

NOVEMBER 2021

# SHARE THE BLESSINGS

"Providing basic human needs and dignity for all through prayer and acts of love"



**Clean Water** for  
drinking, for cooking,  
for washing.....

**Education** for the  
mind, for the heart,  
for the soul.....

for **LIFE**

## OUR BEGINNING

In July 2002, a small group of Catholics traveled with Fr. Emmanuel Katongole on a cultural exchange trip to Uganda. During their visit to Fr. Emmanuel's village, the group accompanied villagers to their only water source, a muddy pond about a mile from the village. The fact that these people were lacking one of humanity's basic needs, clean water, which we take for granted, had a profound impact. Similar experiences also occurred during visits to schools and orphanages around Uganda. Upon returning, the group began gathering monthly to share their experiences. This resulted in the addition of several people who had profound direct experiences of need in other Majority World countries. This culminated in the desire to form a more permanent organization that would educate people to the needs of our brothers and sisters in developing countries and to provide assistance for those in need. Thus far we have shared our blessings with people in Uganda and Bolivia.



# Our Work

## Water



Share the Blessings' water goal is to fund at least two wells per year. These wells may be deep wells or shallow wells, depending on the local hydrology. Deep wells cost about \$10,000. Shallow wells cost about \$5,000. New wells have been built in various Ugandan schools and villages bringing clean water to hundreds of people. Plus, because local contractors were used, the funds help to improve the regional economy.

## Education

STB's QRCode: Quality, Relationship, Community

For over 15 years, Share the Blessings has supported dozens of Ugandan students in their journey through school. Our founding members returned from Uganda in 2002 on fire to do something to address the tremendous social needs that they encountered. But they knew that sustainable and meaningful change does not happen overnight. And when they asked friends in Uganda what was most needed to "move the needle," they kept hearing two responses. First, education is the key to transforming a young person's future horizons. And second, clean water is the single biggest "game-changer" when it comes to improving local community health. So STB embarked on its two-fold mission to provide water wells and school tuition sponsorships.

Over the years, our philosophy has revolved around three key concepts. To use contemporary parlance, we could call this our "QRCode" 1) Quality, 2) Relationship, and 3) Commitment.

- Quality: Working with our local coordinator, Fr. Joseph Kakooza, we have enrolled our students in excellent schools throughout Uganda. We do not choose the least expensive or most elite school, but rather the school that will best fit the student's interests and needs. Fr. Joe and his team get to know school headmasters, and they follow up on each student's progress, meeting regularly with students and their families.

- Relationship: Many non-government organizations work “facelessly,” with donors contributing to a general cause. In contrast, STB believes that personal relationships matter. We ensure that our sponsors learn their matched student’s name, family background and interests. Students write personal, handwritten letters to sponsors every year. All of this helps remind us that we are not called to save people, but rather to be in relationship with them.
- Commitment: When STB takes on a student, we commit for the long haul. We support the student until he or she finishes their studies, or until they obtain local financial support. Nearly all of our students have finished seven years of primary school and four years of secondary school. Most have gone on to complete two years of advanced secondary school and three to four years of tertiary studies in university, seminary, and vocational school settings. Our graduates have gone on to become teachers, secretaries, park rangers, mechanics, carpenters, electricians, business owners, and priests.

You make all of this possible through your prayers, letters, and financial support! Thanks to each of you for your generosity and commitment to our 32 STB students in Uganda. Please know that the need for quality education in Uganda is overflowing. Not surprisingly, the waiting-list to get into the STB Education program is long and growing, so please don’t hesitate to reach out to a friend, family member, colleague, or fellow parishioner to ask if they might be interested in helping to sponsor a student.

Our standard, annual sponsorship rate for boarding students remains \$450, and contributors are always welcome to team up with others or pay a portion thereof. Whether you’ve supported STB for a year, a decade, or more, we thank you for your generosity of heart. As they say in Luganda, “Webale nnyo! Neyanzizza. Omukama abeere naawe!”

