PLEASE SPONSOR A CHILD

YOUR CHOICE BRINGS HOPE

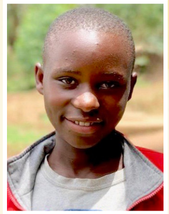
These six children have been waiting for a sponsor to choose them. Some children wait for over a year. Your tax-deductible monthly support of $42 (or $500 per year) per child allows a needy child to get life-changing help and support. Your choice, your relationship shares how much they matter!

JACK ARINDA

Jack (6) is the oldest of three boys. His father was murdered in June of 2020. Jack's mother, Vasta, was denied her late husband's land and possessions. Vasta is a teacher but lost her job during the pandemic. She is now digging and does not make enough income to support her children. Jack wants to be a "Driver" someday.

HONEST NATUMANYA

Honest (16) along with his 8 siblings, has been in the care of his mother, Ann, a single mom, for over ten years after their father, Charles disappeared. Charles returned recently and behaves erratically. Honest's mother is also under treatment for mental problems. Honest wants to be a Doctor someday.



BLESSED BYONANEBYE

Blessed (14) lost her father in 2017 who suffered with severe diabetes for a long time. Her mother, Maureen, digs weeds. Farming is how she earns income for food for her two children but it is not enough to pay the school tuition and fees. Blessed wants to be a Lawyer someday.

PRINCESS AHABWEMBABAZI

Princess (16) lost her father when she was seven. Soon afterwards Princess' mother left her with her grandmother and never returned due to family hostility. Princess' grandma is a peasant farmer but is growing too old to provide school costs. Princess (16) wants to be a Nurse someday.

FAITH ATUKUNDA

Faith (11) lives with her parents, both peasant farmers who do not own land themselves. Although they work hard they cannot provide enough for school fees for their three children. Faith wants to be a Lawyer someday.

SAMUEL TASHOBYA

Samuel (11) has parents who are teachers. Both lost their jobs with COVID when schools were required to lock down. As schools open they continue to look for work but do not have the school fees to return their two children to class. Samuel wants to be an Engineer someday.

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: DR HYTHEM AND BETH SHADID

Written by Beth Shadid

My husband and I have been connected to Mountain Children's Ministry through our close friend Michele. We were excited when Michele shared with us about their work in Uganda and wanted to support their efforts by sponsoring a child. Because of her close connection with Ivan and the children at MCM, Michele did a great job of making a beautiful match for our family! In January of 2014 we were introduced to Phabius, a sweet 11 yr old girl who lost both of her parents at the young age of 5. Her older sister was caring for her but could no longer meet her needs, so Phabius, malnourished and extremely shy, moved into the MCM house. She blossomed physically, mentally, and socially by living in this community.

Phabius Namanya, 16"

When first meeting Phabius seven years ago, my husband and I were busy parents to 4 boys, 3 of them teenagers. Phabius was just a few years younger than our youngest son. Now 7 years later, our oldest son is married and we can now say we have 2 amazing daughters (Phabius and Maryam) along with a precious grandson.

As a nurse myself, I've had the fun of encouraging Phabius in her her dream to become a nurse. We receive beautiful letters from Phabius, along with her report cards, and updates, which I've saved in a special notebook. Phabius continues to express thankfulness to our family. We feel more blessed by her sweet love and concern for our family, even during this extremely difficult time in her life - as I will continue to share these most recent events.

The Shadid Family - Beth in red

In December, we received the shocking news that Phabius was urgently rushed to the hospital with complaints of intense headaches. She was diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumor, requiring immediate surgery and now chemotherapy and radiation.

Michele and Ivan and the MCM family have beautifully cared for Phabius thru this health crisis. We have learned about the obstacles of health care in Uganda and are continually reminded of the privileges our family has in the US. During these last few months, one of our sons injured his knee, requiring surgery, ACL reconstruction. And through his surgery and recovery, Phabius was concerned and praying for our son, Jon. Amazing and humbling!

Please join us in praying for Phabius, and the 2 additional boys facing medical challenges. We have seen how Michele and Ivan have gone to great depths to care for Phabius and all her specific needs during her treatment. They truly treat these children as if they were their own.

Thank you for this great opportunity to be a part of Phabius's life!

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STAY CONNECTED!

PLEASE NOTICE MICHELE'S ADDRESS CHANGE:

1609 Jerome Street
Holland, Michigan 49423
(630) 606-3165
michelepageau@gmail.com

Subscribe to our blog and newsletter at our website: **mountainchildrensministry.com**

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mountainchildrensministry.com

A view of double rainbows from our home at sunrise

mountain children's ministry

Mid Year Summary
June 2021

DEAR FRIENDS,

I took this photo in 2013 on an early morning walk to the clothesline to hang up our children's freshly washed laundry. They left for school running and laughing down the hill and I was tired. My alarm jolted me up while it was dark and I had to use my flashlight to then wake the kids up. Getting ready in the dark is chaotic and teens can be frustrating, so I was ready to climb back in my warm bed and return to sleep when I discovered all the wet clothes had been left by the door. I carried them out into the cold mountain air feeling sorry for myself. When I rounded the side of the house these double rainbows (photo above) greeted me. God in nature - stops me in my tracks every time. No matter my circumstances, I must stop and marvel and thank God, again!

