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Celebrating a University Graduate!

We are beyond excited to congratulate Nsimire, who successfully defended her thesis to become a graduate of the Higher Institute of Rural Development of Great Lakes (ISDR-GL) university in Goma, DRC!! Nsimire majored in Management of Rural Development.

Read more about Nsimire on page 3.



Left to right: Mr. Batumike, Nsimire & Mrs. Pauline Batumike, GUAOA Orphanage President

Shipped and Received!

We love nothing more than sharing with you the smiling faces of the children directly impacted by your efforts to make a difference in their lives. A shipment was received by the children of the GUAOA Orphanage with items from the 2022 Back to School Supply Drive, including the backpacks they happily wield in the pictures below. Thank you for your support! Every bit helps.

And remember, you don't have to wait for a fundraiser to make a donation. Scan the QR code below to continue your support.



Farmland Purchased



Thanks to everyone that contributed to this very important project. Together, we are fighting child hunger!

We Did It, Together! In 2022, we purchased a plot of land to expand our agriculture vocational training program. We will use a multi-prong strategy to create value from this land:

- Enrolled children will learn to grow crop and livestock farming
- Harvested fruits and vegetables will be used for the children's consumption, helping to address their nutritional needs
- Surplus crop will be sold to create revenue for the children's needs and to re-invest into the agriculture training program
- Knowledge gained can help them secure future employment opportunities or entrepreneurship.

Celebrating a University Graduate! Continued



Nsimire, 4th Grade, 2010

"To Ms. Kelly Dockery, Ms. Carol Avery, Ms. Natalie Christie and all the women that helped me near and far so I can become who I am today, thank you so much. May God bless the work of your hands." Nsimire

SCAN ME



Nsimire was taken in by GUAOA Orphanage in 2009 after the death of her parents. In 2010, she was paired with Kelly Dockery, M&T Bank Branch Manager and former ICA Treasurer, for educational sponsorship. Kelly sponsored Nsimire from 4th to 12th grade and supported her attendance at a 2-year English and Computer Literacy program.

Nsimire subsequently enrolled at ISDR-GL university, praying she would get help with her tuition, which she did. During the course of her studies, Goma and Buffalo-based sponsors chipped in for her university tuition, including Natalie and Carol Avery.



Nsimire intends to start her own business to make a living, effect change in her community, and to give back by supporting children at GUAOA Orphanage in Goma.

We're beyond grateful to all the donors that supported Nsimire throughout her journey.

If you would like to help fund Nsimire's start up, please scan the QR code to donate.

M23 Rebels Advance Toward Goma



GRAPHIC BY MATT HANEY, GPJ

IMMEDIATE NEED FOR
DRC ORPHANS' SAFETY & FOOD

The violence and conflict in eastern Kivu region where the city of Goma is located continues to escalate. The M23 rebels have seized strategic towns and villages, making their way to Goma.

"While Goma has not yet been occupied, the direct road between Goma and Rutshuru territory, the agricultural heart of North Kivu, and the Bunagana border, a transit point for cross-border trade between DRC and Uganda, have been cut off." Global Press Journal

