



Ronah (in purple) teaches IT students hardware repair. Read Ronah's transformation story inside.

mountain children's ministry

Year End Summary
December 2023

HELLO FAMILY & FRIENDS,

A very Merry Christmas to you! As we celebrate the many gifts God has blessed MCM with this year we find ourselves particularly grateful for the transformation in the lives of our graduates. We thank God for raising up these precious children and for you who participated in that blessing!

In 2023 MCM saw 20 students graduate from either University or Vocational schools and complete the MCM program with employable skills. Many sponsorship programs do not take students across that finish line. Students are "aged out" by 18 years old, some never

having had the ability to graduate high school or attend job training schools. We are very humbled!

Our sincere congratulations to our graduates in Social Work (2), Tourism and Hospitality (2), Nursing (2) Computer Technology (1), Medical Records (1), Clinical Medicine Physician Assistants (2), Tailoring (2), Knitting (1), Education (1), Catering (2), Auto Repair (1), Cosmetology (1), Carpentry (1) and Accounting (1)! I have shared some of their before and after stories inside.

Our deepest gratitude to both our sponsors who stood with these students supporting, encouraging and praying for them and for those who gave extra resources to see them achieve their goals! God bless you!

Vocational and University costs per student are more than 10 times the cost of primary school and 3-5 times the cost of secondary school. All these fees have soared since COVID inflation. MCM sponsorship does not cover all of it. **This would be a wonderful time to give to MCM and help our students graduate, earn a living, be independent and care for their families all to the glory of God!** What a wonderful Christmas miracle it is!

Many blessings and much love ~

"mum" michele :)

UPDATES FROM IVAN IN UGANDA: DECEMBER 2023

Greetings from Uganda!

It is hard to believe 2023 is coming to an end. The year has been filled with such wonderful memories and blessings!

In September, we were able to purchase a car which is used as a private taxi alongside our eleven bodas. We have successfully grown the boda project as well as a profitable farming program. In addition to sponsors generously giving to 192 children, these income generating activities provided tuition for 160 primary school children. It is truly astonishing to think we started with 4 back in 2013 to helping 352 needy students now!

As I look back at all the miraculous things that have happened, even more than our income programs, I am MOST grateful for the cases where I have seen true, lasting change in our kids. While there are many, allow me to share two stories which stick out to me and the amazing transformation God has brought using MCM.



Shivan, 2018

dangerously neglected. Shivan was staying with her handicapped grandmother in a dilapidated shelter because they had no other place. MCM took Shivan into the program, paid her school tuition and provided food, clothes and medical care.

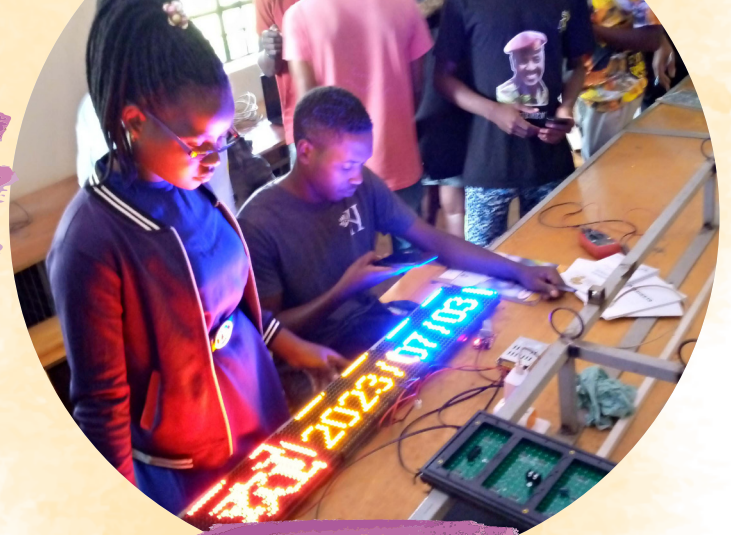
Slowly she started getting her health back but then tragedy struck when her grandmother passed in 2019.

SHIVAN

In 2017, a good samaritan brought Shivan to us when she was about 8 years old. At the time she was malnourished and her physical state was



Shivan wearing her knit sweater, 2023



Ronah explaining application of diodes

We made the decision to have her come live at God's Refuge as we figured out the next best step. With the help of village leaders we decided to put her in boarding school where she would be fed, have a nice bed to sleep in, and adults caring for her.