This is how I am feeling about MCM at this point in history. Rudely blasted out of my comfort zone and finding my way in a dark, chaotic time. I'm tired, frustrated and then delightfully surprised by God - in the end marveling and grateful. As Ivan will share in his update on the following pages MCM has entered a season of trusting God through dark times. In November 2020 our 16 year old Phabi had emergency brain cancer surgery; in January 2021 our 14 year old Bridget was scheduled for surgery to correct severe bilateral arm pain; in February our 17 year old Imon was diagnosed with an eye disease that will render him blind in a few years and in March our 15 year old Mark had an Echocardiogram which revealed such severe heart damage he needs open heart surgery in May. Villagers are still in need of COVID food support and it has now been 16 months since I have returned to Uganda and my babies.

And yet...not one but two rainbows! Miraculously, donors have been giving generous gifts completely unsolicited and unexpectedly. "God has really blessed us and so we want to bless you!" "God laid you on our hearts." "Our mom died and we would like you to receive donations in her honor." "Kiddos!" "We feel although things are tight, God is encouraging us to give." And more, SERIOUSLY!

God displayed His faithfulness in meeting our financial needs as they arose. He covered thousands of dollars of surgery, chemo, radiation, eye telescopes, Dr fees and truckloads of food through the love of His people! Then, when most of our children returned to school we had enough for tuition, fees, books, uniforms and mattresses. Three children's homes collapsed and God provided funds to rebuild them. Over and over the scary news was met in double rainbows.

We are not out of the woods by a long shot. We are not assured of our childrens' recoveries; we are very aware of the frightening possibilities. Ivan and I still wonder where future resources will come from. However, God is present in it all. He demonstrates in loving tangible ways He will never leave us nor forsake us. He has painted double rainbows in the sky to remind us He keeps His promises...all we have to do is look up!

May your dark, chaotic, frightening seasons also be blessed by the goodness and love and peace of God in unexpected miraculous ways. Praying alongside all of you, together building each other up. We remain so very grateful for you ALL!

Many many rainbows and a Happy Summer!
~ Mummy Michele :)

UPDATES FROM IVAN IN UGANDA: JUNE 2021

Greetings in the name of our Saviour Jesus! I thank God for granting you good health in the midst of a pandemic. My prayer is He keep you healthy all through this challenging time. Once again I wish to write about God's endless faithfulness!

It is almost 9 years now since we felt God calling us to this small village in southwest Uganda. In the past, whenever I would come to visit my heart broke seeing the condition of the villagers and feeling my own inability to help. There was a cycle of poverty caused by both lack of education and alcohol addiction. With little school, people did not have jobs, could not provide for family and escaped that pain with homemade brew. I thought if someone could step in and break the cycle by capturing the young children's hearts for God, educating each and bringing hope, one at a time, some day the whole village could be transformed.

Photo from 2012/13

This was our goal when we started MCM; our vehicle - acts of grace. God has been faithful to our prayer! We started with 5 children and now we are ministering to more than 200 young men and women who, in turn, minister to their families and friends creating a multiplier effect. I used to wonder where we would find sponsors to help the many desperate children but I was limiting God. Again He surprised me with His faithfulness. MCM graduates are gainfully employed and we can count 18 plus people who are not returning to the broken lifestyle of their family. What we thought was impossible because we are human, God has made possible.

Photo from 2020/21

Just as we were seeing this development, in came the pandemic. COVID was very challenging in terms of loss of food and income. Again God was faithful not only providing resources for food for our children and needy villagers but bringing rain in the dry season so farmers could plant early during COVID lockdown.

Phabi on her 16th birthday

Sadly we are now facing our most difficult season of all. God asks us to trust Him with the worst news. In November one of our own dear children, Phabius, got brain cancer. It was discouraging, heartbreaking and scaring. Scaring because when we went to the hospital, they told us we would need in excess of sh.30,000,000 ($8,400). This kind of money we could only trust God to provide and He did provide! The child is now receiving radiotherapy, then will move to chemotherapy and we pray she will fully recover.

Bridget, 14 years

When we thought we had turned the corner with Phabi, another of our children, Bridget came complaining of her arm joints paining both arms. Bridget had been scheduled for surgery last year but was cancelled due to COVID lockdown. She returned to the doctors and another surgery has been rescheduled for August, a long time to suffer with her pain.

Imon, 17 years

Then in March, Imon, one of our promising teens, got Retinitis Pigmentosa. This rare genetic disease causing breakdown and loss of the cells of the retina has no cure. He can expect to be blind by his 20's and was told to learn Braille now. He was fit with a pair of glasses and a telescopic device to read with. We pray for a miracle for Imon!

