicholas Uganda Children's Fund

Newsletter

December 2023
Email: info@ugandachildrensfund.org

"A quality education has the power to transform societies in a single generation, provide children with the protection they need from the hazards of poverty, labour exploitation and disease, and give them the knowledge, skills, and confidence to reach their full potential." —Audrey Hepburn



Graduate Success

Education does make a difference—not just in the attainment of a degree or diploma, or in the accumulation of knowledge. It's true that the graduation document is necessary to get your foot in the door, and it's also true that what you have learned in class can be applied to your job. But there is another important factor that leads to success for our graduates: self-confidence. We counsel and encourage our students to ignore the negativity that pervades among young people trying to enter the Ugandan job market. While other graduates are bemoaning the lack of available jobs or saying, "you have to know somebody," our students are setting forth with confidence and establishing themselves in the workplace.

Susan joined our program when she was in sixth grade. At that time, she was living with her mother and two younger sisters. Her father had had a thriving business selling shoes when he was killed in a highway accident the previous year.



Susan, age 11

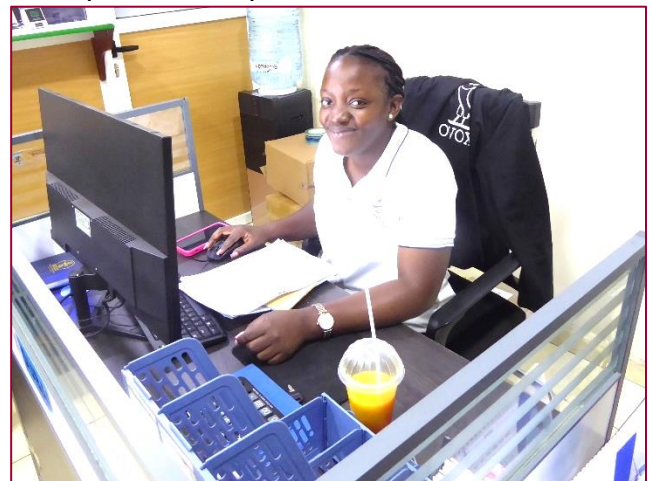
His business partner took all the stock and left town, leaving Susan's family with no

visible means of support. They left their comfortable house and moved into a one room flat. Susan's mother began selling vegetables door-to-door.



Susan had moderate success in primary and secondary school, consistently finishing among our top five students, but it was at university that her academics took off. She was accepted at Nkumba University for a B.A. degree in International Relations and Diplomacy. She started out well and improved every year until she graduated with First Class Honors, the Ugandan equivalent of Summa cum Laude.

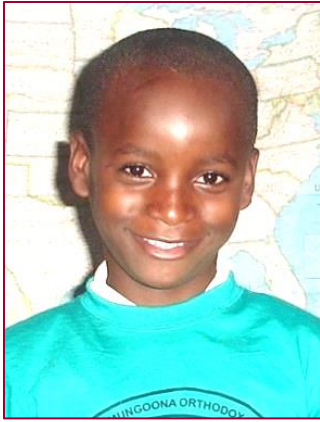
Last year, Susan landed a job with a global logistics & express air cargo business headquartered in Kampala. The company offers scheduled and chartered cargo services from China, Dubai, and Turkey, with plans to expand into Vietnam.



Susan at work

Susan manages all shipments from Dubai and Turkey. Her responsibilities include verifying and inspecting the received goods, client communications, and collection of payments. The business is growing rapidly, and she has a great opportunity to grow with the company.

Christopher has been with us since second grade. He has a sister and two brothers. Their father had left the family for another wife but continued to support the children in school until his untimely death the previous year. Their mother was supporting the family by washing clothes for neighbors and collecting scrap cardboard to sell for recycling.



Christopher, age 9

Christopher graduated with a Diploma in Journalism & Mass Communication from YMCA Comprehensive Institute, one of the top business schools in Kampala. He discovered that he had a talent for graphic design and dreamed of starting his own company.

An old friend from high school, Collin, was already in the business and had more work than he could handle, so he brought in Christopher to assist with the overflow volume. Their workshop has the equipment to produce large posters & banners and can also create and affix custom labeling on t-shirts, coffee mugs, plates, and other 3-D items.



Christopher at work

Collin has graciously allowed Christopher to start his own independent business using Collin's location and equipment. Chris advertises under his own company's name and solicits customers via social media. By building a solid customer base, he plans to eventually acquire his own location and equipment.



Christopher's promotional brochure

This is Marketing 101: What better way to showcase your graphic design business than with a creatively designed brochure!

On a personal note, Christopher's mother has become ill and can no longer work. He stays at home, supports the family with rent and food, and sets aside whatever is left as seed money for his new venture.

We thank you, our faithful supporters, and wish you all the blessings and joy of the Christmas season!

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
Zelle info@ugandachildrensfund.org

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