



Empower ♦ Educate ♦ Elevate



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Happy Holidays!

Thank you for being part of our success!

I am a firm believer in the bible verse that says: "weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning" - Psalm 30:15.

We have had our share of trials this year; weeks of school missed by the GUAOA Orphanage children due to COVID restrictions and the Nyiragongo volcano eruption in Goma, impacts to some of our own ICA team member's livelihood due to the pandemic and so much more. Yet, in spite of these trials, we remained steadfast and pressed forward no matter the challenges we faced.

This courage and perseverance stems from a deep-rooted faith in you - our community, our incredible supporters who were with us every step of the way in 2021 making sure we could provide underprivileged children with the necessities of life to survive and thrive.

On behalf of GUAOA Orphans & volunteers and ICA's Board Members & volunteer staff, we wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Warm Regards,

Evelyn Kessler

Founder & Executive Director

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Earlier this year, we set a goal to raise \$10,000 during our Empowered Fashion Show Fundraiser. The purpose of these funds was to purchase a building where GUAOA Orphanage's vocational training programs can be moved and expanded.

We were beyond ecstatic to have met our goal! **This multi-purpose building will not only be used for the sewing, computer training and agricultural programs but it will also be used as housing for 30 underprivileged children!**

We are overjoyed that GUAOA has their own space to further develop and enhance these very important programs. GUAOA's next step is to complete remodeling of the building to improve the working and living spaces.

Stay tuned as GUAOA works on the space as they prepare for their move in the first quarter of 2022!

To all the Empowered Fashion Show attendees, donors and sponsors, we greatly appreciate you and the contributions you made!



"But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently." Romans 8:25

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS - CONTINUED

WE'RE 5 YEARS OLD!



We had a great time this summer at our family picnic celebrating ICA's 5 year anniversary! Service awards and a President's Volunteer award were handed out and all enjoyed seeing each other in person after endless months of virtual work, meetings and events.

We thank our amazing volunteers for their commitment and dedicated service and a special thanks to volunteer Sheryl Malecki for hosting the event!

Left to Right: Aimiamia Amadasu-McCray, Rosanne Tabone, Evelyn Kessler, Vanessa Ho, Skyler Healy, Raymond Kemp Sr., James Jackson, Sheryl Malecki.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE BUFFALO, NY

We secured and filled over 200 backpacks for students at International Preparatory School at Grover Cleveland and Christ is the Answer International Church! This year, not only did we provide school supplies, but we also partnered with M&T Bank's Multicultural Banking Team to deliver a financial empowerment session to provide the children with basic banking and budgeting knowledge.

We greatly appreciate our partners Wexler Marketing Co., Inc., International Preparatory School at Grover Cleveland, Christ is the Answer International Fellowship Church, Salon de Coquette and all M&T Bank volunteers and International Child Advancement volunteers!



NYIRAGONGO VOLCANO ERUPTION RELIEF EFFORTS



Donated funds were sent weekly from May 29, 2021, through early July to the orphanage for nutritional needs. Given that so many Goma residents were without food and water at the height of the crisis, GUAOA orphanage shared their meals with street children in the neighborhood.

Additionally; thanks to your donations, items that were stolen from the orphanage during the height of the crisis (mattresses, blankets, sheets, plates, cups, spoons and bowls) were replaced and the donations covered the cost for security to ensure the children were safe.

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

57 of 100 GUAOA children were paired with an educational sponsor for the 2020-2021 school year. Of the 57 schooled children, 50 moved up to the next grade in spite of a very challenging school year due to the pandemic and volcano eruption!

We are also grateful that 62 of 100 GUAOA children are enrolled for the 2021-2022 school year! Interested in sponsoring? Visit: www.childadvancement.org/

CHILDREN PAIRED THIS SCHOOL YEAR



Josaphat, 9, 1st Grade



Vivianne, 10, 5th Grade



Muhibiri, 16, 6th Grade



Ismael, 3, Kindergarten



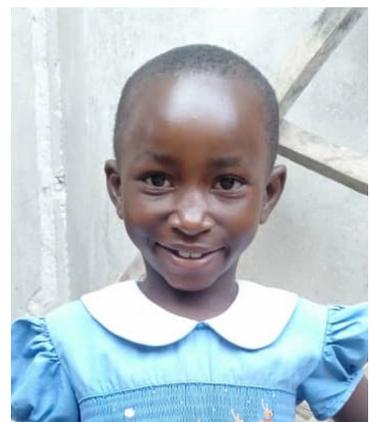
Moise, 7, 3rd Grade



Twins Nina and Neiya, 9



Adolphe, 16, 5th Grade



Esperance, 5, 1st Grade

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FOOD FOR ORPHANS

Thanks to Food For Orphans, GUAOA children are growing healthy, strong and are able to focus on their studies as a result of receiving consistent nutritious meals!