Given her impoverished upbringing, Shivan struggled academically. She was 10 and testing at a 6 year old level. When she could no longer succeed in primary school we moved Shivan to a special trade school as a teen. The school is called Shalom Vocational Institute which provides extra help to younger kids who struggle with traditional vocational schools. When she joined this school, Shivan became like a new young lady! She thrived and excelled at knitting!

After two years at Shalom learning knitting Shivan graduated early at the top of her class! Jobs in Uganda are hard to come by, but Shalom Vocational asked to retain her to work helping other students. Our Shivan got a job immediately!

Eventually Shivan's mother returned to the village and now the teen is paying rent for Mum's room plus another child her Mum brought back. It makes me incredibly happy and proud sitting in church seeing Shivan and her Mum arrive proudly wearing clothes and sweaters that Shivan has made! All glory to God!

RONAH

Ronah came to us when she was 15 years old seeking help. She is from a family of 8 children and her peasant farmer parents told her they would not be educating her further because they had too many children to feed and she was not doing well academically.

In 2017, MCM put her on our program. It was not long before we discovered Ronah needed glasses so we provided those. Her grades dramatically improved! Six years forward to 2023, Ronah completed her diploma in Computer Science. When her results came out in September, she, like Shivan, had topped her class and graduated with a first class diploma!

On few occasions in Uganda, when one scores a first class diploma, they are hired by their school and become junior lecturers. This is what happened to Ronah! Like Shivan, she was employed without having to look for a job. Now both girls can make a difference in the lives of other young people, transferring their knowledge and skills.

Ronah plans to come to the MCM library where we have 5 computers to help interested MCM students during Christmas break! This makes me happy because of the multiplier effect: MCM indirectly helping others through those it helped!

While the stories I share are only two of hundreds, they show the fuller picture of how God is providing ongoing, lasting, generational change amongst MCM children and our extended community.



Ronah in 2017 (L) and in 2021 (R)



We thank God! Your help is making a huge difference in our rural village, one child at a time.

May God bless you all!

Mpeirwe Ivan Twino
Executive Director, MCM - Uganda



MEET GODWIN NATURINDA

Godwin is from our community, the son of Teacher Peace from Kihanga Girls Primary School.

Godwin studied at Makerere University in Kampala where he received his degree in Business Administration. Before working with us Godwin worked with Compassion International and other various children-focused organizations.

In April 2022, with the Boda Program income, we added over 100 new students. The challenge of paying the school fees of almost 300 students, collecting letters for sponsored children, purchasing school supplies and directing guardians began to feel insurmountable. We asked Godwin to join us part time in this work and he has been a fantastic addition. Godwin was brought up as a single orphan and is now married with two preschool children. We are grateful for his commitment to MCM and our children.



A SPECIAL THANKS

Since 2014 the paper and printing required to create these MCM biannual newsletters has been paid for and donated by Darwill. We at MCM are so grateful for their years of generosity and support! A special Thank you to Troy and Brandon Van Dyke, and Mark DeBoer!

Our Program Works!

Transformation is beautiful. Meet a few MCM graduates and see where they are at now!



SAVIOUS' mum, a peasant farmer without her husband, could not afford schooling for all six children. Savi began the MCM program in 2014 supported, along with her sister, by Kim and Tim Boonstra. Over the past nine years Savi went from Primary 2 thru Shalom Vocational school for Tailoring. She graduated and has begun her own tailoring business with the gift of a sewing machine from the Boonstras.



MORRIS' father died when Morris was young. His mother then left him with his grandmother and never returned. He was sponsored by Joel and Allyson Boomsma in 2015 and they encouraged him from senior two through graduation from Uganda Martyrs University with his degree in Medical Record keeping. He is now employed by the hospital for which he interned because he did such good work!



TALENT came to MCM in 2013 in primary five. Her father had died leaving her mum with two young children and no land. She worked tilling the land of others. Talent was sponsored in 2014 by Nancy and Art Chmelik and they faithfully wrote to her and loved on her for nine years until her graduation from UCC in Tourism and Hospitality in February. Talent loves the Lord and practices the hospitality of cooking and serving food.



