

Empower / Educate / Elevate

In This Issue

GUAOA Orphanage News

University Graduate

Christmas Cheer

Educational Sponsorship Opportunities

ICA News

Meet Our Newest!

French Books for D.R. Congo

Accolades: Food For Orphans

2023 Impact Video

Paint & Sip + Chocolate Event

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Congratulations Kevin!

Kevin Bisimwa graduated in November 2023 from university with an engineering degree!

A big thank you to his sponsor for her unwavering support and mentorship, a pivotal role in his success! She has been supporting Kevin since 2017, covering not only his high school education, but also putting him through university!

Kevin is excited to embark on the next chapter of his life. He has committed to using a portion of his income, once he secures employment, to help underserved children in the D.R. of Congo.



Kevin with friends | Goma, DRC 2023

GUAOA NEWS

Christmas Cheer!

AIDER LES ORPHELINS
ABANSONNEES
ABANSONNEE

Over 100 GUAOA
orphans and street
children were served a
warm meal on
Christmas day!

School Supplies Shipment

Your backpack, school supplies and candy donations made it to Goma, DRC. The children are elated. **Thank you!**







Distribution of school supplies by Pastor Isaac Balume Zibira



Every. Donation. Counts. Email us to learn more: info@childadvancement.org

GUAOA NEWS

University Graduate: Kevin Bisimwa



"I thank my sponsor from the bottom of my heart. Her generosity has made a significant impact in my life and made it possible for me to successfully complete my education. I'm extremely grateful to have her in my life." ~ Kevin

KEVIN'S STORY

Following the loss of his parents, at the height of the Congo war, Kevin was taken in by GUAOA Orphanage. In 2016, he was paired with an educational sponsor who provided him with mentorship and financial support to cover his high school tuition expenses. Kevin struggled throughout high school and failed 12th grade, which he had to redo, but he persevered thanks to his sponsor's encouragement, guidance, and love. In the end, he overcame his academic challenges, graduated high school and subsequently university.

It was not an easy path. There were many setbacks, but Kevin's perseverance and his sponsor's commitment to support him enabled his success.



Kevin in 2016

Every. Donation. Counts. Email us to learn more: info@childadvancement.org

GUAOA NEWS

UNIVERSITY Sponsorship Opportunities!



With the support of a sponsor, Kevin achieved academic success. Similarly, these two young adults have overcome the hardships of their early childhoods, completed their K-12 education, and are beyond ready to continue the challenge through to University.

A university sponsorship is \$750 per year. Your support will provide them with the opportunity to pursue their dreams and break the cycle of poverty. Sign up today to sponsor Asha and/or Aksanti!





Every. Donation. Counts. Visit Our Website to Make a Gift: www.childadvancement.org

ICA UPDATES

Meet Our Newest, Collin!

Join us in welcoming Collin Delgado, MPH!

At ICA, Collin will support our work to help meet the educational and health-related needs of refugee and immigrant youth in Buffalo.

Collin is a recent graduate of the University at Buffalo with a bachelor's degree in public health. He has worked on research for vaccine advocacy in low-income populations, interned at the West Seneca Babcock Food Pantry, and helped an underprivileged community with food distribution and nutritional development.



In May 2023, Collin received his Master of Public Health in Community Health and Health Behavior and accepted a position through the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH). He was placed with ICA, and looks forward to helping communities in need.

French Book Drive for DRC

With the incredible support of Martha Horohoe, American Association of Teachers of French - WNY Chapter President, we collected more than 100 books for GUAOA orphanage in the DRC. An unequivocal THANKS to Martha, who brought ICA together with the following schools, and their amazing teachers, who we would also like to offer a HUGE Thank You:



Magnifique!

West Seneca Senior High School | Emily Hall
Starpoint Middle and High School | Linda Hammerl
Lockport Middle School | Joyce Merkle

Hamburg Middle School | Sherri Green & JoAnn Duffy Thomasson

Depew High School | Mary Ellen Gianturco

ICA UPDATES

French Book Drive for DRC, cont.

In addition to the boost of books, 38 talented students from Hamburg Middle School wrote touching personal stories for children at GUAOA Orphanage to enjoy.

Thanks to all of these amazing teachers and students for building bridges of knowledge and fostering a brighter future. Merci beaucoup!

We're grateful for your support too! Additional books have arrived through our Amazon Wish List and we welcome more. Together, we're making a positive impact one book at a time!





GUAOA orphanage children participating in the story exchange, writing and drawing about themselves.

Amazon Wish List Click here to shop.

Accolades: Food For Orphans



Nourishing minds and bodies.

We're beyond grateful for the unwavering support we've received from Food for Orphans! Thanks to their ongoing commitment, we can continue to provide nourishing meals for the children at our orphanage. Their kindness truly fills our hearts.





Happy New Year!



And what a year we had in 2023! Check out our Year-In-Review video:

2023 Impact Video

A New Year Means New Events!

Keep your eyes on our Facebook and LinkedIn pages - and keep reading our newsletters to learn more!

What's next? Come celebrate **Black History Month** with us!

What: Paint and Sip + Chocolate Event

February 24, 2024 | 5:00-7:30pm When:

Where: Princessa's Studio & Art Gallery

https://princessasartgallery.com/

Cost: \$45 per person | \$80 per Pair

Get Seating is **LIMITED**

Click <u>here</u> to purchase your ticket or scan the QR code. Your Tickets

Todav!

Session Led By:



Figueroa-Williams Artist and Owner of Princessa's Studio & Art Gallery



Osa Amadasu Sommelier and Owner of T.A.B.S. by O