At the end of 2020 (before FFO began their support), Twins Bernard and Benoît each weighed 37lbs but now weigh 86lbs. Nyashenge weighed 46lbs and now weighs 77lbs and Bénédicte went from 42lbs to 95lbs and so many more testimonials like these can be shared.



Left to Right: Twins Bernard & Benoît; Nyashenge and Bénédicte.

Thank you for your continued generosity FFO!

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

ICA kicked off Diversity, Equity and Inclusion conversations within the community on July 10, 2021.

A series focused on Cultural Identity Conflict Through Storytelling took place from July - November with the last three sessions being held on the radio show "Conversations with Jim Anderson".

We look forward to bringing this and other important DEI topics to our local community, universities and schools.

If you would like to book us to speak at your university or school, please email info@childadvancement.org.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION CONVERSATION

RADIO INTERVIEW

Topic: Cultural Identity Conflict Through Storytelling - Part III



EVELYN KESSLER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
INTERNATIONAL CHILD
ADVANCEMENT



PIYALI CAMPBELL
EVENT MANAGER
AKSHAYA PATRA

Show: **Conversations with Jim Anderson**

Radio Station: **96.5FM / WUFO 1080AM**

Date & Time: **December 06, 2021 | 10:00am**

www.childadvancement.org



info@childadvancement.org

D.R. CONGO NEWS

COVID UPDATE

The Democratic Republic of Congo has entered the fourth wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. DR Congo is experiencing a surge in coronavirus cases. The country has recorded a total of 723 new positive cases within a span of 24 hours. This is a significant increase in infection rate, compared to October this year when the number of recorded cases were less than 50 per day.

Source: www.theeastafrican.co.ke/

There are no reported cases of COVID at GUAOA Orphanage.



HEIGHTENED VIOLENCE IN EASTERN CONGO

Gunmen seized at least two villages in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) near the border with Uganda and Rwanda, a local official and an activist group said.

Lieutenant-Colonel Muhindo Luanzo, assistant to the administrator of Rutshuru Territory, blamed the attack on fighters from M23, a rebel group that seized large swaths of territory in 2012 and 2013.

The fighting in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has forced at least 11,000 people to flee to neighboring Uganda since November 7, 2021 (UNHCR)

Sources: www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/
and allafrica.com/view/group/main

Please let us know what type of updates you would like to see in the newsletter by emailing info@childadvancement.org.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

FOOD, CLOTHING & TOY DRIVE

ICA's Toy drive in partnership with The Healing HUB of NY

Every year, we raise funds to provide a warm Christmas meal to the orphans at GUAOA orphanage and we partner with local donors to ensure underprivileged children in Buffalo, NY have gifts to open on Christmas day.

We hope you will join our efforts this year to provide these children with a memorable Holiday! Please visit our website for more info!



'Tis The Season!
**HOLIDAY
FOOD
CLOTHING
& TOY
DRIVE**

International Child Advancement in partnership with The Healing HUB of NY is hosting a toy drive to benefit families in need in Buffalo, NY and orphans in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Please access our
Amazon Wish List or
Donate on our Website

Donations Accepted Through Dec 22nd

info@childadvancement.org
www.childadvancement.org

www.childadvancement.org

Facebook Fundraiser

Have a birthday coming up? Do a FB Fundraiser to help raise money for ICA, minimum goal for each is \$250. The goal is for supporters to pick a month in which they will do their fundraiser and raise money and create awareness for these children and the organization. We still have 3 months left before the end of the year.

Amazon Smile

When you shop at www.smile.amazon.com (or on the app) and select International Child Advancement, Inc. as your preferred nonprofit, .5% of your purchases will go towards supporting our mission!

Steps to add ICA to your Amazon account:

- Sign into your Amazon account at <https://smile.amazon.com>
- Click "Get Started"
- In the search box, enter "International Child Advancement"
- We are the first one listed - Click "Select"
- Check off "YES" and Click on "Start Shopping"

Other Option: In lieu of gifts, please consider donating in a friend or family member's name or for every gift you purchase, consider donating the purchase amount to ICA.