

THE HFF DISPATCH



THE HOFFMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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WINTER 2023

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER

DRIVE + PURPOSE + GOD'S LOVE

Hello, and welcome to The Hoffman Family Foundation's newsletter: The HFF Dispatch. This is a quarterly newsletter to help keep you updated with all that the Hoffman Family Foundation is accomplishing. Our goal is to improve the quality of life for different communities, empowering women, families, and schools giving children quality education.

The Hoffman Family Foundation's vision is to leave a legacy of love, transforming lives and communities around the world.

With this newsletter, we hope to share with you the improvements we are making in other people's lives across the globe. Perhaps you'll be inspired to help in your own way or to donate for one of our causes. With your help, we can truly make a difference.



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RAYS OF GRACE

By Maddie Bassett

The school of Kirugu, Uganda

Words risk failing to capture this wonderful place.

The school of *God's love*.

The overwhelming welcome by teachers and students will always leave a trace.

The school of *dedication*.

The afternoon session with the talented men's soccer team sure made my heart race.

The school of *selflessness*.

The faculty's ability to construct a creative and inspiring space.

The school of *curiosity*.

The enthusiasm shown as we discussed science and scripture left me with a stunned face.

The school of *excellence*.

The band's rhythmic squealing trumpet and perfect thumping bass.

The school of *Rays of Grace*.

I cannot begin to express in words the experience of traveling to Kirugu, Uganda to meet the students and staff of Rays of Grace. Driving into the gated entrance, I looked out the window of the car to find hundreds of children skipping and laughing with their friends on the way to class. We were welcomed by the students with beautiful songs and dances; this will always be a memory that I cherish.

Our family spent four days at Rays of Grace, and what we saw in that limited time truly changed my life. It became staggeringly obvious how much the instructors cared for every child's well-being and success. I witnessed the students' perseverance and determination to achieve excellence as I "taught"

science and scripture. The efforts to help the mothers of children attending the school through the Women's Empowerment Program was remarkable to witness.

There is a love within this school that cannot simply be described solely through words. I witnessed this love through the students, teachers and administration throughout the four days. There is a deep love of God embedded into the foundation of Rays of Grace. Whether this be in a colorful science classroom or a large turf pitch, God is present. I feel so incredibly blessed to have experienced the work that God has brought to Kirugu, Uganda, and I am looking forward to seeing what else God has planned for Rays of Grace!

EYES AND HEARTS OPENED TO A WHOLE NEW WORLD

By Todd Bassett

After hearing about Africa and Uganda through the experiences of others and Tami for many years, my family was able to finally arrange travel to Africa to explore that part of the world and meet our sponsored child at Rays of Grace: Kadunga. Traveling to Africa takes serious intent. Investment of time, financial resources, and, admittedly, some mental anxiety over the pre trip process is real. When educated about the vaccinations required and the simple but effective protocols of malaria pills taken each day before and shortly after returning home, it is easy to question: Why am I traveling to Africa? But, after our first evening game drive on the Masai Mara in Kenya, when the tranquility and soul soothing sounds, sights and wonder of the region pour over you...you understand the why.

Our trip began in Kenya, then on to Uganda to meet Robert in person for the first time after years of texts, phone calls and video calls. What a beautiful welcome we received from Robert. We felt well taken care of in the maze that is Kampala, Uganda, and my family drove

to the village near Rays of Grace and finally to the school itself. We were enthusiastically greeted by the school's director, Joseph, given a tour of the facility and were the guests of a heart expanding presentation of song, praise and cheer from all of the students!

We met our sponsored child of five years, Kadunga, for the first time, and waves of joyful emotion washed over all of us. Here was the young man of 13 years of age maturing within his education and the Word of God before us with hugs and tears of happiness. We instantly grew the connection we had built from afar to a personal and deep one that filled our hearts. The hope for a brighter future for Kadunga with the school's education is beyond the comprehension of most in our country. Many basics are taken for granted like shelter, reliable nutrition and an opportunity to pursue the life we want. After meeting Vinny, the sponsorship coordinator, and talking through the logistics of day to day life for most of the students' families, it becomes so apparent that our contributions financially provide



tools for building the chance at a more fulfilling life for the students. Vinny and Robert complement each other so well in their mission to help each student at Rays of Grace and enable children to be sponsored, enriching the child's and the sponsor's lives so uniquely. A life filled with the glory of grace from Our Lord and joy for each child is the ultimate mission statement here.

