



Via CARITAS

Through God's Love

7400 W National Ave.
Milwaukee, WI. 53214

Phone: (414) 323-5000
Email: support@caritas.us

Celebrating 25 Years of CARITAS

2023 marks the year of CARITAS For Children's 25th anniversary, our Silver Jubilee. After years of researching how to adopt children from Poland, in 1998, Chris and Barbara Hoar finally arrived in Częstochowa, and met the two children they were called to adopt.

The Holy Spirit also moved their hearts as they saw the other children in the orphanage and were inspired to help. That is when CARITAS For Children was born.



Chris and Barbara with their adopted child

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Chris with orphans in Poland

For years, Chris and Barbara helped over 100 Polish orphans get adopted by families in the United States. Obviously, adoption is a huge commitment, and in the year 2002, there were many families who wanted to help but were unable to take a child into their homes. This is when CARITAS decided to expand our focus to child sponsorship.



In 2002, Chris formed a relationship with the Lugazi Diocese in Uganda. CARITAS was able to raise enough money to begin their Catholic Child Sponsorship Program of educating 57 orphans. By 2004 CARITAS had a relationship with the Stella Maris boarding school for girls, where over 50 students were sponsored.

Chris visited Uganda and Kenya for the first time in 2006, he realized how great the need was there. He knew he needed to push the program even further, and he established liaisons there to manage the program more efficiently and locate more children in need. Money was raised to complete the construction of a vocational school in Uganda.



Ugandan children getting snacks



Girls orphanage in the Dominican Republic



Chris with Haitian Sisters

When the 2010 earthquake struck Haiti, Chris decided to physically go and help. He then quickly started a day school program for Haitian children who were impacted by the earthquake with the Little Sisters of Saint Theresa of the Infant Child Jesus (PSST). During the same trip, Chris traveled to the Dominican Republic and teamed up with Carmelite Sisters who run an orphanage for at-risk girls, connecting them with sponsors globally.

In 2012, CARITAS established the Residential Learning Center which is a mission home in Uganda and is currently a Missionary home and a CARITAS Regional administration office. This allowed the mission trip programs to expand, and many students were able to go to Uganda on extended mission trips.



CARITAS Residential Learning Center



Student on mission trip to Uganda

The next years rushed by, with facilities being built, programs being added, and communities being helped. When 2020 brought a worldwide Covid-19 pandemic, no one was sure what would happen with the school lockdowns and CARITAS programs. This is when the CARITAS Home Schooling Support Program (CHSSP) was formed to continue helping students get an education while schools were closed.



Students participating in CARITAS Home Schooling Support Program



CARITAS also fundraised for the Special Feeding Support Program which gave children and members of the community access to food and other resources when opportunities were scarce. This was a pivotal moment for CARITAS as the versatility and adaptability of the organization was put to the test.



Special Feeding Support Program Recipients

The pandemic slowed the organization down in developing mission trips; however, it hasn't prevented the success of other programs and projects. In 2021 CARITAS launched the Sponsor-a-Seminarian program with Franciscan Religious and Diocesan-Clergy, and two deep water well projects in Uganda that were funded and successfully completed in May of 2023, also a community commitment for the construction of a new Catholic Primary School. This year, CARITAS was officially established in the Diocese of Belize City, as well as a brand new special-needs program for deaf children in Uganda that is currently in development.



Seminarians in the CARITAS Sponsor-a-Seminarian program

It's been a very busy 25 years. None of it would have been possible without the prayers and support of our sponsors. Through continual charity and generosity, CARITAS has made a powerful and significant impact on countless lives and communities around the world, spreading love and ministering to people in great need.

Thank you for being a part of our journey.

Haiti Update

A few months ago we sent out a newsletter about rising violence in Haiti. The violence is due to the assassination of their president and the anarchy that has resulted from it. Law enforcement has been unable to take control, and the country has been under gang rule ever since. Unfortunately things have not improved much since our last update.



Chris with a child in Haiti

The violence continues and many people do not have access to basic necessities. As areas become unsafe, families are continuing to flee to the countryside, pulling their children from school. Some sponsorships may be impacted by these moves. We are continuing to do everything in our power to protect the children who are still able to attend school, and provide them with the resources they need to succeed.

Please continue to pray for the people of Haiti during this civil unrest.