(“Thank you so much! We are so grateful. May the Lord bless you!”)

- Jay Carney, Chair, Share the Blessings Education Program





# Our members

## Fr. Joseph Kakooza Nnyanzi

Coordinator Education Sponsorship Program

"Greetings from Uganda.



It was in 2004, when I was the Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, Nakasongola Church, when I met Philip Ssentogo in the fields. When I asked him why he was not at school. The answer that Philip gave me shocked me. **"Our Head teacher threw me away from school because my Parents failed to pay for my school fees."**

To me it was like Philip was a trash, unwanted and abandoned as a new baby next to a dumpster (a large rubbish container.) This immediately reminded me of the pain I went through when I was dropped out of school (1973 to 1974) after the death of my Dad. I took Philip back to school and Share the Blessings paid for all his education.

Philip did very well in school and graduated in 2015. And now as he mentioned in his testimonial he is happily married and helping a lot of people.

Share the Blessings started supporting St. Francis students in 2005, with 54 students (20 in Primary and 34 in Secondary school.) Since then Share the Blessings has been supporting between 30 and 55 students every year. At the moment 72 students have completed school and are now working: 4 are carpenters, 6 are tailors, 7 are teachers, 8 are businessmen, 4 are medical nurses, 3 are catholic priests, 1 is a religious sister, 3 are veterinary officers, 4 are electricians, 6 are hair dressers, 5 are mechanics, 1 is a policeman and 6 are plumbers, 8 are secretaries, 5 are builders and 1 is a park ranger. And 32 students are currently at school.

My dear members of Share of Blessings, your continued financial support towards the education of our needy students has made a great impact. When you read their testimonials you can easily find out that your support has made them responsible, God loving, and good citizens.

Share the Blessings has transformed these students from nothing to something, from nobody to somebody, from trash to treasure. The sponsors of Share the Blessings have adopted abandoned students and made them beloved sons and daughters.

Thank you for educating our needy students. We shall always be very grateful for your love and support."



# Nathan Wagner

Chairperson

"My wife and I visited Uganda in 2008. We observed children with a desire for education but without funding to attend school, and children collecting water in 5 gallon containers from a river or pond for drinking, cooking and cleaning. As a result we became involved in the mission of Share the Blessings.

Over the years, STB has provided tuition for students in primary, secondary, and university education. Each year, construction of clean water wells has been funded in villages or near schools. This has only been accomplished through the generosity of our financial supporters.

All administrative costs associated with running Share the Blessings have either been donated specifically for the cause or are being paid for by members of the board of directors. There are no salaries, fees, stipends etc., paid to any of the board members responsible for Share the Blessings.

We are grateful for our supporters' prayers, letters and financing.

We are grateful for the opportunity "to make global connections!"



## Our Board Members:

Lauren Green

Edward Collupy

Arthur Powers

Brenda Powers

Margaret Cross

Kevin Green

Nathan Wagner

# Our Stories

## Flora Robina Namulindwa

Former Student

"Dear our beloved friends of share the Blessings,

I am so happy for this opportunity to write this testimonial. I hope you are all doing well.

I am called Frora Robina Namulindwa, a daughter of Share the Blessings. I am one of the first students that Share the Blessings helped to educate. I am very proud of Share the Blessings for paying my school fees.

I am now married to my dear husband, Emmanuel. We have four children. I am working at St. Joseph's Vocational School as a secretary. The money I earn help me in very many ways; to buy living fees for our family, to pay school fees for our children, to help some of our relatives. I also have a boy who lost his parents when I am supporting in school.

I am what I am because of Share the Blessings. I had dropped out of school when Share the Blessings took me on through Fr. Joe. If it were not for your help I think I would be dead by now . There is nothing I can give Share the Blessings to express my gratitude. The only thing I can do is try to do what Share the Blessings did to me. And that is to be kind to people and support those in need. This is the great lesson that Share the Blessings taught me.

