

Help Wanted

Sustenance farmers work incredibly hard digging someone else's land and make incredibly little income. These are some of their children:



DEBORAH AHIMBISIBWE

(13 y/o) lives with her mother and her 2 siblings, father abandoned family and mother is farm laborer. Deborah wants to be a pastor and leads children's choir at church. She has been waiting for a sponsor since January 2015



OWEN GABAYO

(16 y/o) sent away from home with his mother and brother while still young, his mother is a farm hired hand. Owen wants to be an Engineer. He has been waiting for a sponsor since January 2015.



ANTHONY DARIUS NDYAMUHAKI

(12 y/o) Father died of AIDS leaving mother with 5 young children. She is a sustenance farmer. Anthony's goal is to be a soldier. He has been waiting for a sponsor since January 2015.



NAOMI NATUMANYA

(4y/o) child was abandoned by her mother then her father died of TB this November. She is cared for by her Auntie Anna another farmer. Naomi couldn't verbalize her goal.

PLEASE CONSIDER SPONSORING A CHILD.

Learn more at mountainchildrensministry.com

AN EYE TO THE FUTURE: GIFT OPPORTUNITIES

I confess I tend to photograph younger children more frequently than older teens. It seems I am attracted to those cherubic faces and their sweet antics. Teenagers, as my husband smiling once pointed out; are instead negotiating "The Smooth Years." He said this after our 16 year old daughter ran over the split rail fence in an attempt to back the car out of the driveway. He repeated it when our teenage sons frequently injured themselves in sports. The teen years can be painful but strategic. People also recognize the potential of a bright teen to make a difference in the world given a chance at education. As our sponsored children grow up, our need for **College Scholarship Funds** will increase. These scholarships will not be given to everyone. Only select teens who show promise in the academic setting and score high enough to compete at the University level. Please consider a donation of any amount to bless our gifted teens as they transition out of the smooth years to become "Change Agents" for Uganda.

Also we are still pursuing the dream of getting solar lights into each family's home. The cost of solar lights is \$100 each. Thank you for considering a gift to Mountain Children's Ministry!

A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR

My husband and I find so much joy in sponsoring Sarah and Caleb through Mountain Children's Ministry. We discovered MCM while we were looking for a charity to collaborate with on behalf of the memorial charity I run: The Amber Volk Foundation (AVF). The Amber Volk Foundation (AVF) was created after we lost our dear friend, Amber, in a tragic accident at the age of 23. Our goal was to ensure Amber's enthusiasm and compassion continued to impact the world after her death, just as it did during her life.

In 2013, AVF's board was impressed with Michele and Ivan's knowledge of Kabale local needs so AVF contributed to a water well near MCM offices. After this positive experience, we wanted to continue our relationship with MCM and signed up to sponsor Sarah and Caleb.

We have been involved with other expansive sponsorship charities in the past and truly appreciate how personalized our experience has been with Sarah and Caleb through MCM. To write your child a letter and send them a gift and then receive a photo of them holding that letter and gift is such an incredible feeling: human connections that transcend miles and cultures. We even received a photo of them holding our wedding photos and a note that they prayed for us during our wedding and marriage. What a blessing to be given the opportunity to connect with two children from a culture and background so different from our own and learn that we really have so much in common through our faith. This continuing relationship has given us so much joy!

As Martin Buber expressed, "When two people relate to each other authentically and humanly, God is the electricity that surges between them." We are so grateful to have the opportunity for authentic relationship with Sarah and Caleb, to experience love from them, and grow closer to God through this relationship. We are thrilled that in February, 2016 we will travel to Uganda with Michele and Mark to meet Sarah and Caleb in person and see the completed water well!

To continue growing the fruitful relationship between AVF and Mountain Children's Ministry: I have committed to summiting the 19,341 foot peak of Mount Kilimanjaro in January 2016.

During the 6 month climb training, my goal is to raise \$3000 to support the ministry work of MCM. I am asking for your support as I work toward both my physical and monetary goals. Prayer, kind thoughts or notes, and any dollar amount you can contribute are of great value to me and the organizations I am representing.

My trip to Africa itself is self-funded and all donations will be dedicated to MCM for continued solar lighting in children's homes, future college scholarships, and purchasing land for self-sustained farming.



Left: Julie and Wayne.
Right: Julie and Amber



If you would like to make a donation, you can do so here: <https://www.crowdrise.com/TheAVFAdventures/fundraiser/juliehess>.