CARITAS Quest for Clean Water



Father Frank and community members around well

June 16th, 2023
By M. Pollard

After months of tireless efforts and numerous challenges, the dream of providing clean water to two Ugandan communities supported by CARITAS For Children has become a reality. On May 2nd, 2023, the long-awaited water wells, funded by generous sponsors, was finally constructed and inaugurated, marking a significant milestone in the fight against water scarcity and food insecurity.



Well drilling truck and workmen

The construction process was not without its share of setbacks. The initial spot chosen for drilling on Fr. Frank's farm ran dry, leading to a temporary halt in operations. However, with the dedication of Father Frank, Alon and the water well drilling crew, we prevailed and identified an alternative location within Father Frank's farm.



A fill station with spigots on the wall

With renewed determination, our CARITAS Team in Uganda resumed their work, overcoming obstacles one by one. After some hiccups along the way, water finally surged from the depths of the well, signifying the impending realization of the communities' dreams for easy access to clean water. The joyful news spread like wildfire, filling the hearts of all those involved with hope and gratitude.



Another fill station

Father Frank, the driving force behind this initiative and an inspiring figure in the community, shared his elation over the successful completion of the well. He emphasized the profound impact it would have on the lives of the villagers, addressing their pressing need for clean water and the ability to grow food sustainably.



Community members filling their jugs with fresh water from the well

The addition of the well and irrigation system would exponentially increase the farm's productivity, ensuring a more stable food supply and further benefiting the nearby villages. The impact of this water well extends beyond the immediate beneficiaries, as it has the potential to provide clean water to approximately 5,000 individuals in the surrounding areas!

CARITAS For Children expresses deep gratitude to the generous sponsors whose support made this project possible. Their giving hearts have become a beacon of hope, ensuring that countless lives will be transformed through access to clean water and sustainable agriculture.



Water storage tanks to hold clean water for the community

As an amazing bonus, one of our board members travelled to Uganda, saw the water well project, and decided to fully fund a second water well! This second well is now being built in a remote village where Fr. Frank started a primary school for very impoverished children. With all this success in our water well efforts, CARITAS for Children reaffirms its commitment to continue working towards a future where clean water and sufficient food are not just dreams but a permanent reality for all.

Tech Update: My Pictures

There are a few technology updates for all sponsors. The first one is that when you login to your account on www.caritas.us, you will now see 3 new buttons in the header.

My Letters, My Pictures, and My Payments. These buttons will quickly take you to the pages you use most often.