## Sentoggo Philip Pius

Former Student

"I am Sentoggo Philip Pius, one of the beneficiaries of the Student Education Program sponsored by Share the Blessings. I got married in Church on 1st August 2020 to my dear wife called Nakyanzi Joan.

At the moment I am the coordinator for Catholic Charismatic Renewal Ministries at Kidubi Church, a preacher of the Word of God and a counsellor to people with Challenges.

After completing my Primary Level in 2002, I didn't have hope of joining High School because my parents couldn't afford to support me in school. I dropped out of school for two years and I was just admiring my friends whose parents were able to support them in school.

But guess what? In 2004, a miracle happened. When I met Fr. Joe and explained to him why I was not at school he registered me under St Francis students group, the students that he supports. And from that time until 2015, the year I graduated in Project Planning and Management I was being supported by Share the Blessings.

I was nobody but with the support of Share the Blessings I am now somebody. I have a happy family and I am helping a lot of people. Dear members of Share the Blessings, thank you for the gift of Education that you gave me. May God continue to bless the work of your hands.



Dear members of Share the Blessings,

I am called Ssenyonyi Silas. It was in 2010 when I was in primary three, when Share the Blessings started to support me in school through Fr. Joe.

I am now in my first year at Kiwaka Medical Laboratory Training School. I am doing a Laboratory technology course. This course is for two years. After this course, I will work in the hospital as a laboratory assistant.

In the first place, I want to thank Share the Blessings for supporting me in school fees because if it were not for this support, I wouldn't be at school. More thanks go to Arthur and Brenda powers who are my sponsors.

My parents divorced when I was five years old. I am now 20 years old. I have three brothers and one sister. We are all staying with our mother. Fr. Joe took me to school when my mother had failed because she didn't have the money for school fees.

My mother calls this a miracle. God sent Fr. Joe into our family when we were in great need, and I will always thank God for his love for me and Fr. Joe for connecting me to Share the Blessings.

By educating me, Share the Blessings has given me a key to success and in fact Share the Blessings is going to help many other people through me, because when I graduate and start to work, I am going to help alot of people especially the sick, which I wouldn't be helping if I were not supported by Share the Blessings.

Thank you dear members of Share the Blessings.

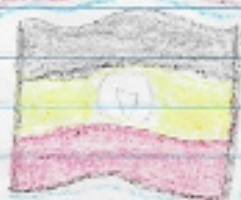
You have been part of my life. I will never forget you!

May God bless you and reward you abundantly.

Your Son in Uganda.



SSENYONYI SILAS





Dear members of Share the Blessings

I am called Neerima cissy. I am 10 years old.  
I am in primary 4. My school is called waluleeta  
primary school.

I stay with my mother. My father is called John  
and my mother is called Agnes. I want to become a  
medical nurse in future. I have 3 sisters and 5 brothers.

Share the Blessings started to help me in 2020.

This made me happy. No one was taking me to school.  
It was your friend Fr. Joe who took me to school.  
I love him because he loves children.

I love you too because you give money to Fr. Joe which  
helps me.

Thank you for being kind

I want to see you. please come to Uganda

Goodbye

Neerima cissy





# Diocese of Kasana - Luweero

## Youth Apostolate Department

P. O. Box 303, LUWEERO, UGANDA

Tel: +256-777813310 / +256-783445864 Email: youth4christ.officekldiocese@gmail.com

Website: www.youthforchristkld.com



**Fr. Joseph Kakooza Nyanzi**  
**CO-ORDINATOR**  
**CLEAN WATER PROGRAM**

**January 6<sup>th</sup> 2021**

### **RE: BOREHOLE APPLICATION FOR ST. KIZITO DIOCESAN YOUTH CENTER**

Dear Fr. Joe!

Grace and peace to you!