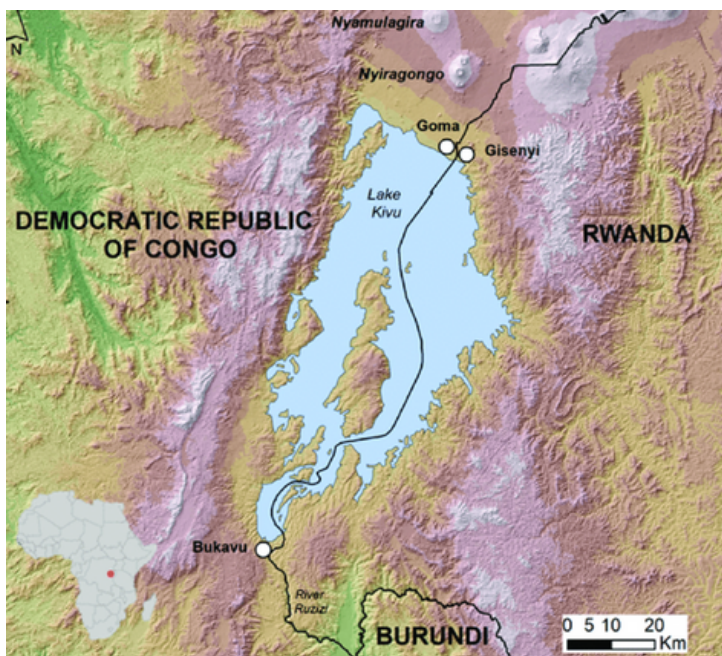
This main road supplies Goma and other cities (i.e. Bukavu, Injwa) with food, water, medical supplies and other essentials that residents are no longer able to easily access. This has further exacerbated insufficient supplies of food with inflated prices.

We have developed an Emergency Action Plan in the event M23 seizes Goma as they did back in November 2012:

If Goma is seized, we will temporarily move the children to the city of Bukavu (see bottom left map), approximately 6 hours away by boat. To do so, we are seeking assistance to cover the following costs: transportation, housing, food and necessities for all 120 children (this number includes children in *foster homes).

To learn more, scan the QR code.

**Not all foster parents are willing to flee with their foster kids due to cost.*



555 Campaign Results



Mothers wait in line for food and livelihood distributions.



Girl at Kanyaruchinya camp receiving a warm meal

To everyone that supported our 555 Campaign, THANK YOU!

Together, we raised \$1,285 and brought hope to displaced families situated at Kanyaruchinya camp, Democratic Republic of Congo. With these funds we accomplished the following.

Distributed meals to:

- 100 children
- 120 adults

Mothers were provided with:

- Sacks of rice
- Blankets
- Clothing
- Funds to purchase basic necessities.

The recipients were extremely grateful for the nourishment and provisions. Click [here](#) to watch a thank you message.

WOMEN PROTEST, CALLING ON M23 REBELS TO LEAVE THEIR CITY

Hundreds of displaced women in Goma called for the departure of the rebel group M23 on Friday and an end to the violence in Eastern Congo. The women said they're suffering from hunger and their children have been unable to attend school. To watch, click [here](#).



BPS #84 Clothing Drive



HEALTH CARE CENTER FOR CHILDREN PS #84

Buffalo Public School (BPS) #84 at Erie County Medical Center (ECMC) is seeking warm new or like-new clothing for their K-12 students.

Children that attend BPS school #84 have severe intellectual and medical disabilities, with a large population being refugees and economically disadvantaged. The children are in need of clothing that are easy to put on and remove.

Needed items (10 per size):

- Beanies
- Shirts (sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL)
- Sweatpants (sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL)

We are working with the school to create an Amazon Wish list for anyone that would like to donate from the comfort of their home, and we are identifying donation drop-off locations in the NorthTowns, SouthTowns, and downtown Buffalo area.

Please stay tuned! We will share more information in the coming week.

Are you a business in the Buffalo area and would like to be a drop-off site? Please email us at info@childadvancement.org.

Seeking Volunteers!



We would love for you to join our efforts in empowering underprivileged children. Join one of our committees today!

- Finance Committee
- Social Innovation Committee
- Development + Fundraising Committee
- Marketing & Communications Committee

Click [here](#) for more information.

2023 Events

Feb+

GoFundMe - Immediate Need for DRC Orphans (p.4)

March

Buffalo Public School #84 Clothing Drive (p.6)

**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!

July

Facebook Fundraiser Challenge

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

Oct

Black Tie Art Gala



Art Student, GUAOA Orphanage

We're excited to bring you our first art gala event featuring art from GUAOA Orphanage and Buffalo, NY students!

Attendees will enjoy live art, a mini fashion show, vendors, live auction, buffet, drinks and much more.

If you would like to sponsor this event, please email info@childadvancement.org