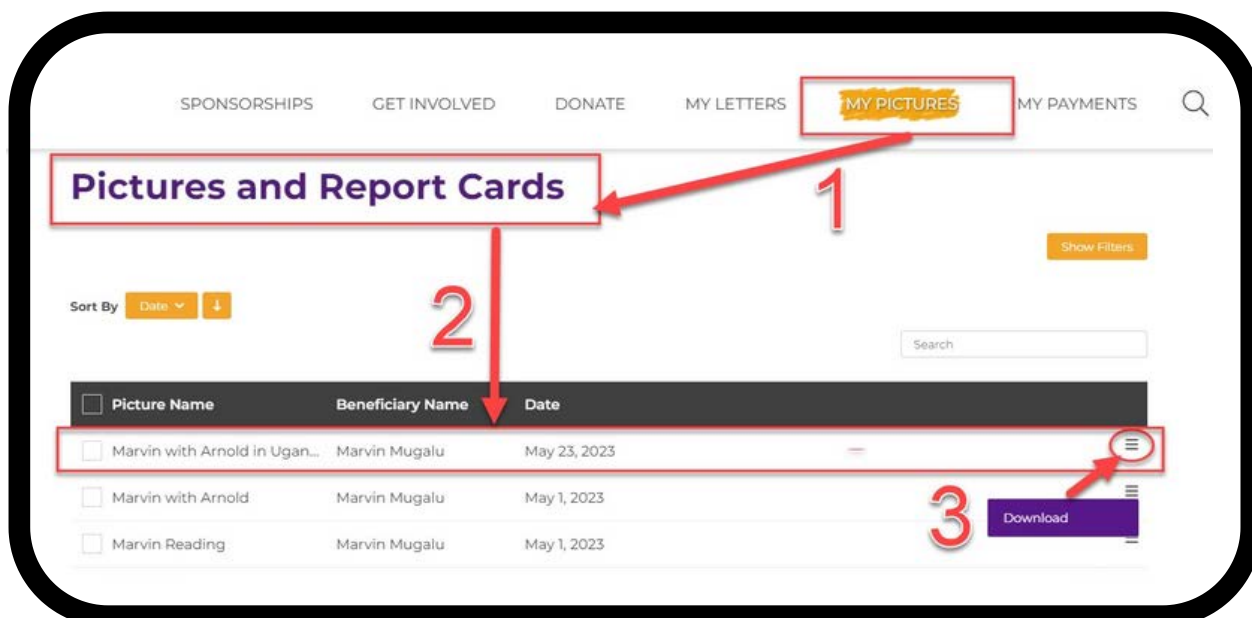


Additionally, the **MY PICTURES** page is brand new. This page will contain all your child’s pictures and report cards from now on. Here is the 3 Step process of how to download your child’s pictures.

STEP 1: Click on “MY PICTURES”

STEP 2: See if you have any new pictures or report cards

STEP 3: Click on the three lines on the right-hand side and Click on “Download”



Note: We currently do not have the functionality of sending you an automated email each time we upload a picture from your child. We are working on this. For now, please check the **MY PICTURES** section each time you login or each time your child sends you a letter.

We hope that you enjoy these new features and that they help you and your sponsored children to love each other even more!

New Mission Trips

Now that many of our ministry locations are open for travel, we have received dozens of inquiries about our Mission Trips Program. At CARITAS, we love mission trips and want to support you in your desire to go on mission, but we also need to make sure to create these trips in a safe, organized, and cost-effective way. This is why several members of our team went to Uganda early this year.

During the last several months, considerable effort has been made to reestablish our Mission Trips Program, starting with a group trip to Uganda. As we plan this trip, our focus is to make this into a fantastic yearly trip, a recurring trip that opens people's eyes, touches their hearts, produces a sustainable impact in poor villages, and gets all of us to appreciate caritas (God's love).

For our first mission trip, we will be going to **Uganda February 17th to March 2nd 2024**. We want to give our Newsletter Subscribers advanced notice that a trip is being established. Additionally, we are finishing the development of an electronic Catalog for this trip which will specifically lay out all the logistics. We will be using this catalog as a template for all our future trips and we hope you really love the clean, organized, and thoughtful way it was created.

If you are interested in learning more about this mission trip to Uganda in February 2024, please [CLICK HERE](#) to take a short survey so that we can send you a copy of the Uganda Mission Trip Catalog as soon as possible.

CARITAS Weddings

Three Beautiful Weddings at CARITAS For Children

Amid the joyous melodies of wedding bells, love is in the air at CARITAS for Children as we celebrate not one, but three heartwarming unions this year. Our close-knit family is growing in the most beautiful way, as three of our own staff members embark on their journey of love and commitment.



Kari's Whirlwind Romance

Kari, a cherished member of our team, recently embarked on her own whirlwind of love and happiness. The magic of Kari and Josef's journey found its culmination in a recent wedding celebration held on July 8th, that radiated joy and love. Kari's passion for our mission has touched countless lives, and now, with a Josef by her side, she ventures forward with renewed zeal and devotion.

AJ's Love Story

In a picturesque ceremony held July 28th, our beloved staff member AJ exchanged vows with his soulmate Allison Christensen. Their love story, nurtured within the walls of CARITAS for Children, blossomed into a lifelong commitment, inspiring us all. AJ's infectious enthusiasm and dedication have always been a cornerstone of our organization, and now, their journey takes a new path as they step into the realm of married life.



CARITAS Weddings

Looking Forward to Alon's "Kwanjula" and December Vows



As the year unfolds, we eagerly anticipate the upcoming wedding of Alon, yet another one of our remarkable staff members.

With November on the horizon, the Kwanjula ceremony will come, this is a Buganda Culture event and introduction to married life. Their wedding vows will follow in December.

Their journey has been a testament to the power of connection and commitment, and we can't wait to witness the next chapter of Alon and Joan's story.

These weddings remind us that love knows no bounds and that the bonds we forge within our organization extend far beyond the professional realm.

