

A symbol of hope Investing in Ugandan children

The hawthorn tree (also known as the May Tree) traditionally represents the month of May and is seen as a symbol of hope. Winter has gone and Spring and new life has begun. Hope is the belief that our future can be better than our past.

In Uganda many families this year are indeed hoping that 2022 will be better than 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a disastrous effect on living standards of people living in rural communities, families who were already living below the poverty line, their children always hungry. Sadly, the Ugandan strict lockdowns have resulted in many jobs being lost, the hungry now starving, children out of school for over 18 months, and a sharp increase in abuse in the home. Cost of living has doubled.

Poverty is devastating. It damages childhoods, life chances and ultimately everyone in society. Child poverty in Uganda remains high and widespread. More than 50 per cent of children under 5 live in poverty, and one in five live in extreme poverty. Poverty in this sense is defined as an experience of two or more deprivations in food and nutrition, health, education, water, shelter and information. 38 per cent of children aged 6-17 are affected by poor nutrition, setting children on a life-limiting path.

In other areas, child deprivation is equally alarming: more than a third of young children experience deprivation in health care, 30 per cent in access to safe drinking water and 17 per cent in shelter.

Not only do children as a whole bear the burden of poverty, they also experience it differently, depending on where they live, what families they are born into or what life circumstances they find themselves in. Child poverty and deprivation are higher in rural areas, in families where parents or the heads of households are uneducated and among orphans and fostered or adopted children.

Investing in children is key to breaking the cycle of poverty and reducing the wide inequalities that children face. Making sure that children grow up healthy, educated and productive is also essential if Uganda is to reach its vision of becoming a middle income country by 2040.

Medcare, through the Wellspring Children's Medical Centre and associated services, has not only been proven to be a lifeline for Ugandan children but also a source of hope for the future.



Wellspring Child sponsorship

Wellspring Child sponsorship has been specially developed to provide essential medical and social care to some of the poorest children in Uganda.



Since its beginnings in 2009, over 250 child have been enrolled on the sponsorship scheme, 35 of whom have received vocational training and are now healthy young adults, earning their own living and respected and valued in their communities. All of these children have lived with extreme poverty all of their lives, together with various diseases and disabilities, conditions which caused them to be ostracized and abused by others. To see the pride in their faces as they receive their certificates of graduation after their vocational training is reward enough for all those who have sponsored and cared for them. They are truly a remarkable group of young people - the future of Uganda.

Presently, Medcare holds the details of 17 children desperately waiting for a sponsor. These children were identified as being in the greatest need over 2 years ago, but so far no sponsors have come forward for them. Indeed some of the children initially on this list have died - sponsorship having been unavailable to them in time to save them. Obviously, there are hundreds more children isolated in the Ugandan villages who also desperately need our help.

This newsletter is the beginning of an appeal for all such children in Uganda - an appeal which is to be put on social media sites, in order to attract the attention of additional sponsors. Many of you receiving this newsletter are already sponsors - for which we are so very grateful.

However, I would ask that the message of Wellspring child sponsorship could be shared with your families, friends and work colleagues in your schools, churches and businesses. Medcare and the children need your help to find sponsors whose contributions can save the lives of hundreds of needy Ugandan children.

You will find the photos, names and ages of the 17 children presently waiting for a sponsor on the following pages of this newsletter, together with information as to what the sponsorship actually provides for the children and what is required of a sponsor. If you or your friends wish to sponsor a child please contact me on admin.medcare@icloud.com or phone **01928 740538**. If you are involved with groups, such as WI, Rotary, Inner Wheel etc, I am happy to come along to present the needs of the children to them, on request.

I pray that we can work together to provide the message of hope, through child sponsorship, which these children and their families so desperately need in 2022.

God bless you and thank you for all your support of the work of Medcare.

Pauline Hutchinson

Chairman of Medcare

Sharing is caring!

If £30 a month is too big a commitment for you at this time - then why not share your sponsorship with a family member, friend or colleague.

Just £30 a month will help to transform and save a child's life, providing:

- Nutritious food - a medically approved diet - given out monthly.
- Wellspring Children's Medical Centre services when required, free of charge.
- Regular monthly clinic reviews.
- Transport costs to Wellspring clinics, AIDS clinics, physiotherapy and hospital appointments.
- Hospital admission for short-term medical care.
- Social care such as provision of rehabilitation equipment, mosquito nets, additional food supplements when needed, bedding, clothing and shoes.

Sponsors will receive:

- Annual report and up to date photograph of the sponsored child and their progress.
- An opportunity to correspond to their sponsored child if desired.

If sponsors wish to contribute towards the education of their child costs will be:

- £100 (junior school) / £200 (Senior school and/or boarding, annually).
- Vocational training – usually around £300.

Children presently on the waiting list...



Anisha

16 years, Sickle Cell Disease. Her father has had a stroke. She lives with her mother in extreme poverty



Ronald

16 years, HIV/AIDS Lives with his mother in extreme poverty

Both Anisha and Ronald have been waiting 3 years for sponsorship. They need urgent short term sponsorship (for 2 years), until they are 18 years old. Because of their ages, the Sponsorship team were looking at removing them from the waiting list, sadly, with no sponsor - however, it is thought that short term sponsorship should be found for them so that they do not feel they have been let down and are unloved. Such sponsorship, however short, could transform the lives of these teenagers and their view of the future. Sponsorship will provide them with hope and the knowledge that they are valued and loved.



Anold

11 years
HIV/AIDS



Joseph

10 years
HIV/AIDS



Jovia

11 years, Cerebral Palsy and serious disabilities



Juliet

4 years
Cerebral Palsy



Lawrence

12 years
Sickle Cell Disease



Muhammed
12 year, HIV/AIDS



Musitafah
14 years, HIV/AIDS



Peter
13 years, HIV/AIDS



Ryan
8 years, Cerebral Palsy



Samuel
10 years, HIV/AIDS



Madina
2 years, HIV/AIDS



Zainah
13 years, Sickle Cell Disease



Peter
9 years, HIV/AIDS



Rogers
6 years, HIV/AIDS



Patricia
14 years, HIV/AIDS

URGENT SPONSORSHIP NEEDED FOR MADINA

This child has no clothes (she is wearing borrowed clothes), her home has no bedding and no kitchen utensils. She sleeps on the bare earth floor and is starving for lack of food.

Wellspring's latest vocational training graduates...



Fahimah
Hairdresser

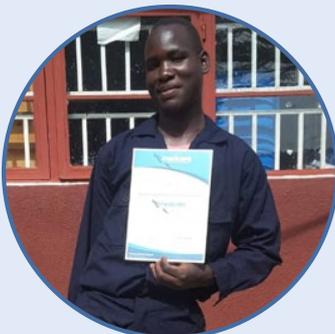


Gyviira

Given a gift of a cow as an income generating project



Maria
Tailoring



Julius
Motor bike mechanic

All the children who graduate are given start up kits (tools, sewing machines, hair dryers etc) to assist them as they begin their new jobs. Disabled children are given gifts, such as chickens or a cow, to help their family develop an income generating project to assist in the future sustainability of their disabled child.



Alex
Welding