After gaining an understanding of how Rays of Grace truly operates, my family all were active participants in teaching classes based upon our own experiences that we could bring to the children and aligned with the goals of the school. We all felt empowered to craft our own messages, and the immediate smiles and appreciation for the 'substitute' teachers from the children was life changing. We were all reminded with each interaction with the children and staff of Rays of Grace that although we provide support financially from our home in the United States, it was the joy of meeting the participants at the school that blessed us the most.

It can feel overwhelming while in the community just how much these families struggle each day. After seeing much of Uganda during our travels in the country beyond Rays of Grace and that particular village it is apparent this seems to be more challenging than some other areas where agriculture and organization seems more rooted. What Dave and Tami Hoffman have created and continue to support with their foundation is remarkable, and the call to duty is strong after visiting this part of the world. An intense focus upon "doing" something is felt by all in my family. Remembering that we can't solve all problems, but we can contribute in our own way, we will move on ideas we have and plan actions steps.

God has opened us to the situation of the Ugandans we know and have now spent time with and we pray for guidance and wisdom to create positive effects for Kadunga, his family and all associated with Rays of Grace. Thank you, Tami and Dave, for providing the vision for this beautiful organization!



**IF HE BUILDS
IT THEY WILL
COME AND**

**LIVES
WILL BE
CHANGED!**



By Gretchen Bassett

I'm grateful to share in the JOY of our journey to meet Kadunga, visit his family and home, and see in person what my good friend Tami Hoffman has been up to with the Hoffman Family Foundation in Uganda. Our involvement with the Hoffman Family Foundation... I have honestly never been so at peace and happy with a decision I've made in my life until after this Rays of Grace Uganda visit. Our sponsor son Kadunga, Robert Kiwanuka, Vinny Maweje and all the teachers, students, student musicians and soccer players we met have genuinely changed my family's lives. No one experience has ever left me feeling so whole, so alive and so loved.

The pictures I'm including and my words can't capture the love and respect I have for this school, the humans involved, and the trust I have for the Hoffman Family Foundation with my sponsor son Kadunga and the many children and families of this tiny area that they are literally educating and improving lives for. What I have come to love most is the foundation is dedicated to bring sustainability to this hard working, motivated community. Over 400 mothers in the community are dedicated to learning a new skill and advocating for their families by becoming business women through the women's empowerment group led by Sarah and Loretta. Robert and Vinny, natives of Uganda and both past sponsor children themselves, know personally the struggles this community faces and are resilient in their perseverance for change through education and development of music, sports and other talents of the children that are allowing them to get scholarships to attend secondary schools and long term give back to their community. The teachers and coaches are phenomenally trained, wise and dedicated.

Throughout the last twenty years of raising two of our own children, we have become somewhat of a 'soccer/football family'. Robert has successfully developed a skilled Ugandan student football team that recently brought home the Federation of East Africa Cup, as well as many other accolades. Brody and Maddie, our children, have known many of these young football players from teaching over Skype through their high school years, and now were given

the opportunity to train and inspire with words these young athletes who dream to use their talent to attend secondary schools and college to become educated and better their family's lives. Currently Robert is working on bringing a state-of-the-art soccer pitch to Rays of Grace so teams from all over Eastern Africa can travel to the school to compete. This is a massive effort to make the school and community fully self-sustaining. To hear this goal explained by Robert in person while standing on the location is to understand his commitment and tenacity to help this community in a HUGE everlasting way. Robert's goal is exactly what this community needs. These players, coming from a competitive DA/ECNL/college soccer mom, are many of the best in their age bracket that my family have EVER seen. I can think of many coaches here in the states that would be 'over the moon' to attain one of these skilled, fast, smart, hard working, positive attitude, coachable players. The impact of one of these players could change the work rate and attitude of an entire team, if not college campus/ soccer club. For Rays of Grace to have this elite soccer complex on their property would be a game changer (pun intended) for the Rays of Grace students, parents and community for generations to come as the money made through use of this field directly feeds back into the academics and development of other skills/talents of the students and community at Rays of Grace.