ANITAH'S father lost the ability to walk after an accident so the burden of caring for her husband and children fell to Anitah's mum. Anitah was 13 in 2016 when she and her brother were sponsored by Kelly and Charity Cunningham. They stood by her from primary six through vocational school graduation with her certificate in Accounting. Today Anitah works at a bank and her income helps her family.



WITNESS is the fifth of eight children and the daughter of peasant farmers who owned no land of their own. She was sponsored in senior four by Printcomm in 2019. Julie Stehle wrote her many letters supporting her dream of becoming a Nurse. Witness graduated from Rugarama School of Nursing and is in the process of setting up a nearby clinic to supply local villagers with necessary medications. Witness is an extraordinarily caring young lady practicing God's gift of healing.



Now is a good time to join MCM in helping children escape poverty!



PLEASE SPONSOR A CHILD

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me." He also said "Follow Me!"
This Christmas will you follow and let a little child come to you?



ALEX K.

Alex (11) only just completed second grade because his mother died of AIDS, his father was unknown leaving his grandmother, Peace, to shoulder the burden of his education alone. She could not. Her abilities as a farmer have further decreased with her age.



BLESSING T.

Blessing's (14) father deserted the family years ago. Her mum left the children with their grandma, Hope, while she searched for work in the big city. There in Kampala Blessing's mum got very sick and remains sick. Blessing's grandma Hope is in her 80's and cannot afford to care for the children.



ASHAVIN N.

Ashavin (7) completed Primary Two and wants to be a Pilot. His father was killed by a speeding car in 2018. His Mum, Mackline, is a farmer and takes care of the children but struggles since they have no property to farm and just looks for manual labor from place to place. He has been waiting for a sponsor since June 2022.



RONAH T.

Ronah (16) only just completed sixth grade because her mother died in childbirth and her father is an alcoholic. Because her father is also abusive, she lives with her Auntie who cannot afford to keep Ronah in school. It is Ronah's desire to become a Midwife someday.



BRIGHTON A.

Brighton (18) completed Senior One and wants to be a Doctor. His mother was never known because his father brought him as an infant to his grandma then disappeared. Brighton's grandma died in January 2022 so he now lives with an Aunt. Brighton has been waiting to be sponsored since June 2022.



WALTER A.

When Walter's (14) father died in 2010 his mother abandoned her boys after their father's burial. Neighbors heard the children crying, broke their door down and took them to their grandma Edisa who is old and cannot care for them. Walter completed Primary Six and hopes to be an Engineer.

If you would like to sponsor a child above or see our other needy children go to MOUNTAINCHILDRENSMINISTRY.COM and click on "Sponsor A Child"

WORDS FROM OUR SPONSOR

by Mark and Jenny DeBoer



The DeBoer Family (L→R)
Jenny, Makenna, Carson, Haley and Mark

From Michele: It is my pleasure to introduce The DeBoer family! Mark has served MCM - USA as a board member for eleven years giving his time, resources and much wisdom to our ministry. Jenny ensured each of their three children wrote letters to their sponsored girl three times a year for ten years! That is 90 letters! Brenda received not one but 3 letters every 4 months. She wrote each child back individually, God bless her, another 90 letters! Not surprisingly, even though their own children are in University and high school, Jen and Mark signed up to help another child when Brenda graduated. What a blessing they are!



Brenda in 2013



Brenda in 2023

From Jen: Our family has had the opportunity to be a part of MCM through supporting a beloved child. We journeyed with Brenda from 2013 to 2023 throughout

her primary school and secondary school years to graduation from vocational school. Brenda worked hard to graduate with her certificate in Catering and Hotel Management. We will continue to support her through prayer as she starts her career. Our children have written countless letters back and forth with Brenda. They have shared life experiences with each other and favorite Bible verses in these letters. They wrote to each other as COVID was impacting our world. We are grateful that our kids had a way to show God's love to Brenda, a Ugandan orphan from a peasant farming village who lost both her parents to AIDS, even though they most likely will never meet in person. We look forward to beginning again with Christian, another girl with a tough story.

From Mark: Having the privilege of serving on the Board of MCM I have been able to see the heart of the ministry caring for the village kids and their communities. Pivoting resources in a time of extreme need like COVID was a real God moment to see how He provides! I am excited to see new and different ways of growth in Ugandan independence as we work towards the boda taxi self-sustaining programs which will continue sharing God's love and sending kids through school.



STAY CONNECTED!

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