I am writing on behalf of our diocesan youth apostolate, requesting that you accept our application so that St. Kizito Youth Center and the nearby community have access to a source of safe and clean water.

Youth for Christ is the diocesan Youth department of the diocese of Kasana-Luweero. The Diocesan Youth apostolate department (Youth for Christ) is mandated and charged with the responsibility of planning, coordinating, implementing and monitoring all the youth activities, programs and projects. In this way, bringing Christ closer to the young people, revealing the truth, goodness and the beauty of the Church, through; Building Faith, Forming Consciences, Inspiring Hope and Igniting Change. Currently, the youth department works with over 20000 young people.

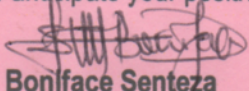
Youth for Christ acquired 25 acres of Land at Kibanvu, Katikamu Sub-county, Luweero district, for the establishment of the diocesan youth center. It is at this youth center that borehole is going to be constructed. The said land lawfully belongs to the registered trustees of Kasana-Luweero Diocese. This land is found at GPS: 0.79926, 32.52019 (QGXC+M3).

As of now, there is a nearby swamp which collects water especially during the rainy season and this is used by the community for fetching water both for their animals and domestic use. This has resulted into surge of waterborne disease in the area.

It is with great pleasure that you can find people of good will who are willing to donate a Borehole. This borehole will serve over 20000 young people who will be using the Youth Center not mentioning the 132 families in Kibanvu village. The administrator at the Youth Center together with the Chairperson LC I will establish a Village Water user Committee (**WVC**) which will be directly responsible for the proper care and maintenance of the borehole.

A water user fee will be decided upon by the village members intended to take care of the maintenance and operation of the borehole.

We anticipate your positive response.

  
**Fr. Boniface Senteza**  
**Diocesan Youth Ministry Director and Chaplain**  
**Kasana-Luweero Diocese.**





Kibanvu Village

Pre-Well Water Source







# Diocese of Kasana - Luweero

## Youth Apostolate Department

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Website: www.youthforchristkld.com



31<sup>st</sup> October, 2021

### Members of Share The Blessing

Dear Members,

#### Re: Appreciation for the borehole constructed at the St. Kizito Youth Centre in Kibanvu village at Kasana - Luweero Diocese

“Grace and peace to you for god our father and the lord Jesus Christ “(Eph.1:2). With these words of the apostle Paul, I bring warm and prayerful greetings from Kasana – Luweero Diocese.

It is with great pleasure that we (Youth for Christ), extend our heartfelt appreciation to you for the overwhelming support rendered to us towards the funding for the construction of the borehole at St. Kizito Youth Center in Kibaavu which has been launched today October 31, 2021.

This borehole is now a shared water point with the surrounding community that neighbors the youth center. It should be noted that the community members have been walking long distances to fetch unsafe water from swamps and wells, which they have been sharing with animals. This has made many children and women fall sick.

Thank you so much for your support. Upon we impart our blessings invoking our God to continuously bless you

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Boniface Ssentenza  
Diocesan Youth Chaplain

Diocese of Kasana Luweero

Anna Juliet Bukilwa  
Diocesan Youth coordinator  
and Secretary

Diocese of Kasana Luweero

Mathias Ssewanyana  
Diocesan Youth Leader

Diocese of Kasana Luweero



## Kibanvu Village - Well Dedication (1)





## Kibanvu Village - Well Dedication (2)





# Our Future

Each year, Share The Blessings endeavors to continue to make a difference in the lives of the people of Uganda. Our annual goals are to provide at least 2 clean water wells and support education for children and adults. We will continue to support the education of 32 children in Uganda. However, with the support of more sponsors, we will be able to help more students. Therefore, we encourage you to share our story with others so through clean water and education we can have a positive impact on the lives of many more. At a minimum, we ask that you pray for the success of these goals — clean water and education. Again, thank you for your continued support and encouragement.



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