Given all my family has learned and experienced, if anyone wants more information about sponsoring a student whose family cannot afford for them to attend school, helping school director Robert with his soccer pitch to bring full sustainability to this community, working with the women's empowerment group to bring trades/skills to women/men/siblings of students who are not able to attend school please reach out to me, Todd, Brody or Maddie. We are absolutely accessible and able to answer any questions. Or message Tami Hoffman with the Hoffman Family Foundation. Tami will send you on a journey that will change you and your family's lives...as she did for us. Thank you, Tami, for helping me feel purpose, hope and giving me a deeper mission outside of my 'bubble'! Powerful and God driven.



WELCOMING SMILES

By Brody Bassett

In southern Uganda in a small suburb of Jinja our car bounced with the rhythm of the road to a primary school. My body jumps to the bumps of the car as my family and I endure what the locals call an 'African massage.' Our helpful friend and self-designated guide Robert apologized for the bumpy dirt road, but all I can think about are the people outside of the car. The hard working and determined people left me touched as we continued our journey past variations of houses made from reddish brick with steel slatted roofs. A couple moments later I was standing in the middle of Rays of Grace primary school surrounded by the main primary school complex. The sound of laughter and rushing footsteps echoed off the walls of the building as we were warmly greeted by hundreds of welcoming smiles.

In my sophomore year of high school, I started my journey with Rays of Grace by raising money for projectors and internet access. I heard about the opportunity to support the school from a close family friend, Tami Hoffman, who decided to birth the school in Uganda. During that time, I was introduced to Robert and Vinny who helped me set up online sessions between myself and the kids. Robert and Vinny are from Uganda and have been instrumental in maintaining and running the school. It was hard for me to believe that eight years later I was standing within the same school.

The same men who helped me feel comfortable eight years ago teaching online classes were continuing to help me as they introduced me to the school. Robert, the director of Rays of Grace, was extremely helpful in taking care of my family and I through every step of our journey. His 'right-hand-man' Vinny was also extremely helpful as he connected my family with the student we sponsor at the school: Kadunga.

Throughout my time at Rays of Grace, it was clear the school excels at providing children with quality education and true opportunities outside of the classroom. Rays of Grace consistently sends kids to the top secondary schools in the

country on full scholarships for academics and athletics. I was fortunate enough to see this in-person as I taught classes at the school and played soccer with their team who recently won the East African championship!

To help the kids practice their English and adapt to a different accent, I taught them Bible lessons. In each class I taught, I would encourage every kid to read verses from the Bible, and I was impressed by each student's courage and English as they pronounced and understood the teachings. Each student read the Bible loudly and clearly with an enormous smile on their face.

After classes, I was allowed to play with their championship winning soccer team. Throughout high school I played for regional championship winning academies and Olympic Development Teams, and the kids I played with in Uganda far surpassed the skills held by some of the best players I have played with. Their determination, game-time decisions, and athleticism showed as they 'ran-circles' around me!

The school is a special place that provides children within the community a lot of positive opportunities to excel and grow as individuals. Rays of Grace truly changes lives. The people who I saw on the bumpy road to the school are the same people whose kids can now have incredible opportunities to excel in their life. Currently, the school is hoping to expand and build a secondary school and soccer complex. The secondary school would provide children with the opportunity to continue their education, preparing them for college within Uganda or internationally. Another expansion project started by the school is the soccer complex, which would allow the school to generate revenue from their players and surrounding teams allowing the school to become self-sufficient. Upon leaving the school I realized the massive opportunity Rays of Grace provides for their community, and I am thankful that I was able to visit the 'Pearl of Uganda.'



HER FIRST NEW BED



HER BRAND NEW DAIRY COW



ONE HAPPY LADY



SOLAR POWER

“Her life will never be the same.”