Mark, 15 years

Finally, more sad, more scarring news in March - Mark, a teen diagnosed with Rheumatic Heart Disease as a little child, also became very ill (again) and the doctors said he needs surgery urgently to repair his valves. The boy cannot walk ten feet without becoming completely winded and needing rest. This surgery required sh.23,000,000 ($6,400)! But we serve a good God and He provided for it too. Even before we knew we would need it, God knew! The heart theater is so full so we are waiting for a date for surgery in May.

Without our dear sponsors, these children would have gone. This is why I am amazed at God's faithfulness again. Though we may get troubles such as these, we are convinced that in 20 years time, this village will not be the same as it was because of what God has done through you and through our children. I could go on but the truth is that God has come out for us strong when the future looked bad. He has continued to use you in significant and monumental ways! Thank you!

We can never repay you except in keeping you in our daily prayers. Thank you for also keeping us in your prayers, especially our children! May He continue to bless you and prosper you and above all keep you safe and healthy.

Ivan with Phabi February 2021

In His Service ~
Mpeirwe Ivan Twino
MCM - UG Executive Director

MCM WISH LIST

MCM Medical Emergency Fund

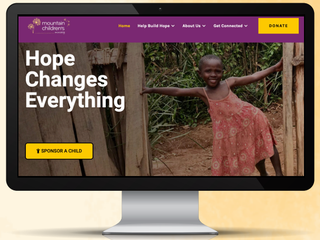
This past seven months, beginning in November of 2020, MCM has received devastating diagnoses for four seriously ill children. Three of these children have required surgical intervention, one is still undergoing chemo and radiation for brain cancer. In addition to the heartache and fear these conditions evoke, are the medical costs required to attempt life saving measures. Please consider a gift to help MCM care for our critically sick children.

God's Joy Library Resources

Our new library has been blessed to receive two used computers and children's spiritual books as the result of generous gifts. We are so grateful! Still, we have room for more! The empty spaces on our bookshelves far outweighs the books we have. Please consider blessing our little children, our teens and our adults with more opportunities to read and learn through resources for books.

A NEW MCM WEBSITE

Mountain Children's Ministry is excited to announce the launch of our brand new and shiny website!



It has been our goal to improve the way we communicate the wonderful stories of the Ugandan families and children we serve. The new site www.mountainchildrensministry.com has been a true labor of love reaching across several thousand miles to introduce our world and purpose to others. This site is YOURS, as without you, our supporters, there would be no stories to share.

Please spend some time on the site. Connect with the people who make this ministry possible. Read the transformational stories of the children, the village and the teams, all impacted by your generosity. We've poured our hearts into the site so that these children's stories can be shared, so that our circle of influence can expand and so that everyone involved in this ministry can feel joy and pride in their contributions, no matter the size.

As anyone who has ever created a website knows, this is no small undertaking. Many (many) hours of writing, setup, design, programming and decisions about what to include all go into creating an effective and beautiful website. Let me express my deepest gratitude to the small but MIGHTY team of experienced individuals who made it all happen.

Thank you, Ruth Clements-Gottlieb for the magnitude of editorial contributions and hours of programming! Thank you, **Kelly Cunningham** for the skilled programming and development! Thank you, **Rebecca Huber** for sharing your gorgeous graphic design expertise! Thank you, **Mark Pageau** for bringing your wise marketing expertise! Thank you, **Lauri Despard** for your meticulous reviews and experienced advice!

We will continue to expand/improve it as makes sense (websites are nothing if not DYNAMIC). But for now, please come visit us and let us know what you think!

www.mountainchildrensministry.com

MEET RUTH GOTTLIEB...

Just over a year ago I decided to retire from my career in information technology, and wondered, "what opportunities will God place before me for the use of my newly-freed time?" Then Covid-19 struck and I started making masks... like crazy. It became an outlet for my creativity and desire to care for those I love even when I couldn't be with them. When friends of friends wanted to purchase some, I agreed with the understanding that the proceeds would be given to MCM - after all, I didn't retire to earn money but because I didn't have to anymore. My deep love of and admiration for Michele, and my love for our four sponsored children, made MCM the obvious place for my giving.

As my mask-mania burned itself out toward the end of the year I started talking to Michele about how I might do some hands-on work for MCM. We thought maybe I could help with writing material for blog posts and social media, since Michele was just too busy to add that to her plate. Then early this spring Michele told me that MCM had to completely redo their website for technical reasons. This was a call to me, loud and clear, as it would require both some technical know-how and the ability to write - skills honed during my career. I was honored to take on this role. I loved working with the team of our developer Kelly, our graphic designer Rebecca, marketing advisor Mark, and of course, Michele setting the vision (as well as doing a ton of work).

We all put in a lot of long hours, each person's contributions making the new site better. We hope you will check out our new site and share your feedback. I found that as I learned more and more about the program through editing the content, it increased my passion and empathy for our beloved MCM children. Now that we have launched the new site, I'm looking forward to continuing to write and enrich the content, and to giving my heart more and more to MCM. I thank God that this is the opportunity He placed before me.

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!