



Via CARITAS

Through God's Love

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Funding Completed for Another Well



Young seminarians in class at the Nyenga Minor Seminary

We are thrilled to announce that CARITAS For Children has successfully raised the \$22,000 needed to begin construction on a new water well for the Seminary in Nyenga.

This vital project was made possible thanks to the incredible generosity of all our donors and sponsors, including a generous anonymous donor who matched \$11,000 in contributions.

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[**Learn more about the Nyenga Minor Seminary here!**](#)

The new deep water well will replace the current aging well from 1980 that has become increasingly difficult and expensive to maintain. The new well, located right on the seminary land, will provide clean, safe water for the seminarians and the neighboring communities.

As Fr. Frank Kyazze, the Director of the Seminary who was a 2017 graduate of our Sponsor-a-Seminarian program, shared: "Establishing a deep water well at the Seminary will be an excellent monument to commemorate the 100 years of its existence and help it train future priests for the next 100 years!"



CARITAS For Children funded water wells built in 2023

We are deeply grateful to every single person who donated to make this life-changing project a reality. Your generosity will have a profound impact on the young boys of the seminary and the surrounding community for years to come.



Fr. Frank, Chris, and other CARITAS For Children team members visiting classroom at Nyenga Minor Seminary

As construction begins, we will continue to provide updates on the water well's progress. Thank you again for your tremendous support – this would not have been possible without you!

Sponsors Build Home for Ugandan Family

There are many stories of human kindness within the CARITAS Family, stories that shine brightly, illuminating the path toward compassion and generosity. One such tale is “Joel and Donna”, two sponsors with CARITAS For Children, whose journey with their sponsored child, Oliver Nakitanda and her 4 siblings, embodies the transformative power of love and compassion.

Thirteen years ago, Oliver Nakitanda was found wandering alone in a garden by CARITAS staff. Upon further investigation, they discovered that Oliver was not alone in her struggle. She had four young siblings, and their family lived in dire circumstances with no hope of attending school. It was then that Joel and Donna stepped in to change the course of their lives.

Moved by compassion, Joel and Donna became sponsors not only for Oliver but for all five children, ensuring they could access education and a brighter future. Their selfless act of generosity became a symbol of faith for the Oliver and her family, providing them with opportunities they never thought possible.



Oliver Nakitanda at 5 years old



Oliver at 18 years old recreating the image that originally caught the attention of Joel and Donna

Last year, in 2023, Joel and Donna had the opportunity to visit Uganda and see firsthand the conditions in which their sponsored children lived. What they found deeply touched their hearts – the children, now grown, were almost sleeping outside in a small room with no firm door. It was a stark reminder of the challenges the family faced.



The very small hut in which the family lived



Fr. Joseph Balikuddembe blessing the construction site of the new house

Filled with a renewed sense of purpose, Joel and Donna felt compelled to do even more for the family. They decided to gift the construction of a new house, one that would provide comfort, security, and dignity to Oliver, her siblings, and their mother, Agnes.

Under the guidance of CARITAS For Children, the construction of the house began. Three rooms were planned – one for the boys, one for the girls, and one for their mother, Agnes. Alon, a representative from CARITAS, captured the journey through photographs in January of 2024. The images depict the entire family working together in the construction of their new home, a testament to their resilience and determination.



Progress being made on the family's new home

As the construction progresses, the love and support from Joel and Donna, alongside the guidance of CARITAS For Children, serve as a powerful testimony to the transformative power of God's love. The blessings bestowed upon Oliver and her family through this act of kindness are a reminder that even in the face of adversity, hope prevails, and love knows no bounds.

Joel and Donna's journey with CARITAS For Children exemplifies the true essence of generosity and compassion, inspiring others to make a difference in the lives of those in need. Through their selfless actions, they have created a lasting impact that will resonate for generations to come.

Calling All Deacons!



Do you know a deacon with a profound love for the poor and a heart for global evangelization? CARITAS For Children is seeking passionate, entrepreneurial deacons to grow their own "mini Catholic apostolates" in service to the desperate around the world. As a CARITAS Director of Ministry and Development, deacons will increase awareness of our mission to support children, religious sisters, seminarians and clergy in impoverished areas. They will find sponsor families, lead fundraising efforts, organize mission trips, start parish twinning relationships and more - all focused on their assigned territory.

