



# Via CARITAS

Through God's Love

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## CARITAS TRIP TO UGANDA

Several members of the CARITAS team flew from the United States to Uganda with many tasks in mind. Thanks be to God, we were successful in completing those tasks and also had some joyful surprises along the way.

One of our usual desires is to visit as many schools as possible to see how our ministry providers are doing and to see our children. During this trip, we were blessed to do both. There was an abundance of joy as we saw our children at school, eating, learning, smiling, and looking adorable in their school uniforms.



CARITAS Children during Recreation

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**FOLLOW US HERE TO**  
**SEE WHAT OUR KIDS**  
**ARE UP TO!**



CARITAS Team being greeted by students

In the schools, we were greeted with songs, dancing, theater, and even beautiful speeches of thanksgiving. Although we know that we do not deserve such a royal welcome, it was an honor to receive it on behalf of all our CARITAS sponsors around the world.



*With CARITAS Children and Sponsorship Coordinators*

It was also a blessing to meet with our team in Uganda, the head teachers, and our ministry service providers. We made sure to do a full assessment to discover how they were doing and ask them about what are their main needs. We also met many of our priest friends, celebrated masses with them, and traveled to their parishes.

Many people within our organization also sponsor children and had the opportunity to see them face-to-face, some for the very first time. We also met many new children who are sponsored by CARITAS sponsors and saw firsthand the joy on their faces as they received their school supplies and toiletries for the beginning of the next trimester.



*(Children getting supplies at the CARITAS House)*



Another great gift was to see the unfiltered reality of how the families of our children live. As we walked around the villages, it was quite amazing to see people living without electricity, running water, and just sitting outside of the mud hut that they called home. For many of us, this was the first time we saw this level of poverty. We also saw little children doing chores, fetching water, gathering firewood, cooking, or simply doing...

nothing because they weren't able to attend school. It was very saddening but also very motivating for us as we continue to grow this ministry.



*Children with no ability to go to school. These are the children we put on our website to sponsor.*



As a team, we shared many other motivating experiences throughout the three weeks we were there. On several different occasions, graduate students came to meet us when they heard that Caritas For Children's founder, Christopher Hoar OFS, was back in Uganda to visit. They were so grateful for the work that he has done, for helping them find sponsors, for giving them a chance to be educated, and now, to experience life as dignified and self-reliant adults. It was great to hear their stories after visiting the poor villages where they grew up.

To make sure that we did not miss anyone, we also went to visit some CARITAS post-secondary students who are still working hard to graduate from University and Vocational school. We made sure to encourage them to continue focusing on their studies, to keep praying for their sponsors, and everyone in the CARITAS family.

Somehow, we also found time to visit some of the touristy places that people would go to if they were on a mission trip. One of them is a...



*Pricilla Nakaggwa attending her first semester of the Midwifery course*

pilgrimage site that attracts millions of people each year that is dedicated to The Ugandan Martyrs. This was a spiritually powerful experience for all of us. Another location we went to is called Jinja and it is the Head of the Nile River. There are a lot of options for shopping there, eating traditional food, and going on guided boat rides. We are currently planning a Mission Trip to Uganda for this summer time and will show pictures of these adventures when we roll out the details of this next trip.

## Changes to the CARITAS Team

### Good Bye Gen

The CARITAS team, sponsors, and children have been blessed to have Genevieve with us for over two years. She has been a great support and lover of our ministry and has done so much to serve our brothers and sisters in the missions and our sponsors all over the world.

We would like to thank her for the time she spent with us and also inform everyone that Genevieve will no longer be working with us. Even



*Gen visiting the office with her son*

though Gen managed to work from home and take care of her first baby boy, **a second child is on the way! From this point forward, she and her husband decided that it would be best if her full attention was solely focused on her children.**

We will all certainly miss Gen, but we are also overjoyed at the blessing of the new life being formed in her womb. May God bless her family now and always.



