



Via CARITAS

Through God's Love

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Meet Alon: Sponsorship Coordinator in Uganda

By Genevieve Steigerwald

We were first introduced to Alon by some great friends of CARITAS who sponsored him through university to get his degree in Social Services. His sponsors recommended to Chris Hoar, our Founder, that we hire him right away because of **his passionate desire to serve and his personal experience of being sponsored!** We are very grateful for that suggestion as he has become an integral part of our ministry.

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Ever since Alon joined our team, he has worked tirelessly to help the children in our program, whether that means jumping on his motorcycle to search for a young girl who ran away from school or even getting registered as a taxi driver during the COVID-19 lockdowns so that he could take food to families on the verge of starvation. **There is no job too big or too small for Alon, and his dedication to our CARITAS ministry has blessed our programs immensely.**

Alon knows just about everything there is to know about our families and children in Uganda, and he gains the loving respect of everyone he works with.

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“He helps to keep families together, to build them up, to find solutions that make them self-reliant,” says Chris Hoar. **“He’s an extremely good example for the youth.”** We’d like to let you get to know him a little better while hearing directly from him about the impact he sees child sponsorship making in his country.

How does child sponsorship help?

Alon says that **“many of the people in our communities are unable to earn a dollar (\$1) a day yet whatever they do earn is all they have to feed, clothe and pay medical bills for their families.”** This leaves no money to send their children to school.

We also see many orphan children whose parents died of AIDS or other causes and become dependent on relatives who are

vulnerable themselves. **“They try their best to give shelter to these orphans but simply cannot support them in school. About 80% of our citizens are uneducated.”** Many times, whole families go hungry as they ration the very little they have. Through CARITAS, the burden of these guardians is reduced significantly, and the children are given the opportunity to break free from the cycle of poverty that they were born into.

“Child sponsorship has changed the lives of many children here,” Alon tells us. **“In the communities where we work, there would normally be a big number of school dropouts due to lack of tuition money. This affects both girls and boys - many girls end up getting pregnant at a very young age and the boys end up as peasants due to illiteracy or participate in crime for survival.”** *(Cont. on page 3)*



Alon sees this ministry as necessary support to eventually make such children become self-reliant: **“Sponsorship for these at-risk children has helped many of them go through the education system and go on to study in different fields, increasing the number of self-reliant citizens around the community, reducing the crime rate, building up self-confidence and moral understanding among our citizens, and creating a high rate of spiritual growth in the Catholic faith!”**



Our sponsorship programs and ministry would not be possible without the vitally important work done by Alon and our other ministry coordinators. They are the ones who encounter our brothers and sisters in need, face to face, and bring them into the fold of our global CARITAS family.



We all depend on them to navigate the different situations that arise in our program locations: **“In all of these stories and complications, Alon has been there,”** says Chris. **“He’s the glue that keeps us all together. He’s willing to be the good servant, but also the strong leader.”** Thank you Alon, for your dedication to our sponsors and children, and for helping to build up Communities of CARITAS!



CARITAS in Poland

By Genevieve Steigerwald

Even though CARITAS for Children no longer has a child sponsorship program in Poland, we continue to minister to the needs of our Polish brothers and sisters in different ways – and **we’d love to let you know what we’ve been working on recently.**

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One of the orphanages (or “Dom Dziecka”) with whom we’ve worked is run by the Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in a poor Warsaw suburb. **This particular house has been there since World War I, and run by the Little Servant since 1923!** This house has survived a Nazi takeover in World War II, and many other difficulties, but the Sisters have adhered to their **mission of serving poor orphaned children** all the way up to the present.



As the Polish government implemented stricter guidelines for social service organizations, the Sisters have found it difficult to keep up with the requirements for building standards. **The new building codes and facility requirements have placed a serious financial burden on the Sisters, as they discovered they needed to make some big renovations.** CARITAS was able to secure a grant from a large foundation for partial funding of the project, **and we are happy to report that they have been able to replace and update the extremely old heating and plumbing system, creating a more modern and much safer environment for the children!**



Now that international travel is starting to resume, there may be an opportunity for you or a friend to join CARITAS on a **Mission Trip and Pilgrimage to Częstochowa, Poland!** We have sent college students there on mission trips in the past and they had a great time in service with the Sisters. **If you are interested in working with children or teaching English, this could be the right fit for you!** It'll also be a great opportunity to make pilgrimages to the Shrine of **Our Lady of Częstochowa or the Divine Mercy Shrine in Kraków!** If you're interested, please contact us at [\[https://caritas.us/contact-us\]](https://caritas.us/contact-us) to talk about planning a trip to Poland!