NEW BEGINNINGS

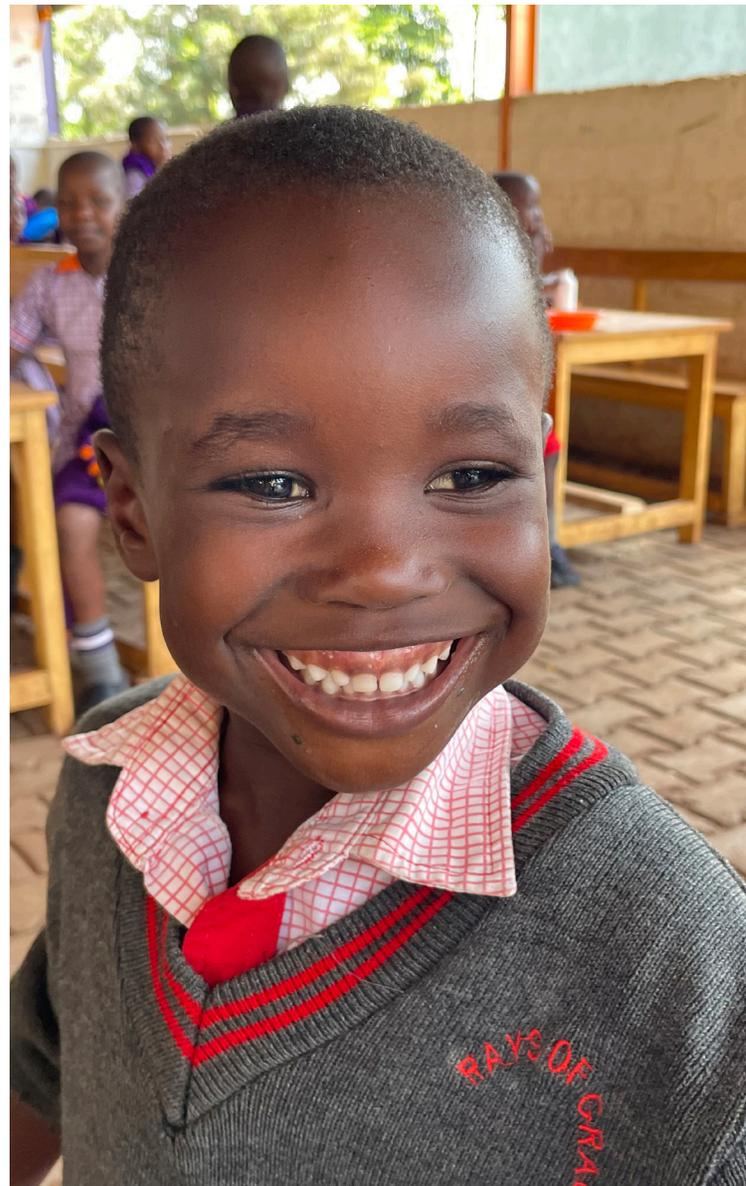
By Tami Hoffman

Upon the arrival of the Bassett family back to the United States I was contacted by Gretchen who said their family wanted to make a generous donation for a new home for Kadunga and his family. His mama was thrilled beyond words. Her story of her life has been filled with much heartache and sorrow. But she has always pressed on. As you can see her life has made a 360° turnaround. Thank you Bassett family for making her dreams come true. Her life will never be the same. They also decided to sponsor 2 more children, one being Kadunga's younger sister and another child that happened to touch the hearts while at Rays of Grace. Thank you for Leaving a Legacy of LOVE transforming lives and communities.





A YEAR TO REMEMBER









DONATE HERE!



Use your phone to
scan the QR code



JOIN OUR GUARDIAN ANGEL PROGRAM

HOW TO BECOME A

GUARDIAN ANGEL

What is the Guardian Angel Program?

The Guardian Angel Program was designed to help local Ugandan parents provide a safe, happier, healthier and purposeful life for their children. We believe that together, we can make a difference in the future generations one child at a time. Through the Guardian Angel Program, individuals can make a personal and lifetime impact in one of our amazing need-based Rays of Grace children. For just \$50.00 a month, sponsors can help our dream-seeking children pay for their education, boarding, school uniform, food, counseling, and any hygiene or medical needs.

542

CHILDREN
At Rays of Grace

251

 Boys

291

 Girls

ONLY

60

CHILDREN
Are Sponsored

What is covered through your monthly donation?

- A safe, happier, and healthier environment where children can spread their wings and soar
- A robust educational curriculum which includes reading and writing skills, arts, drama, music, counseling, and sporting activities such as netball and soccer
- School uniform
- Faith-based Christian classes inspiring eternal rewards for these precious souls
- Well-balanced meals are covered Monday through Friday
- A clinic and full-time nurse to care for the medical needs of the children
- A dormitory facility for those children who live far distances
- Transportation to and from events in our HFF bus mobile



What is unique about the Guardian Angel Program?