The ideal candidate will have excellent communication skills, missionary experience, visionary leadership and a true entrepreneurial spirit. We need deacons who are enthusiastic evangelizers and skilled networkers with a "can-do" attitude.

This is far more than just a role - it's a ministry calling to spread the Gospel while elevating those most in need through spiritual and financial support. CARITAS provides training, technology, and operational assistance so deacons can focus on ministry development.

If you know a deacon who may be called to this unique opportunity to live out his vocation in worldwide service to the poor, we ask you to please send him this link and keep him in your prayers:

<https://caritas.us/director-of-ministry-and-development>

Please take a moment and be discerning if the Lord is nudging someone in your community toward this impactful work.

Through Christ's love manifested in your spiritual support and selfless generosity, we can continue evangelizing and uplifting the poorest of the poor. Thank you for being part of our growing CARITAS family.

American Missionary Visits Uganda

Embark on a transformative journey with Claire Sayler, a young American missionary who ventured into the heart of Uganda, guided by her connection with CARITAS For Children. In our two-part blog series, Claire's experiences paint a vivid picture of resilience, compassion, and the transformative power of service.

From witnessing the daily struggles of families living in huts constructed from dirt and water to encountering the unwavering faith and resilience of Ugandan communities, Claire's journey offers a glimpse into a world where every smile holds a story, and every challenge is met with enduring hope.




Claire meeting local Ugandan children

Please join us as we explore Claire's journal entries, where each day unfolds profound realizations. The second blog is an interview with Claire, where she reflects on her journey, the transformative power of education, and the initiatives aimed at community self-sustainability. Her journey is a testament to the indomitable spirit of the human heart guided by faith and love. And the very reasons that fuel our mission here in CARITAS to help the poorest of the poor and transform their lives through education and sustainable projects, while building relationships rooted on God's Love.

Read Claire's journey firsthand on our website, where her story is shared in two captivating parts. Experience the echoes of hope from the heart of Uganda and be inspired by Claire's profound journey of service and compassion!

[**Click Here to Read!**](#)

Spotlight on Children in Need



Vanessa is an orphan who currently lives with her grandmother, who frequently drinks. Vanessa, her older sister Mable, and their grandmother live deep in the woods. Vanessa must walk 5km in order to reach an instructor who has been teaching her. There isn't a school nearby, meaning when they are able to meet, Vanessa and her teacher must study under a tree.

The girls' grandmother leaves Vanessa in the care of Mable each day as she doesn't have the energy or motivation to care for the children herself. Their grandmother has been in deep mourning for a long time, as she has lost most of her children to HIV/AIDS. Because of this, she is deeply depressed and turns to alcohol. Naturally, her behavior when intoxicated negatively impacts her two granddaughters.



[Vanessa Nakityo, 12](#)

In addition to these difficulties, Vanessa is hard of hearing and often appears deep in thought, as she tends to isolate herself from others. Being unable to hear properly often makes her feel left out of social interactions, and she finds it difficult to make friends.

We really would love to get her out of this hopeless situation. By sending her to a school which provides her a safe and consistent learning environment, Vanessa will be able to thrive, and make lasting friendships. Through sponsorship and education, Vanessa's life will be changed for the better.

To help Vanessa attend boarding school, she will need:

- \$150 per month from one sponsor

Irene Pauline's family faced a major setback in April 2021 when her father suffered a devastating motorcycle accident, leaving him paralyzed on the left side of his body. This tragic event rendered him unable to work, significantly impacting the family's financial stability. The aftermath of the accident has been a continuous struggle for the family, as they grapple with the scarcity of household necessities and the challenge of providing sufficient meals for the children.

In the face of adversity, Irene's mother has shown remarkable resilience. Lacking formal education herself, she has endeavored to support her family through agriculture, cultivating a small plot of land, and selling fried chicken in the evening hours downtown



Irene Pauline Nalubowa, 11

Despite her diligent efforts, the income generated from these endeavors falls short of covering the educational expenses of Irene and meeting the basic needs of the household. Irene, a diligent student with aspirations of becoming a nurse, finds her educational journey at risk due to the financial constraints faced by her family.

The prospect of receiving assistance to continue her education represents not only an opportunity for Irene to pursue her dreams but also a beacon of hope for her family during these challenging times. Support for Irene's schooling would not only ensure her academic progression but also inspire a positive change in the trajectory of her family's circumstances.

To help Irene Pauline attend day school, she will need:

- \$36 per month from one sponsor