

February 14, 2022



Happy Valentine's Day!

What a wonderful day to say “thank you” to all of you who have contributed to Sylvia’s Children ... sponsors, Christmas in July, food bank, Christmas party ... we have been able to continue our support of the school and what a joy it is to be able to say ... they are back in school as of January 10 of this year!

The *Republic of Ugandan Education Service Commission* has automatically moved every primary school child up one grade, increased their three terms in the year from 12 weeks to fourteen weeks, and streamlined the education in anticipation of the children being able to make up for the students' lost time by the end of 2023 to be back to normal.

Statistically: We have 1,000 children in primary school, 25% of whom are orphans. 87 orphans are in high school and 57 orphans are in college and/or technical school. Currently, 66 of our orphans have graduated from college and are teachers, nurses, plumbers, electricians, beauticians, etc.

Here are a couple of videos that Walter Geoffrey sent ... what joy and exuberance shown by the children. They love school. Look at these videos:





Every year in mid-June, we host a birthday party for the orphans of the school. Because they don't know exactly when they were born, we celebrate everyone's birthday with a cake and meat sauce over rice and a soda (something that is a huge treat). The cost is \$3,500 (the most expensive being the \$500 for the cow so we may offer the meat sauce with the meal). For the vegetarians, we serve peanut sauce--which my son, Tony, LOVES!

As always you can just go to our website www.sylviaschildren.org click, on "[donate today](#)" and handle your donation online.

Christmas 2022

The last time we were able to travel to Uganda was November 2019. Three years is too long so I am planning a Christmas party trip November 9 - 22, 2022. I don't have the costs yet, but if you have been with me on this trip before, you can testify that both the trip and the children truly show the meaning of Christmas. You see, traditionally, every girl gets a new dress at the party and each boy receives a new shirt. (Tremendous thanks to the [Diocese of Trenton](#) for assigning me to two churches where I was able to speak to the congregation about Sylvia's Children: [Church of the Visitation](#) & [Church of the Nativity](#). We exceeded our Christmas goal and were able to send extra money this past year).

Please let me know if you are interested in traveling with me this November. As in the United States, the CoVid-19 pandemic is leveling out making it more comfortable to travel.



By the way, *June 2023 will be the 20th anniversary of Sylvia's Children* . May I ask you to put on your thinking cap to come up with ideas on how we can celebrate this milestone with the children?

Orphan Sponsorship

As is always on our minds, with 25% of our children being orphans, we are continually seeking sponsors for individual students. For a child in primary school, a sponsorship costs \$360 a year which covers food, healthcare, lodging, clothing, and education. For a high school student, it goes up a little to \$500 a year for all the same expenses. When you think that we already have 66 orphans who are now self-reliant, thanks to our angel sponsors and expect another 57 in the next two years, it is easy to see that a sponsor is truly making a difference by investing in another human's life and making it possible for them to be self-reliant, thereby helping their families.

Valentine's Day...when the thoughts of those we know and love come to mind...I'm thinking of you today and sending my love!



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