



Empower  Educate  Elevate

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BPS #84 Clothing Drive



HEALTH CARE CENTER FOR CHILDREN
PS #84

Our Clothing Drive for Buffalo Public School #84 at Erie County Medical Center has come to an end. With your help, we collected and donated over 450 articles of clothing!

The school staff and students thank everyone who who supported the drive!

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Evelyn Kessler dropping off donations at BPS #84.

Conflict in DR Congo Forces Thousands of Schools to Close

Thomas Tumusifu Buregeya fled the town of Kibumba with his family in October 2022 amid a renewed offensive by the March 23 Movement (M23) rebel group – the third time in 15 years he has been forced to escape his home – and has not been able to study for a whole year. He is now 22 and still waiting to complete school.

He is one of 750,000 young Congolese whose schooling is currently disrupted by insecurity caused by multiple armed groups in the eastern provinces of North Kivu and Ituri, the United Nations children's agency (UNICEF) estimated in late March.

Since January 2022, some 2,100 schools in eastern DRC have had to close because of armed conflict, according to UNICEF.

The damage could be lasting. Without access to education, children and young people can miss the chance to develop the skills needed to escape poverty and overcome the desperate economic challenges that help increase conflict in places such as mineral-rich eastern DRC, according to a 2011 UN report on global education and armed conflict.

Buregeya fears time is running out for him. *"My life's dream was to go to university after high school, to look for a job, become a teacher and earn a living,"* he said.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/4/12/conflict-in-eastern-dr-congo-forces-thousands-of-schools-to-close>



Two men inspect a school building used by M23 fighters as a military base in Kishishe, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, on April 5, 2023 [Alexis Huguet/AFP]

D.R. Congo Conflict Update

According to Amnesty International, the rebel group M23 has withdrawn from some (not all) areas of northern Kivu including the towns Kishishe, Bambo and Bugina. This has allowed key roads to re-open that lead to Goma. Residents in the city of Goma and the children at GUAOA Orphanage remain safe but fearful of future M23 attacks.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres recently called for bolstered efforts to end violence in the Kivu region noting: "The Democratic Republic of the Congo is enormously rich in natural resources. We must ensure that this heritage becomes a source of prosperity & development for the Congolese people who it belongs to – not the cause of conflict, rivalries & unsustainable exploitation." Source: [UN](#)

Monthly Support From FFO

Since 2021, the nonprofit organization Food For Orphans has made monthly donations to help the fight against child hunger for the youth at GUAOA Orphanage. Their support on average feeds 50 children each month for approximately eight days.

GUAOA Orphanage and ICA are extremely grateful to FFO for their ongoing support and love for our children in D.R. Congo!



2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR FINAL EXAMS



Empower ♦ Educate ♦ Elevate

The children at GUAOA Orphanage have overcome a very challenging year. The ongoing conflict in the North Kivu region resulted in frequent school closures, and price gauging impacting the orphanage's ability to purchase sufficient food for the children.

These hardships created roadblocks for GUAOA and our team to advance our work, yet we all persevered and so did the amazing children who have shown incredible resilience.

Sponsored children have powered through these difficulties and now prepare for their year-end exams, taking place from June 1st - June 16th. Year end results will be announced after July 3rd. **We anticipate the release of year-end report cards by mid-July.**



Mentors Make A Difference

Did you know? The right mentor can positively impact a child's life and career. One of our missions with GUAOA Orphanage in Goma, D.R. Congo is to create an environment where the children thrive through mentorship. As older children progress, they mentor the younger children. One such dedicated mentor is Jully Molea (red dress).

Jully was taken in by GUAOA Orphanage at the age of 5 after the death of her parents. She remained at the orphanage until the age of 17 when she was taken in by a foster family. Her foster parents enrolled her in a sewing program, which she successfully completed.

