



HOME FREE NEWSLETTER



Allen, Program Manager, visits with Prossy and her children.

Home Free: Breaking Away from Orphanages

Two years ago, Prossy left an abusive husband and fled with her five young children.

With nowhere to go, she was forced to make a deal with a local man to work in his garden in exchange for shelter in an abandoned building, and a meal a day.

With no money, the children could no longer attend school.

One night, her estranged husband showed up and tried to strangle her and the children in their sleep.

Terrified and with little option but to give up her children,

Prossy turned to us for support.

With the help of the police, our social work team took legal action against her husband.

We provided emergency food, housing, and counselling.

Today, Prossy rents a small house for her family. With the help of a business grant, she supports her children through gardening and a village shop. She has even learned to bake banana pancakes, which she sells in her community.

Because of your generous support, Prossy was able to

keep her children out of an orphanage, and give them the love and care that only a family can provide.

Thank you for your support, and for helping children to grow up in loving families in Uganda.

Jenny Martin
Executive Director

Thank you to our generous donors, Michelle's Optical, Quest Art, Grass Roots, Standlith Design, and our volunteers who have kindly donated time and funds to support Home Free.

Four out of five children growing up in orphanages today have family, who with support, could care for them. We're on a mission to change that. We're breaking away from orphanages, by supporting children in families.



Your Support in Action



A microfinance group gathers for their weekly meeting.

Microfinance Grows x 4

We've added four new microfinance groups this year! This cost effective program continues to be a positive source of support for at-risk children and their families. Parents and guardians continue to cooperatively save their income, and take out loans to send children to school, to start family businesses, and to improve housing.

Here are a few highlights:

Mary used her savings to buy a cow to provide milk and income for her family;

Zubeda used her savings, and income from a business started through a Home Free grant, to build a new house for her children;

Joan used a loan to purchase new bedding for her family; and

Ruth took out a loan to pay school fees for her children.

All are caring for children at-risk, including nieces and nephews, grandchildren and foster children. These new microfinance groups bring our total microfinance reach to 3825 children and 1530 parents and guardians.

We keep children out of orphanages by helping them to grow up in loving families, and by providing them with the support they need to thrive at home.

We are reaching 6000 + children and parents through:

Microfinance - Business Grants and Training - Emergency Support - Medical Care
Child Protection - Community Policing - Foster Care - Family Reunification



Samuel and Joshua reunited with their mother and siblings

“Being with my children is the best thing I can offer them.”

- Reunification Success Story

Samuel and Joshua were five and seven when their dad died. Their mom, unable to provide for them or send them to school, sent them to an orphanage in hopes of a better future.

For two years, the brothers grew up alone and neglected in an institution.

Separated from his mother, Joshua started to wet the bed. The orphanage workers routinely punished the five-year-old by making him wash his clothes and sheets by himself.

The children were only given one daily meal. When another child at the orphanage stole corn meal, an orphanage worker lit a plastic bag on fire, intentionally burning the child’s hands.

Despite numerous attempts, their mother was only allowed to visit them once in two years. She found her children malnourished. Yet, the orphanage refused to let them return home.

This summer a partner organization helped to free the children from the orphanage, and today, the boys are happily reunited with their mother and four siblings.

Their mother regrets sending them to the institution and says, “I can’t provide everything they need, but being with my children is the best thing I can offer them.”

With your support, we are helping Samuel and Joshua’s mother to start a small business and are providing counselling to help the children overcome the early trauma in their lives.

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Your Support in Action

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However, Samuel and Joshua are still at-risk. The family is impoverished, and their mother is unable to send them to school and to provide them with basic necessities. We are looking for child sponsors for both children in order to provide them a secure future with their mother.

If you are able to sponsor Samuel or Joshua, please contact us.

Note: The orphanage where the children lived is being closed by local authorities. All 29 children are being reunited with parents or extended family. We have an urgent need for child sponsors to help 12 of the children receive the support they need to grow up with their families.



Article in the New Vision, Uganda, 2018.

Families Not Orphanages

With a vision of caring for children in families, and protecting them from the harm of institutional care, Uganda has begun to close 569 unlicensed orphanages. It is a huge initiative, and one that is critical to the health and safety of the children involved. Over 85% of children in institutions have family, and most have been separated because of poverty. We are supporting this initiative through our family care model and community programs.



Your Support in Action



Hanna and Grace with their foster mom Hope.

“When are you bringing us Home?” - Foster Care Success Story

Hanna and Grace were referred to us by a local organization, who were concerned about their safety. The sisters were living in a home with violence, substance abuse and neglect. Their parents could not safely care for them, and they had to be removed from the family home. With no suitable extended family, our social work team began the search for a foster family. This spring, we found a match. Hope is an adoptive mother, a teacher, and a strong and compassionate woman. Most importantly, she is eager to care for Hanna and Grace.

To help the sisters, and their foster mother to get to know each other, our social work team set up several visits. After only a few, the girls started excitedly asking, “When are you bringing us home?”

This summer, Hanna and Grace moved into their new home with their foster mother. They are making new friends, and going to school together. Hope tells us that every day the girls eagerly await her arrival, and when she does, they give her a big hug, and tell her how much they love her.

We Believe in Working Together

Alternative Care Initiatives, Child’s I Foundation, Wellspring Medical Centre, CORSU, and Kitovu Hospital help to support children and families in our programs.



Child Sponsorship & Contact

NEW: Child Sponsorship

Joshua is seven and was reunited with his mom after spending two years in an orphanage.

Joshua is happy to be home, but he is still at-risk. His family is poor, and struggles to provide him the basics.

We are looking for a special individual to sponsor Joshua, so that he can go to school and get the support he needs to grow up with his family.

You can sponsor Joshua for \$39 / a month. We will send you a welcome package and photo, as well as an annual update and photo on his progress.

To help Joshua, or another at-risk child, please contact us. We have 12 children waiting to be placed with loving families through our sponsorship program.



Joshua, age seven.



NEW: Looking For A Meaningful Christmas Gift?

Buy an online gift - like a goat or medical care - and help a child to grow up in a loving family.

www.home-free.org

We Are Home Free · Charitable Registration # 796342723 RR0001

99 Tiny Beaches Rd. N. Tiny, ON L0L 2J0 · 613-805-9409

info@home-free.org · www.home-free.org