

THE CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL FUND (THE CHEF) – UGANDA

The Canadian Samaritans for Africa has entered into partnership with the CHEF Uganda to help to dig wells to serve the water need of the camp as well as provide water for the Soroti community. The Canadian Samaritans for Africa will also support the development of the centre's educational facilities by building hostels and classrooms. Read the story of the Foundation, and consider donating to support and empower these happy, strong and ambitious children who have lost their parents through war and HIV/AIDS. It will cost 5, 000 Canadian dollars to dig a well for the camp. Dr Alex Ojacor was in Canada to meet with our board members, and share with them as well as some of our donors the heroic work he is doing with these children with little or no financial support. We donated the sum of 5,000 for the first well and hope that it will be completed by the end of 2008.

PREAMBLE

Uganda has suffered the wrath of HIV/AIDS epidemic since 1982 and millions of citizens have died leaving thousands of members of families and children vulnerable.

Insecurity at the border areas to Karamoja, a hostile tribe notorious for cattle-rustling has also brought untold suffering to the people of Northern and Eastern Uganda. Lives, properties and livelihoods have been shattered.

The influx of the Lord's Resistance Army rebels of a self-styled warlord Joseph Kony into the North and East confounded the situation. A lot of property was destroyed and over 5,000 children were abducted and forced to be combatants and sex-slaves. Some of them have since returned but very traumatised.

There is thus an increasing number of vulnerable children in Northern and Eastern region and in Uganda in general.

BACKGROUND OF ORGANISATION

The Children's Educational Fund (The CHEF – Uganda) has its roots in the problems that bedevilled Teso region for over 20 years. Its promotion started in 2006 and attracted 60 members. It got registered with Uganda NGO Board in April, 13th 2007 as a non-governmental and non-profit organisation, Registration Number **S. 5814/6970**.

MISSION

The mission of the organisation is to avail vulnerable children (orphans, former abductees, those infected with HIV/AIDS and very poor children) with sufficient basic education or skills and support activities that ensure sustainability in generating provisions for their normal livelihood in society.

POPULATION

The human population in the target area of the two sub-counties is about 22,000 people. Children account for over 50% of this population. The vulnerable children

constitute about 20% of all the children. The target population of the vulnerable children are:

- i) Children who are total or semi-orphans arising out of HIV/AIDS and the wars.
- ii) Children who are HIV+
- iii) Formerly abducted children in need of being resettled and educated.
- iv) Children from very poor families and very large families who have no livelihood.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- i) To identify the needs of destitute, orphaned, HIV+ and formerly abducted children.
- ii) To provide education and skills through paying for their education and provision of scholastic materials.
- iii) Integrating formerly abducted children into society and families.
- iv) Promoting life skills and income generating activities among these children and their next of kin to provide sustainability.

ACTIVITIES

	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Cost (Ug.Shs)</i>	<i>Status</i>
1	.Setting up a Liaison office and procurement of equipment	3,600,000	Done
2.	Develop and sign a sub-grantee agreement, design operational plans and reporting system.	2,400,000	Done
3.	Design data collection instruments for the baseline survey.	2,000,000	Done
4.	Identify focal persons from the community, orientation and training, conduct interviews recruit staff	1,800,000	Done
5.	Reviewing existing information on existing educational status on vulnerable children and existing support gaps.	1,000,000	Done
6.	Provision of required tuition, uniforms and scholastic materials for the first bunch of 25 children	12,500,000	Ongoing
7.	Feeding and other requirements	3,350,000	Not met
8.	Identification and establishment of income generating activities.	2,000,000	Not met
9.	Follow up activities at homes of individual children.	1,000,000	Not met
10.	Transport and other office costs.	5,000,000	Not met
	TOTAL PER ANNUM	34,650,000	

Exchange Rate depends on market price but on average it is 1 US \$ = 1720 Uganda shillings.

34,650,000 Uganda Shillings is an equivalent of US \$ **20,145.35**

SOURCES OF FUNDING

As of now the bulk of support has been contributions from members and isolated donations from personal friends. This is making our task very difficult. We are

therefore asking for a partnership with you. We also welcome volunteers to work in our projects.

VISIT

Fr. Stan Chu Ilo visited us and assessed our project. We welcomed him and we discussed the many areas of possible co-operation with your organisation. We are so grateful for his visit and look forward to more visits from you. We also discussed with Stan on the formal memorandum of understanding through which we shall commit ourselves to the ideals of accountability, partnership, and sustainability as indicated in the working document of Canadian Samaritans for Africa.

THE NEEDY CHILDREN GENERAL REGISTER

	<i>Names</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>Status</i>
1.	Agwang Mary	Female	15	Senior One	Orphan
2.	Edunyu John Stephen	Male	14	Senior One	Semi-orphan
3.	Aduk Geoffrey	Male	16	Senior Two	Semi-orphan
4.	Ecuman Gilbert	Male	17	Senior Two	Semi-orphan
5.	Nababi Teddy	Female	20	Senior Five	Child mother
6.	Aany Catherine	Female	25	Senior Five	Drop out
7.	Acen Martha	Female	10 (twin)	Primary Three	Orphan
8.	Opio Joseph	Male	10 (twin)	Primary Three	Orphan
9.	Omuge John	Male	14	Primary Seven	Orphan
10.	Alongu Bosco	Male	14	Primary Six	Orphan
11.	Arisai Michael	Male	12	Primary Five	Orphan
12.	Okiror Moses	Male	12	Primary Five	Orphan
13.	Omodo Sam	Male	12	Primary Five	Orphan
14.	Ileut Ben	Male	6	Pre-school	Single parent
15.	Akello Catherine	Female	11	Primary Four	Single parent
16.	Imudang Gladys	Female	11	Primary Four	Single parent
17.	Kongai Anne Maria	Female	9	Primary Two	Single parent
18.	Ajepet Joseph	Male	12	Primary Four	Orphan
19.	Okwakol Jude	Male	9	Primary Two	Orphan
20.	Kiyai Margaret	Female	11	Primary Three	Orphan
21.	Elungat John	Male	9	Primary One	Orphan
22.	Okwakol Amos	Male	7	Primary One	Orphan
23.	Anyait Itabu	Female	14	Primary Seven	Orphan
24.	Otim Job	Male	10	Primary Two	HIV+
25.	Abura Mary	Female	14	Primary Three	Abductee
26.	Arotin Mary	Female	17	Senior Two	Blind

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What the Canadian Samaritans for Africa has Done:

- We are presently building a well in the CHEF Camp in Soroti that will provide clean and drinkable water for all the children in this camp as well as over 1000 people from the surrounding community.
- We have given 10 students in the camp full scholarship so that they can have quality education to secondary school level.

More child soldiers and HIV/AIDS orphans could be welcomed into this camp if we helped the CHEF to build a hostel and a classroom block so that the children do not have to study under the tree and sleep in tents. Your donation will help us to build a classroom block and a hostel for these wonderful children who want to have a future.