*"A mentor is someone who allows you
to see the hope within yourself"*
Oprah Winfrey

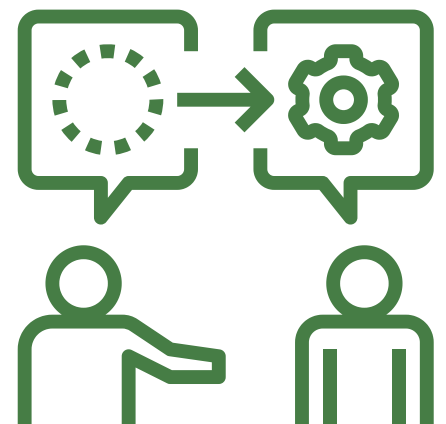


Jully and children of GUAOA orphanage.

Since then, Jully has mentored the younger GUAOA orphans, she gives them sewing lessons, leads children's church, and assists with cooking their meals.

Shout out to Jully for being such a positive role model!

Learn about other orphans making a difference on our website under "Success Stories"! Click [here](#).



BPS #84 Clothing Drive



HEALTH CARE CENTER FOR CHILDREN PS #84



Students of BPS #84.



We will continue our clothing drive for BPS #84 throughout the year. You can continue to support the drive through our Amazon Wishlist:

Click [here](#) to continue the love.

We'd also like to give a big thanks to the businesses that made this fundraiser possible: Alford's Angels, Craft Coffee House, Elements Dance Center, and Sasmita Batik Indonesia! They offered their locations as drop-off sites and helped socialize the drive. **Thank you!**

Be sure to keep an eye out for future initiatives to support Buffalo Public School students!

Join an ICA Committee!



COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers! Let's lend a hand for others.

[EMAIL US TODAY](#) info@childadvancement.org

We would love for you to join our efforts in empowering underprivileged children!

We are seeking non-board committee members for the following:

- Finance
- Social Innovation & Education
- Virtual Administrative Support
- Development & Event Planning

Click [here](#) for more information.

Volunteer Appreciation Week

In April, we celebrated our amazing team during volunteer appreciation week. Meet some of our incredible team members!



Mariana Silva, ICA Volunteer

Meet one of our longtime volunteers at ICA. Mariana works with us as a Marketing Coordinator and helps bring awareness to our mission. Thank you for everything you do!

“I found ICA my first semester of college four years ago and have been working with them ever since!

Both volunteering and being a sponsor have been a formative part of figuring who I want to be and where I want to go. It is a great way to give back to the community while building upon myself professionally and socially.”

- Mariana



James Jackson, ICA Volunteer

Spotlight on James, our amazing HR Director! James has been a huge part of ICA, devoting his time and skills to changing the world one step at a time. Thank you for everything you do!

“International Child Advancement has not just been impactful in the lives of the families that we support but has been impactful in my life by allowing me to grow my nonprofit skill set and become something bigger than myself! They say that “Everyone can be great, because everyone has the opportunity to serve”. I am glad that I am able to serve with a great group of individuals that have passion to allow ICA to have a bigger impact on underprivileged children.” - James

Volunteer Appreciation Week

Join us in celebrating some of our volunteers during Volunteer Appreciation Week!



Piyali Campbell, ICA Volunteer

Meet our Development Committee Lead Piyali. We're honored that she is using her expertise to help advance our work!

"I have been volunteering for ICA for 2 years. There are so many organizations that are doing great work, but I was drawn to ICA because of the heartbreaking stories of the children in the GUAOA orphanage in Democratic Republic of Congo. They have suffered unimaginable pain and heartbreak that no child should face... these children worry about rebels, where their next meal is coming from, their own safety and those that are taking care of them... These innocent children need someone to fight for them and help their voices be heard... Please help spread the word!" - Piyali



Vilona Trachtenberg (left), with Evelyn Kessler (right), ICA Founder

Vilona (left), is an honorary volunteer that helps ICA with special events. Recently, Vilona helped to organize the clothing drive for Buffalo Public School #84.