100% of your donation goes directly towards your sponsor child

Your \$50.00 per month contribution goes directly and specifically to your child's needs.

There's no administrative fees or any other miscellaneous costs that are deducted from your contribution.

Live interaction with your child

Communicate with your child via Zoom at least twice per year!

Written words are good but seeing the beautiful smiling face of your sponsor child is absolutely priceless and adorable.

We continue to work hard in the improvement of technology through the recent construction of our computer lab.

Fully staffed Ugandan team

Our staff in Uganda is comprised of local Ugandan natives.

We don't intend to hire teachers or staff members from the Western World.

We believe Ugandans are best to know the conditions and needs of their own people.

Long-term sustainable community impact

When a child is sponsored, the family and ultimately the community are empowered.

We help families build stable homes, start sustainable businesses and help feed their children.

We want to empower men and women to provide for their own families.

The goal is to not give people a handout but rather a hand up.

Our desire is to encourage a healthy patriotism, independence, self-reliance and sustainability.

We are a non-profit

All donations are tax-deductible.

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in Golden, Colorado.

Is anyone paid a salary?

Yes, the members of our Ugandan team are paid from the resources of our generous founders.

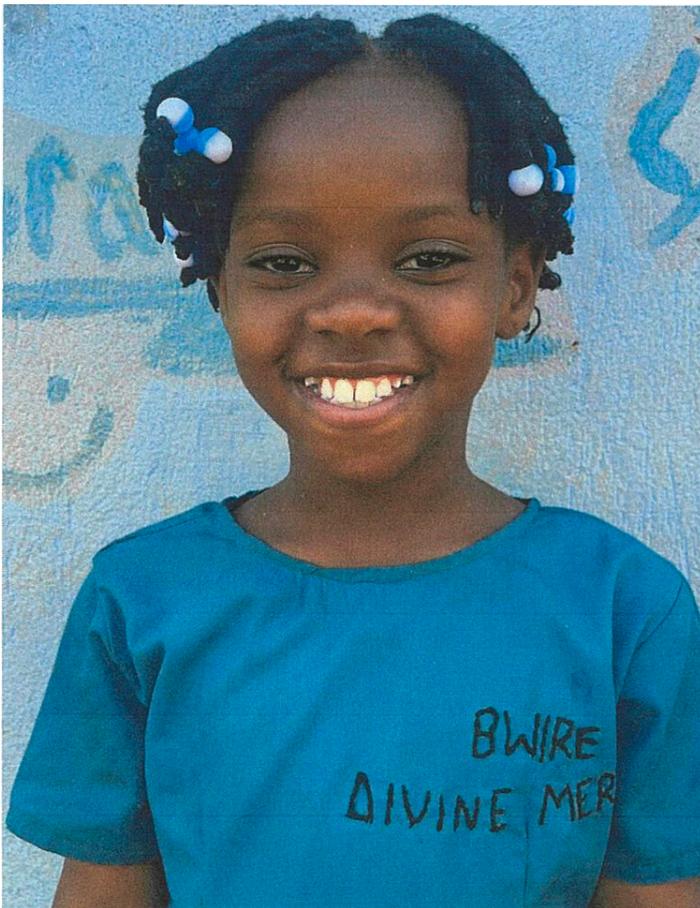
U.S. team members serve as volunteers.

Become a Guardian Angel today!

If you are interested in joining our Guardian Angel Program or if you would like more information, please give us a call at:

(303) 949-0831.