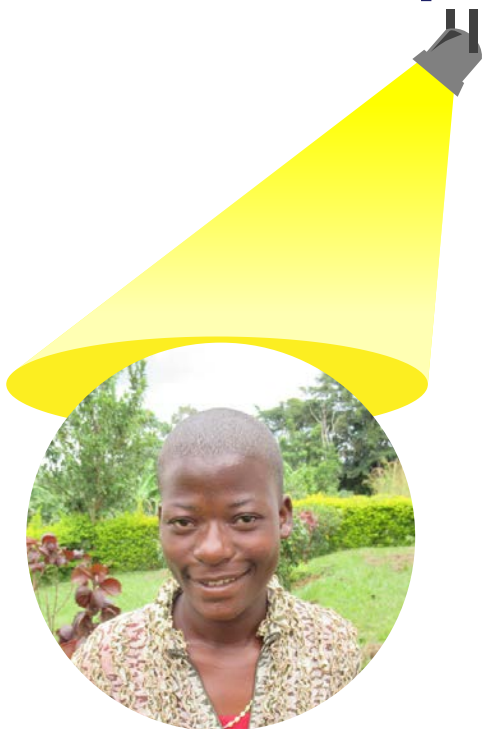
As we rejoice in the celebrations of AJ, Kari, and the upcoming festivities for Alon, we are reminded that CARITAS For Children is not just an organization; it's a family that grows with love, unity, and shared dreams in Christ.

Join us in raising a toast to love, new beginnings, and the harmonious symphony of life's milestones. Here's to AJ, Kari, and Alon - may their journeys be filled with endless love and joy, just as they have enriched ours.



Spotlight on Children in Need

*These girls have had sponsorships in the past but their sponsors are sadly unable to continue supporting them. **They are now in desperate need of new sponsors if they are to have a real chance of receiving an education.***



[Agnes Namutebi, 20](#)

Agnes is faced with a challenging situation as both of her parents are alive, but her father experienced a severe accident that left him permanently dependent on crutches. This life-altering incident has greatly affected the family's financial stability. Agnes's mother engages in small-scale farming, but their income is inadequate to cover important expenses such as school fees and basic necessities for Agnes. ([Read Full Story](#))

To help Agnes complete her secondary education, she will need:

- \$48 per month from one sponsor

Christine's father passed away, leaving behind four daughters and a wife who is HIV positive. She tries to take care of her children, but because of her illness she is very sick and unemployed, so she is unable to send the girls to school.

Because of this, Christine desperately needs a new sponsor so that she can stay in boarding school. ([Read Full Story](#))

For Christine to remain at the boarding school, she'll need

- \$120/month from one sponsor
- or \$60/month from two sponsors.



[Christine Namulindwa, 15](#)

Orphan Desperately Needs Boarding School

Elena is in a dire situation that our team is trying to remedy as soon as possible. Elena's mother passed away unexpectedly in 2019 when she was 8 years old. At that time, she was already in the CARITAS program along with her older brother and sister. Her brother, Elvin, decided to embark on his own life after his mother's passing, and her sister, Evelyn, has been blessed with a sponsor able to send her to boarding school.

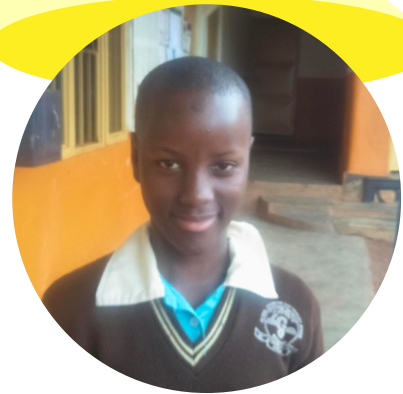
Elena was left alone and taken in by her maternal aunt. Elena is currently sponsored for day school, but the aunt who is young and single, has had a very hard time supporting Elena for the past four years. She is barely making ends meet, unable to put food on the table, and can no longer provide for Elena's needs.

Her aunt is begging CARITAS For Children to help send Elena to boarding school to be with her older sister, Evelyn. This solution will reunite the sisters, bring their aunt relief, and improve Elena's care, school performance, and happiness.

Elena is in need of one or two sponsors to assist in this unexpected increase in her school fees. This is an emergency situation and Elena needs the support desperately

For Elena to begin boarding school, she'll need

- \$120/month from one sponsor
- or \$60/month from two sponsors.



Recent Photo of Elena at her Day School Program



Photo of Elena when she first got sponsored with CARITAS

Sponsor
Elena Nakiganda, 12