And finally, thank you for your support. Please reach out to me directly if you have any questions about my training or my passion for these incredible organizations.

In Him,

Julie Hess (Julie.m.hess@gmail.com)



MOUNTAINCHILDRENSMINISTRY.COM

Michele Pageau, michelepageau@gmail.com

366 West Windsor Avenue
Lombard, IL 60148

630.606.3165



End of the Year Summary: December 2015

DEAR FRIENDS OF MOUNTAIN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY,

Greetings and warm wishes for a blessed and bright Christmas and New Year! Jesus is the Light of the World scripture tells us; in Him there is no darkness. Jesus has been the Light in tangible ways to MCM this year.

In the MCM June 2015 newsletter we put out the need for solar lights and you responded generously! We were able to purchase 20 solar lights and transport them to Kabale. We went to many homes and Ivan instructed each child with their guardians. We chose older students to receive the lights to study in the evenings after dark.

On one such occasion we visited Pledge and his Grandma in their mud hut after dark. Honestly, I could not even see my hand in front of my face. After Ivan finished teaching, Pledge demonstrated his understanding by following the directions on his own. He completed the steps and switched on the light himself inside that dark hut previously lit only by a charcoal stove. WOW!! The light filled the little room so you could suddenly see into every corner! Pledge and his Grandma began singing praises to God immediately! Then that adorable lady reached out and grabbed me in a big hug and kiss on the cheek. We were all laughing and clapping! Precious sweet people! I will never forget that moment of going from darkness into light and the celebration following. What an amazing experience of the reality of our good God, our Light!

We are also thankful to many of you who gave money towards new leather shoes for our children. It is so humbling to see the faces of these happy children who try on shoes and find a pair that fit! So thank you to all of you who contributed



After our ask for solar lights in the June newsletter, we were able to purchase twenty solar lights for homes in Kabale!

to the shoes and the solar lights! They were such a huge blessing to our kids.

The personal favorite moments of my September visit were helping all the MCM children read their birthday cards/letters. If you could only see the way these kids treasure their sponsors, you would see GREAT HOPE! Please check out our website and the children currently waiting for sponsors... mountainchildrensministry.com

Finally be sure and read our "Word From A Sponsor" on the back page which features Julie Hess, a young lady who has so much passion and enthusiasm for helping vulnerable children she has chosen to climb Mt Kilimanjaro in Tanzania as a fundraiser for MCM! Consider joining her efforts to raise money for solar lights, college scholarships and purchasing farm land.

Since last June we have had many other changes that Ivan has described inside. We are so grateful to God for the growth and protection He has given. We are humbled by your generosity and love to these children as well! Please keep us in your prayers and we will continue to Thank God for all of you. Merry Christmas!

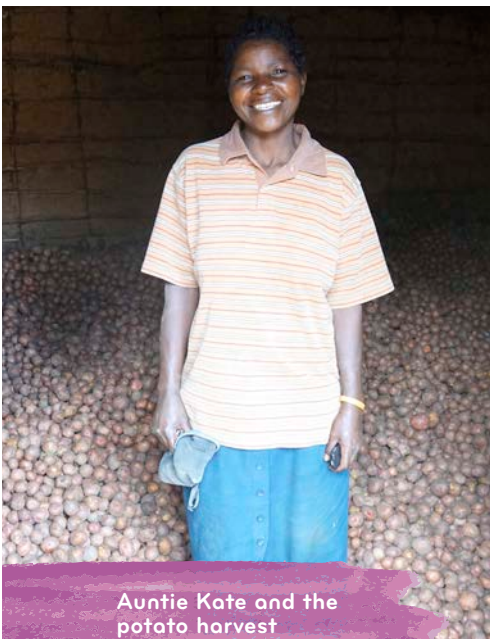
Blessings,

Michele



UPDATES FROM IVAN IN UGANDA: Mpeirwe Ivan, MCM Executive Director

Hello friends, I am thrilled yet again to update you on what is happening with MCM Uganda. There many great things the Lord has done and also a few situations that were not so pleasant. But all in all, everything has worked out for our good.



Auntie Kate and the potato harvest



The piggery and chicken projects are also progressing well. The first pigs we got when we were beginning are well grown now and ready for sale. We are going to sell them as soon as we are ready. Also one gave birth to seven piglets! We will retain three of them because they are a wonderful breed and then give the others to some of our older kids as a way to start a cash generating project. We want to train our children how to do animal farming for economic gains at their young ages so they can gain experience.