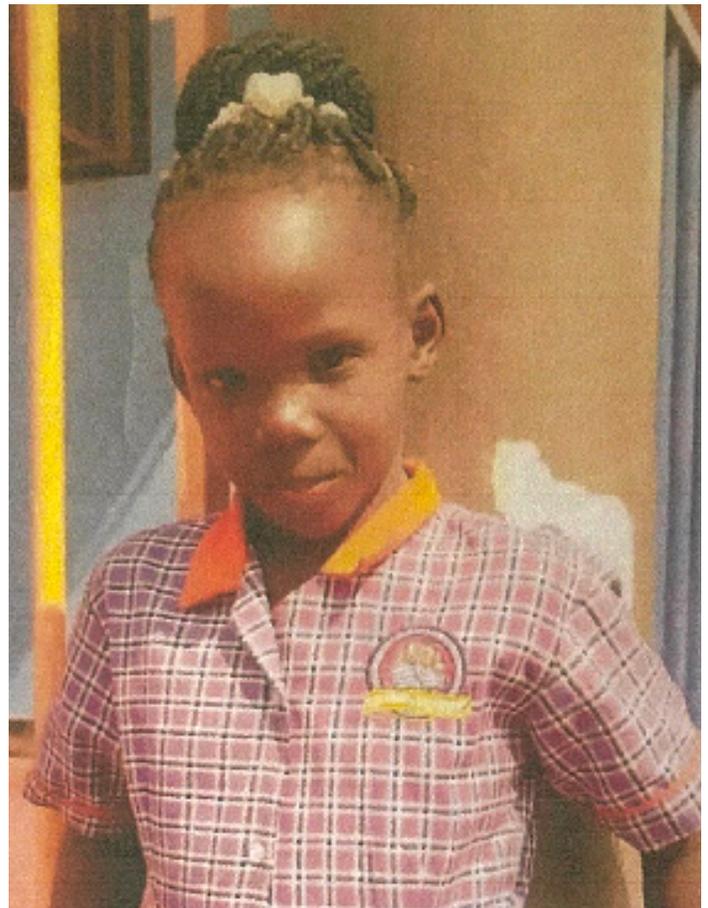
BECOME ONE OF HFF's GUARDIAN ANGELS



MEET MACKLINE MIREMBE

When I grow up I want to be a nurse!
Age: 9 Birthday: April 23rd, 2014

Mackline is nine years old and the second youngest in her family. She lives with her mother and grandmother. They practice subsistence farming on a small scale to provide for their day-to-day needs, leaving little or none to be sold for family earnings. Mackline has been out of school due to the incremental fees needed year to year. She believes that when she gets a sponsor to help her with her education, she will study hard to become a nurse so that she can be able to help friends and neighbors in the community.



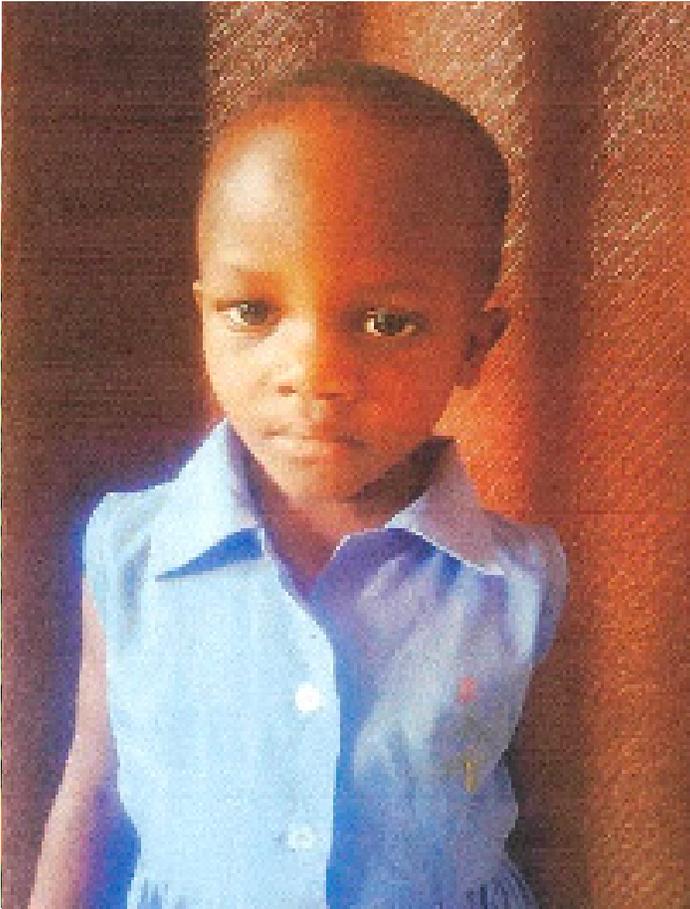
MEET JOLINE NAMUKSA

When I grow up I want to be a nurse!
Age: 10 Birthday: 2010

Joline lives with her mother after her parents separated. Her father is imprisoned due to domestic violence. Her mother practices subsistence farming on a small scale for home consumption to take care of her three children but is unable to bring in enough income to afford Joline's school. Joline has always been a student of Rays of Grace Junior School, but has been missing school due to fees.

