

St Nicholas Uganda Education Fund

St Nicholas Orthodox Church
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Imagine!

Over *half* the population of Uganda is *under 16 years old*. Many are orphans, or living with destitute grandparents, often with 7 to 10 other siblings. Most are struggling hard to go to school. It's not uncommon to find 25-year-olds in 10th grade.

And while there's a fair amount of aid for very young kids— and programs for adults exist as well— high school students are almost *ignored* by international sponsorship programs. Yet they are the most in need: They're old enough that either or both parents have likely died, their school fees are high, and they're about to face life on their own.... unemployable, *unless they can finish high school*.

What's more, in Uganda today, staples cost twice what they did a year ago, and school fees are up. Each student needs about \$65 per month or even more— over \$2 a day, in a \$1-per-day subsistence economy!

We've already graduated several students, and we're going to try to take on 25 kids in 2009 (of whom 8 have only this one year left!) For me, I wouldn't hesitate to bankrupt myself for them (seriously!), but even if I went to that length, this program has been possible, and will be possible, *only* through your generosity.

Will you make a *direct* difference in the life of a Uganda high school student?— I mean, the difference between *hunger* when work is not available— and a decent life in a profession, or perhaps teaching? The cost of about *one cup of espresso per day* will make this difference. Please help these kids!

The St Nicholas Uganda Education Fund is a project of my parish (address above), but it is not sectarian— we don't even ask what religion people are; we just look at their need and try to answer it. We send all monies collected, and more, to a trustworthy administrator in Uganda. He deposits it directly into school accounts for student fees, or disburses it to the kids for shoes, books, or other such needs. Except for the Western Union fee, we have no overhead. 100% of your tax-deductible contribution will *directly* move the mountain of unemployability for one person in Africa— and have an impact on generations to come!

If you have questions, please phone or email me at the contacts above. And if you know someone else who would like to directly support some great kids in Africa, please pass this along and have them contact me! As they say in luGanda, *Weebale nnyo nnyo nnyo!* (Thank you very, very, very much!)

"Who gives to the poor makes God his debtor, and He will reward him for what he has done" (Proverbs 19.17).
With confidence, we can say:

Jesus Christ himself thanks you.

At the prayers of St Nicholas, may God bless your kindness.


John Burnett