



St. Francis Family Helper Program

Securing a Future for the Poor

— Mbarara, Uganda —



“For it is in giving that we receive.”

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI



We are a Catholic ministry

that mobilizes the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Rather than create new institutions to distribute aid, we support existing ministries and churches already serving the poor. In addition to being the most cost-effective way of helping the poor, empowering these ministries allows us to support the Church's spiritual mission and its important position of leadership in poor communities.

We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach.

We invite you to join with us as we seek to transform the lives of the poor materially and spiritually — ways that please the Father and glorify him in Heaven and on earth.



Project Synopsis

Description

This project will sponsor the education of 20 orphaned and vulnerable students living in poverty.

Purpose

Enable impoverished students in primary, secondary and vocational schools to develop the skills needed to become self-sufficient adults.

Our Partners

Congregation of the Daughters of Mary and Joseph.

Location

Southwestern Uganda, in the Nile Basin.

Cost

\$21,600

Highlights

- Many children in Uganda face the crushing effects of extreme poverty — illiteracy, hunger, domestic abuse and the lure of prostitution as a means of escape.
- Without support, many of these boys and girls will drop out of school and never learn the skills needed to find employment as adults.
- Guided by God's insight and grace, Catholic sisters in Uganda have created a comprehensive program that supports education as well as family life, spiritual growth and self-esteem.
- St. Francis Family Helper Program provides financial assistance for primary, secondary and vocational school students, and also operates a low-cost tailoring school for older students ready to start a career.
- We need your support! Cross Catholic Outreach has committed to sponsoring 20 impoverished students, but we need your generous gift to fund their education and help them build a future of hope!



A tailoring school enables older students to develop skills needed in the Ugandan economy.



The Need



Standing here between two classmates, Andrew brings joy to school each day.

In response to the widespread poverty in southern Uganda, Cross Catholic Outreach has agreed to sponsor 20 children who are destitute and unable to afford the costs of an education.

Andrew Turyomurugyendo knows the pain of growing up illiterate and uneducated. His two older siblings dropped out of school because their mother could not afford the costs of supplies and fees. While Andrew was eventually enrolled in school, he too was forced to drop out because the family couldn't afford the related costs. Andrew's mother is raising her children alone and can barely afford to feed them with the meager income she collects tending other people's gardens.

Uganda has a universal education system, but destitute children find it difficult to complete primary school because their families still must pay for uniforms, books and school projects. Even if these costs were not prohibitive, the public options in Uganda tend to be terribly underfunded, leading to classes of more than 100 students and a staff of overworked teachers. While a Catholic school alternative would be a blessing to these families, it too involves costs most impoverished parents simply cannot afford. They are eager to provide their children

with the personalized instruction of a Catholic school education, but there are simply too many roadblocks for them to overcome.

Please — join us in helping young people like Andrew prevail in their efforts to be educated. Through your support of the St. Francis Family Helper Program, you can sponsor 20 students, allowing them to attend classes and gain the benefits of both an effective education and the blessings of spiritual direction. Opening these doors of learning will have lasting benefits too. An education builds confidence in children, and allows them to discover their God-given gifts. Andrew has mentioned his desire to become an engineer. Imagine — you could help make that wonderful dream become a reality!



Ministry Description



Catholic sisters participate in an outdoor activity with school students.

The Catholic sisters who dedicate themselves to educating and nurturing impoverished children in Uganda diligently follow the example of St. Francis of Assisi, the namesake of their ministry.

After concluding a profitable business deal, St. Francis was inspired to give a beggar all the money in his pockets, and the act of generosity felt so right to him that he dedicated his life to preaching and ministering to the poor.

While the sisters in Uganda are not wealthy, they do freely give what they do have — their time and talent, and with your support, they can do even more to benefit primary, secondary and vocational students.

St. Francis Family Helper wants to place 20 impoverished children in high-quality Catholic schools with all the classroom materials and uniforms they need to succeed. With this valuable help, those boys and girls will be able to make it to graduation without dropping out, and those who graduate from two-year vocational schools in Uganda can find good jobs in fields such as tailoring, carpentry and technology.

The sisters also want to reach out to young adults who dropped out of school due to economic and social pressures. For them, a two-year tailoring school would be a suitable solution. Graduates could then go on to become production workers, assistants to local tailors and even teachers in other schools.

The sisters are counting on our help to bring this opportunity to 20 of the area's neediest children. Please help them open up a new world of hope to young people in dire need.

Be a Family Helper!

Your support of this ministry impacts not just 20 children but 20 *entire families*. That is why it is called St. Francis *Family Helper* Program.

When poverty grips people for generations, problems like domestic abuse and alcoholism become prevalent. Disease is common, and children become hopeless and often are lured into prostitution.

By ministering to the whole family, the sisters create hope and allow God's grace to impact lives. In addition to nurturing the emotional and spiritual growth of the children, the sisters and trained counselors visit with each family. They offer advice on building healthy relationships, coordinate parent support groups and help families create small-business ventures to raise family income.



Help Now!

The Catholic sisters in Uganda are eager to welcome 20 needy children to their educational and family development program. These dedicated servants of the Lord are filled with the compassion of Jesus, and they want to shower that love on the parents of children like Andrew. For a mother or father frustrated by the ways their poverty has disadvantaged their sons or daughters, this gift of a sponsored education will be a literal godsend. It will restore hope and create a path to a brighter future!

Like the sisters, Cross Catholic Outreach is eager to make this wonderful gift of an education a reality. Will you please help us by sponsoring the education of 20 children? Your generous support will make a tremendous difference in their lives by enriching their minds and blessing their souls. It's only possible if we all work together to break the cycle of poverty trapping their families.

Please don't delay. The sisters have come to us with an urgent plea. God has inspired them to create a program that truly changes lives, and he has brought children in need to their doorstep. With your help, the sisters can nurture these children as they build a future filled with hope!

“The deeds you do may be the only sermon some persons will hear today.”

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2021, the close of our ministry's fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.

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