Are you wanting to make a personal and lifetime impact on one of our amazing kids?

You have an amazing opportunity to become one of HFF's Guardian Angels. As a Guardian Angel, you will be supporting one of our need-based Rays of Grace kids. You will be lifting them up, helping guide them to graduation, and their personal prayer warrior. For just \$50.00 a month, you are helping our dream-seeking kids pay for schooling, boarding, clothes, food and any hygiene or medical needs in order to help them spread their wings and fly. If you are interested in joining our Guardian Angel Program or would like more information, please give us a call at (303) 949 - 0831.



MEET SARAH NABEKEERA

When I grow up I want to be a teacher!

Age: 4 Birthday: November 15th, 2019

Sarah lived with her grandmother since she was five months old, but after her grandmother's health declined and she passed in 2022, Sarah is now living with her aunt. Her aunt is struggling to make ends meet after taking in Sarah in addition to her own children. Her aunt works tirelessly to put food on the table but at times they go to bed hungry.



MEET SALA PIO

When I grow up I want to be a pilot!

Age: 9 Birthday: July 2nd, 2014

Sala Pio is the third-born of five children. His father was born disabled and is wheelchair-bound. His father is the primary provider, working as a cobbler repairing shoes for the community. Unfortunately, the income is not enough to sustain the family. His father has been bedridden for the past year due to pain and illness and his mother must be home to care for him and the other children, further complicating financial needs. Sala Pio has missed class many times due to unpaid school fees.



OUR NEXT PROJECTS

Vocational School & Soccer Complex

We are so excited for the new land that has been purchased for the future home of Rays of Grace Vocational Secondary School. 5 acres were purchased in November directly across the road from Rays of Grace Primary School, for which further funds will be needed.

Another vision is to create a state of the art facility with rooms for Ugandan Soccer teams to compete on. The facility can also be used for hosting conferences with hostels for overnight stays.

If you would be interested in helping us in this endeavor we would love for you to join us in leaving a legacy of LOVE transforming lives, and communities. It's an exciting joy-filled adventure for sure.

Would you prayerfully consider partnering with us to accomplish these current projects?

Your donation will go directly to the current projects we are working on. Thank you for all your love, support and prayers as we continue to leave a Legacy of LOVE transforming the lives and communities God has called us to. May He be GLORIFIED in ALL that we do together with YOU!

DONATE HERE!



Use your phone to scan the QR code



The Hoffman Family Foundation's Vision is to leave a legacy of love, transforming lives and communities around the world.

Hoffman Family Foundation Mail-In Donation Form

Leave a Legacy of Love - Donate Today and Start Transforming Lives and Communities. The Hoffman Family Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization in the USA and all donations are 100% Tax Deductible. EIN 38-3945350. Please make checks payable to: Hoffman Family Foundation. 100% of your donation goes directly towards the current project we're working on.

Contact Information (* required field)

* First Name:

* Last Name:

* Organization:

* Address:

* City:

* State: * ZIP Code / Country:

* Email Address:

Phone:

Credit Card Information

* Credit Card Type: MasterCard | Visa | AMEX | Discover

* Credit Card Number:

* Expiration Date: Month: Year: * Security Code:

* Donation Amount:

Authorization (Please check appropriate box, sign and date)

- Please find enclosed check as my donation to Hoffman Family Foundation
- I authorize Hoffman Family Foundation to charge my credit / debit card for a one-time donation.

Signed: Date:

Mail to:

Hoffman Family Foundation
5564 Salvia Ct.
Golden, CO 80403

www.hoffmanfamilyfoundation.co



THANK YOU **ANGELINA POLIZZOTTO**
WHO, WITH HER ALPHA PHI
SORORITY SISTERS AT SAN DIEGO
STATE COLLEGE, FUNDRAISED FOR
NEW MATTRESSES AND COVERS
FOR OUR TWO DORMITORIES. RAYS
OF GRACE HAS BEEN ABUNDANTLY
BLESSED BY THEIR EFFORTS TO BLESS
OUR SCHOOL.

THANK YOU.



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Our vision is to leave a **legacy of love**,
transforming lives and communities **around the world**.



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