The chickens too are now ready for sale and we are in the process of looking for a buyer for the roosters. We want to hold on to the hens so that they may lay eggs. It being our first time in the chicken business, there were many lessons to learn. Specifically we learned that the cost of raising roosters is higher than their revenue potential. That said, I hope once the 180 hens start laying we will be able to make up for our loss given eggs are on high demand and expensive.

Our children are very well. They continue to study hard at school and we have seen major differences in their performances ever since they joined our program. This year we hope to graduate two at the ordinary level and one at the advanced

“He said it was the difference he has seen in our children. The dedication and enthusiasm they show in coming to learn God’s Word, their change in behavior, the way we pour into them by doing what their guardians couldn’t do.”

level! Without your help, there is no way these children would have gotten this far. This August we enrolled our first college student, Obed. He performed so well! Being the oldest of all our children, the others below him have a good example to look to. Obed is currently pursuing a degree in social work and administration. I especially thank God for him because he is boy who is willing to learn. Pastor Sam and I have been slowly mentoring him and he has shown a great desire to serve God by also reaching out to those below him and helping them by tutoring them, leading them and helping them too. We thank God and his sponsor Stella who has provided the tuition costs as college education is very expensive.

We still have our monthly bible studies and I am happy to report that Pastor Sam has done a remarkable job with our teenagers. Their behavior is significantly better; they read and memorize scripture and surprise us with reciting it, something we didn't imagine would happen this fast. However, we still have some children who need extra help and we are giving more time and effort to helping them as much as possible. Our Annual Birthday Party in September was attended by all 70 of our MCM kids plus 80 additional village boys and girls, total 150 kids! Dinner, cake, soda,

gifts, singing, praying and dancing were shared by all; a real highlight of the year for all the children!

I would like to thank God for the way He continues to expand this ministry. Our sponsorship continues to increase and with it an opportunity to touch another soul with the Word of our Lord through works of grace and kindness. Allow me give a small testimony~ A young man of about 16 years of age came and told us that he was already in another organization that helps the vulnerable but that he had a desire to be part of MCM instead. When we asked why, he said it was the difference he has seen in our children. The dedication and enthusiasm they show in coming to learn God's Word, their change in behavior, the way we pour into them by doing what their guardians couldn't do, was something he was not getting where he was and wanted to be part of this. It was uplifting to listen to this teenager talk and I felt that God is in this place indeed and it gave us, as the leaders of MCM, more morale to continue with greater resolve because there is a change in our children' lives. I would like to thank you all who have made this to be possible.

Mpeirwe Ivan
Executive Director,
Mountain Children's Ministry

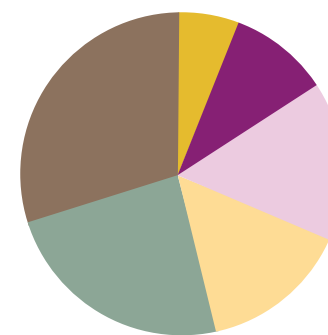


2015 Budget

TOTAL DONATIONS: \$41,323.00

ALL NUMBERS PROJECTED FOR JANUARY 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 2015

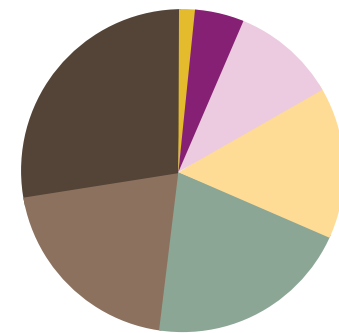
EXPENSES MCM US: \$3,828.37



- LEGAL FEES = 6%
- OFFICE SUPPLIES = 10%
- PROMOTIONAL COSTS = 14%
- SHIPPING/POSTAGE = 16%
- BUDGETING EXPENSES = 23%
- WEBSITE MAINTENANCE = 31%

MONEY SENT TO MCM - UG : \$34,690.00

- MEDICAL = 1%
- BIBLE STUDY AND BIRTHDAY/CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS = 3%
- AIRTIME AND OFFICE EXPENSES = 10%
- TRANSPORTATION RELATED = 17%
- SELF SUSTAINING PROGRAMS (FARMING, PIGGERY, POULTRY AND LAND) = 21%
- JOBS PROVIDED = 21%
- EDUCATION = 27%



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!