*New Team Member: Kari Olson*

### Welcome Kari

After many months of looking for someone new to join our team, we are very excited to announce that we have made a decision!

**Karina Olson, also known as Kari, will be taking on most of Gen's responsibilities, including customer service, and will also be assisting in operations.** As you may be speaking with her at some point very soon, we thought it would be great to tell you a little bit about her.

Overall, the main reason why we chose Kari to join our team is because of her deep desire to make a difference through sharing God’s love, sharing her faith, and helping others. We believe that all things in an organization can be taught, but something like this, what we refer to as a “Caritas heart,” is something that is not so easy to teach. Thankfully for us, Kari’s family has formed her well in the Catholic faith and has even been sponsoring children through CARITAS for over 10 years. As Kari began working, she also decided to sponsor a girl on her own!

After several rounds of interviews, we believe that Kari has the necessary skillsets and personality to be a blessing to our team and the ministry as a whole. A few great things about Kari that you will notice are that she has a wonderful attitude, excellent communication skills, and a can-do spirit.

A few very unique things about Kari are that she volunteers as a bible youth leader, used to work as an in-home caregiver before COVID, and also has a diploma in welding! **We are sure that our sponsors and donors will quickly and easily fall in love with Kari as she begins her training in early May.**



*Kari Working on a Welding Project*

## New Volunteers Join CARITAS



### Welcome Susan

In January of this year, Susan Knutson drove to Caritas For Children's main office in Milwaukee to discuss the possibility of volunteering for the ministry. At the time, she knew she wanted to do something to help, but wasn't yet sure of what to do.

Susan, being a mother of four boys, explained that she knows the importance of parental love, education, and the early teaching of the Catholic faith to children. She also mentioned that she was particularly drawn to our ministry



because of the loving concern we have for poor and abandoned children.

Little did she know that in March, she would be in Uganda seeing the ministry firsthand! In retrospect, Susan probably started her time with Caritas in the best possible way: she met our sponsored children, stayed with our Capuchin seminarians, visited villages, met our whole team, and even learned about jackfruit from Bishop Kakooza.



This was the perfect introduction because Susan desires to be as hands-on as possible and to foster loving relationships through her volunteer work. **She feels called to give of her time and talent to a Catholic ministry, and she has decided to help our CARITAS Family by designing and coordinating Mission Trips!**



This is a major blessing for all of us, especially now that we have not had a group mission trip during the last few years. We hope that Susan's story inspires more people to also volunteer their time for great causes, to join us on mission trips, and to always be open to God's call. As this is a brand new step for Susan, we ask you to please say a quick prayer for her.



## Welcome Maria

We would like to welcome another fascinating woman to the Caritas Family, Maria Pollard. Maria is originally from Ecuador, South America so we expected her to be bilingual, but found out very quickly that she speaks four languages! If you get the chance to speak with her, feel free to talk to her in English, Spanish Portuguese, or French.



Maria moved to the United States when she was 18, attended college, and then joined the US Navy at the age of 22. During her military service, she had the opportunity to travel the world, learn many skills, and we suspect that she has many great stories to tell.

After 14 years in the Navy, Maria decided that she wanted to be present to her children 100% of the time and was honorably discharged. Today Maria is a wife, and a mother to three little boys, who loves Jesus Christ and helping others. Now that all her children are attending school, she finds herself with a little more time on her hands and wants to use it to serve others.



Maria was specifically drawn to CARITAS because she remembered a mission trip experience when she was in high school. During this trip, Maria volunteered with the Carmelite Sisters of Saint Teresa and helped as a missionary in the needy community of Guasmo where she taught children to read and write. The lasting impact of that ministry experience led her to find our family and want others to have a similar experience.

**Maria will be volunteering remotely from Jacksonville Florida, assisting with social media posting, and supporting our communications team.** She hopes to join a mission trip to Uganda with her family in the near future. Welcome Maria!