"I am grateful to have been part of the BPS #84 clothing drive with ICA. The cause itself was incredible, and I'm glad we were able to bring the community together to bring beautiful clothing donations to these wonderful students. ICA in general is amazing to be part of. Under Evelyn's leadership, and with the passion of the rest of the team, I've seen this nonprofit bring so much joy and hope to kids in Buffalo, and across the world." - Vilona

2023 Events

March

Clothing Drive Benefiting Buffalo Public School #84

During the months of March and April, we collected sweatshirts, sweatpants, t-shirts and underwear for students at Buffalo Public School #84 at Erie County Medical Center.

May

Facebook Fundraiser Challenge

Participants will compete to win a \$100 Amazon gift card by raising \$100 each through Facebook Fundraiser.

June
10th

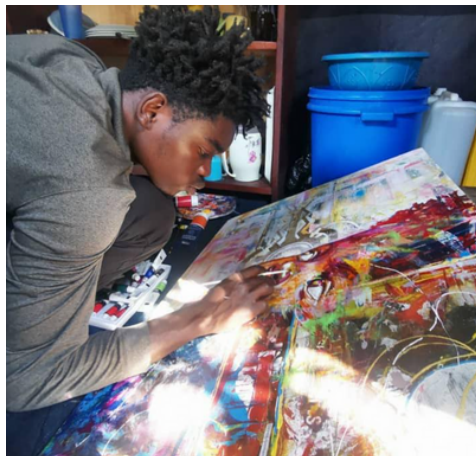
Kindness Festival | 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Eastern Hills Mall!

Come visit our table at the festival! This event has been organized by Sweet Buffalo to celebrate nonprofits in Western New York!

The organizers are holding a 50/50 raffle with half of the proceeds being distributed to all nonprofits in attendance. Purchase your 50/50 raffle ticket here: <http://www.716kindnessfestival.com/>

Sep

Black Tie Art Gala



Art Student, GUAOA Orphanage

We're excited to bring you our first art gala event featuring artwork from GUAOA Orphanage and Buffalo, NY students! Attendees will enjoy performances, a mini fashion show, silent auction, food, drinks and much more.

If you would like to sponsor this event, please see information on the next page or email Evelyn@childadvancement.org.

Art Gala Sponsorship

We invite you to be part of our Art Gala which is being held on Saturday, September 23, 2023, at Acqua Restaurant, 2192 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY. Our goal of raising \$15,000 is to help fund K-12 tuition/education and school supplies for 20 orphans, purchase 10 sewing machines and 10 laptops for our vocational training programs.

If you would like to sponsor this event, please see below opportunities and email Evelyn@childadvancement.org to get started.

2023

ICA
Gala



Sponsorship Opportunities

For more information, contact
Evelyn Kessler
Evelyn@childadvancement.org



Innovator \$5000

- Support the advancement of underprivileged children ages 5-18
- VIP table for 10 guests at the gala with gift bags
- Full Page color ad in program book
- On stage recognition
- Name & Logo on display at the event and all marketing collateral
- Company featured on ICA's social media platforms
- 100 tickets for the raffle

Dreamer \$2000

- Support the advancement of underprivileged children ages 5-18
- Table for 10 guests at the gala
- Half Page color ad in program book
- On stage recognition
- Name & Logo on display at the event and all marketing collateral
- Company featured on ICA's website
- 50 tickets for the raffle

Visionary \$1000

- Support the advancement of underprivileged children ages 5-18
- Five (5) tickets to the gala
- Quarter Page color ad in program book
- On stage recognition
- Name & Logo displayed day of the event
- Twenty tickets for the raffle

Achiever \$500

- Support the advancement of underprivileged children ages 5-18
- Two (2) tickets to the gala
- Name in program book
- Ten tickets for the raffle

Trail Blazer \$300

- Support the advancement of underprivileged children ages 5-18
- One (1) ticket to the gala
- Name in program book