Water Well Update

By Genevieve Steigerwald

Many of you will remember our campaign to raise money for a water well to irrigate Fr. Frank's farm; in fact, many of you contributed to the campaign, and for that, we are so grateful! **We wanted to give you an update on the progress of this massive project which has grown from its original plan.**

We discovered that besides providing water for the 24-acre farm, this Catholic Outreach project can yield even "more fruit." In the district where this farm is located, a total of 600 kilometers squared, is home to nearly 200,000 people. **This deepwater well will be the first of its kind ever in the area and has the capacity to serve the water needs of at least 3,000 families with over 60,000 liters of clean fresh water every day, at least.**

Being that the water well we are envisioning isn't a simple hand-dug borehole or a little well with a handpump, it requires much labor and equipment to ensure proper excavation and construction! **We have already chosen**

an experienced company in Uganda to be responsible for creating the deep well, and all the extra features and components that are needed to make this endeavor a success.

Fr. Frank tells us that they continue to move steadily forward with the farm work to provide food for the local children. **They have planted bananas, maize(corn), beans, cassava, and sweet potatoes, and have started rearing some chickens and rabbits on a small scale. When the water well is operational they hope to yield a larger harvest every year, and begin rearing pigs, cows, chickens, and ducks on a larger scale!** (Cont. on page 6)



These pictures are from the company whom we chose to build our water well. These pictures are just an example, not our Caritas water well.

Once the water well and the holding tanks are completed, this new resource will **ensure that Father Frank's Caritas farm is self-sustaining for the foreseeable future. Additionally, he will also generate a small income by providing clean water for the people who live nearby in hopes of keeping the well maintained and functioning for the long haul.** We are all very excited about how this project has come together and how it will serve the poorest of our brothers and sisters in Uganda.

Thanks to your kindness, and the generosity of our wonderful CARITAS friends who have matched your donations, **we have almost reached the fundraising goal to fully finance this Catholic outreach. We are now about \$1,800 short of the amount needed to fully fund this project.** In your charity, we ask you to consider helping us to reach this goal, and to share this campaign with your friends and family. Please [click here](#) to donate or share this project.



These pictures are an example of what our water pumps, filtration system, and spigots will look like. (Our plan is to have 8 spigots for the families in the area)

Software Upgrades to Look Forward to

by Arnold Lezcano

As you may have noticed, we have already launched our new website and added new software features to make communications between you and CARITAS, and between you and your child, easier and more efficient!

We have also upgraded the technology that our liaisons will use in our mission territories to make our communications with them more reliable.

During this next season, we will be working on adding several new features that you may find interesting. Very soon, we are planning for all our registered users to:

- 1. Get all your child's pictures and report cards sent to and stored in your own personal Caritas account.**
- 2. Chat online with a Caritas representative directly from our website.**
- 3. Choose which types of Newsletters, blogs, and email messages you would like to receive from us.**



We're so glad to be able to offer you an improved user experience to help you communicate with us and your sponsored children quickly and efficiently! If you have any suggestions or ideas that you would like to see happen, please [contact us](#) and let us know.

Want to see what our kids are up to?

CLICK TO FOLLOW US!



Spotlight: Two boys who want to be priests!

We'd like to share with you the story of two boys who are in need of sponsorship to possibly fulfill their desire for the priesthood.

Patrick lives with both his parents and two siblings. His mother is a peasant farmer who grows food to feed the family, and his father is a teacher at a local school who earns a small salary – enough to provide for their basic needs, but not enough to send his children to school.



Patrick Lumu,
8 years old

Patrick is a prayerful boy who loves learning about his faith and dreams about becoming a priest. A sponsorship will allow him to get the years of education he needs to become eligible to enter the minor seminary at age 14 to discern his vocation. This is a wonderful and unique opportunity for a sponsor to share God's love with a young boy and help foster his vocation to the priesthood! [Read more...](#)

Like so many other children in Uganda, Anthony was abandoned by his father. After he left, Anthony's mother was left to provide for her three sons and try to pay the rent for the room where they were living in. She began working as a washerwoman but it wasn't enough to pay the rent, and they were evicted!



Anthony Felix
Lubuuka,
10 years old

Anthony's mother took her children to live with their grandmother. She then left them there to look for work, but two years have passed and she has not returned, leaving the children abandoned by both parents. Their grandmother tries to care for the boys but has no way of sending them to school.

Despite having lived through so much abandonment, Anthony is a responsible and caring boy who looks after his brothers, and dreams of becoming a priest! Sponsorship will set him on the path to the priesthood if he is able to finish his education. [Read more...](#)