## Spotlight on Children in Need

*These girls have both had sponsorships in the past but their sponsors are sadly unable to continue supporting them. **They are both now in desperate need of a new sponsor if they are to have a real chance in life.***



[Specioza Bisasirwa, 12](#)



Specioza has recently lost her sponsor and is in great need of a new one in order to continue living and learning in a boarding school.

**Several years ago, her father abandoned the family and Specioza was taken care of by her mother who was mentally ill and suffered from seizures very often.** Specioza and her mother lived with her grandmother who did her best to take care of them. They have always been struggling to survive and occasionally, they did not have enough to eat.

**Unfortunately, Specioza's mother, Annet who sometimes would walk around the streets selling sweet bananas, had suffered a seizure, spent two weeks in a coma, and died. Specioza is now back to living with her peasant grandmother who cannot afford to send her to school.**

She is in sixth grade having one year to finish Primary Level. We are hoping that Specioza can be back in boarding school so that she can live in a stable environment and have her basic needs met.

Specioza particularly loves Social Studies, and very much hopes to be able to finish her education. We are praying that through a sponsorship, she will have a chance at a bright future.

To help Specioza go to boarding school, she will need

- \$120/month from one sponsor
- or \$60/month from two sponsors.

[Click Here if you can help Specioza](#)



Lilian's family is in a very difficult situation. Her father passed away when the children were very young, and Lilian's mother is HIV positive. **Because of her health conditions and the loss of her husband, Lilian's mother cannot manage to provide for her children alone,** although she works very hard to feed and clothe her children by digging in people's gardens.

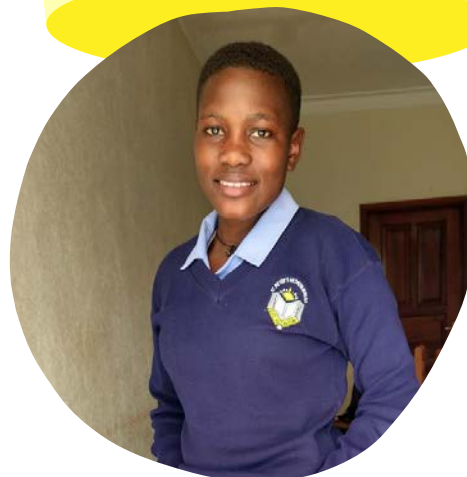
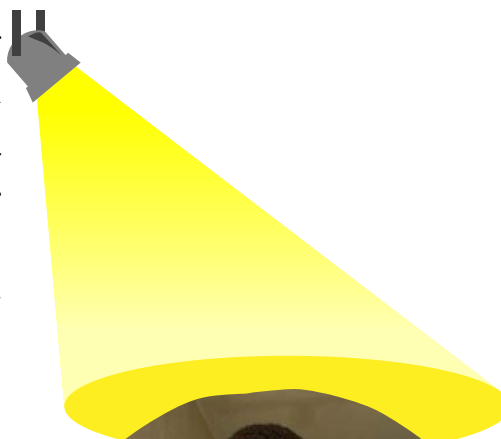
As a growing girl, Lilian needs food, safety, hygiene products, and most importantly, an education. To be properly provided for, Lilian requires a boarding school scholarship. **Without a sponsorship, Lilian will be forced to live her life fetching water, gathering wood, and helping her mother dig in gardens - which will perpetuate the cycle of poverty she grew up in.** Additionally, it puts her in a precarious position where she can easily be taken advantage of for a simple meal.

Her previous report cards were very good! She even won prizes twice at her school for academic excellence. Lilian is a very loving girl and has demonstrated good leadership abilities. Lilian's desire is to become a midwife so that she can help save more mothers from dying during childbirth, and so that she can become self-reliant and support her family.

**Due to her current family situation, the school is now keeping her as we try our best to look for another sponsor but the favor may not last for more than the next term.**

For Lilian to remain at the boarding school, she'll need

- \$120/month from one sponsor
- or \$60/month from two sponsors.



[Lilian Nansubuga, 18](#)



*Lilian early in her sponsorship*