

“Providing basic human needs and dignity for all through prayer and acts of love.”

Share the Blessings, Inc. is a recognized non-profit organization under section 501 (c) 3 of the International Revenue Code, FEIN 14-1882445

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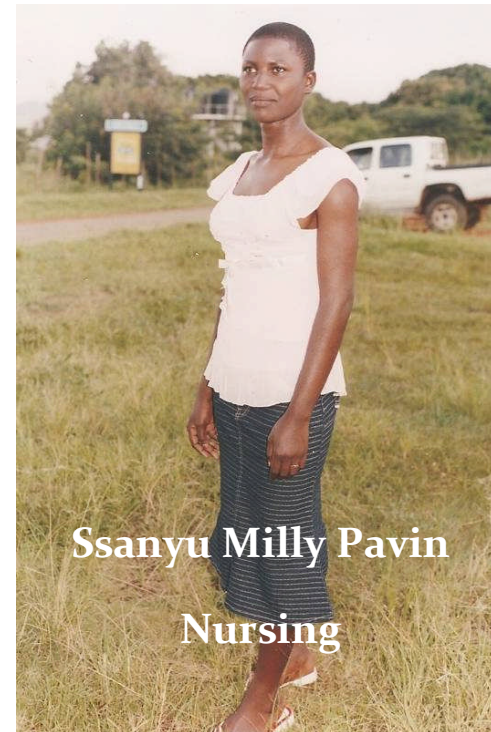
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Cary, NC 27519

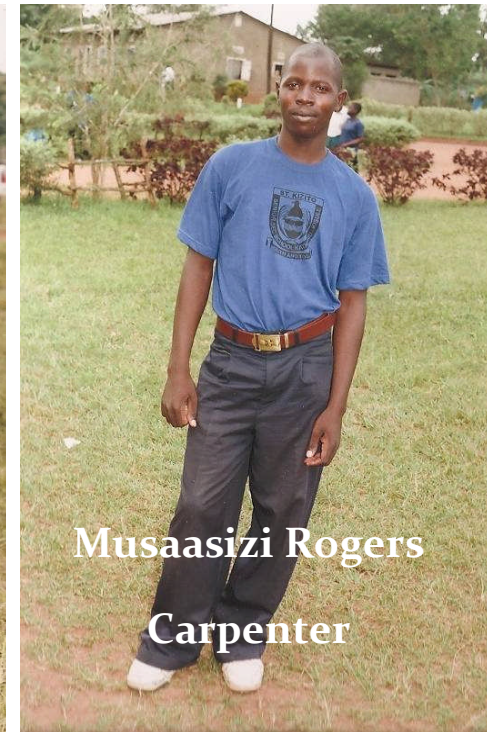
Share the Blessings will be completing our 15th and 16th clean water wells in 2011. Thanks to all of our supporters!

Greetings from Sisters and children of Kyasira Home of Hope. The children are finalizing their end of term 1 2011 exams. We thank you for what you did for us by providing us with clean water. Sincerely the rate of sicknesses has decreased.

Sr. Immaculate



Ssanyu Milly Pavin
Nursing



Musaasizi Rogers
Carpenter

**Congratulations
to our 2011
Vocational School
graduates!**

share.

Summer 2011

I missed the Easter Vigil service this year, and so missed one of my favorite parts of the service: the procession of the elect to the baptism font for their baptism. We do full immersion at my church, and so there is a lot of excitement to see adults fully immersed in the font, and emerging from it, all wet – with the congregation joining in with a chorus of “Alleluias”. On Easter Vigil, one is able to see more clearly the full power of the waters of baptism, which make us Children of God. It all happens through “water”, something many of us take for granted.

But not in many parts of Africa, where the need for water is acute. It is mostly the women and children who collect water, often walking for over an hour to come to a water source to collect stagnant and dirty water. Many fall sick after drinking the water, even when they take precaution to boil it. The need is so great. But one of my greatest memories is the commissioning of the first borehole built by Share the Blessings in a village in Uganda. This was in the summer of 2003. A line of people with empty water containers formed as we waited for the final pipe to be installed so that the water could be pumped. As the first gush of water came out, everybody clapped and shouted with joy. The people rushed forward to collect the water. Some drank with their open palms, others washed their faces; others filled their containers.

As I drove back to the university that evening following the commissioning, I felt a sense of joy, but I also felt a sense of helplessness thinking how insignificant this one – just **one** – borehole in this poor part of Africa was in the midst of such overwhelming need for water! But then it dawned on me. This was a ‘sign’ – just like baptism! How small, how simple the water of baptism is, yet how powerful and eternally significant! The significance of baptism does not lie in the quantity of water; the significance is in the sign. This one well was not going to solve all the water problems of Africa, but it was a sign of something bigger – a connection between the people of Malube, Uganda and people living in the U.S., evidence of our oneness as children of God. That is when I saw the full significance of the STB water ministry. It was less about need, and more about the sign of the abundance of God’s grace that connects the children in Africa with the children in America, and draws us all together into a new family, where we are now more able to see and embrace each other and each other’s needs as our own. In the process, the lives of women and children in Africa are made easier.

Fr. Emmanuel

Katongole

GIVING HOPE ... Meet John Fitzgerald, Share the Blessings' Information Technology Committee Chair

What happens when you take what you know how to do well and put it forth towards bettering the lives of others? You give hope! John Fitzgerald is one shining example:

“...allow me to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous hand and wisdom extended to our institution. Your assistance has greatly taken us ahead in achieving our goal to expand our services to the community. It has given us more **hope** to do more and put in our efforts without fear ...”

Rev. Fr. Galiwango Robert
St James Bbiina Catholic Parish, Kampala Uganda
July 20, 2010



In 2002, John went to Uganda on the inaugural Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope. As he took in all that he saw, he realized that when it came to education in Uganda, where there were computers they were mostly nonfunctional. John, an engineer with Cisco, couldn't help but think that it would be simple for him help out. Since that time, he has repaired and transported almost 100 computers to multiple Ugandan schools. Recipients have included the Maria Goretti Girls Vocational Training School and the Luweero Cathedral School. Fr. Joseph Kazooka, the Ugandan coordinator of our student sponsorship program, was able to build a lab at one of the schools, and he and John developed curriculum to teach the children. The Bbiina computer center in Kampala was started when a young man named Basil told John that if he would teach him how to do the maintenance on the computers, he would voluntarily keep up the lab. John taught him, and Basil is still there. The center teaches basic computer training, Microsoft Office, and keyboarding to people in the community. They have also been able to introduce a "Certificate in Electronics and Repairs" program aimed at improving their student's skills to be "job creators." The center's motto is "entrance to learn, exit to work."

John began with this inspiration, "I knew that I could do it, and I saw a real benefit for the children." He didn't come home and develop a multi-year plan, he simply began to do the next best thing he could: he asked around for used computer donations, set up a space in his basement to refurbish them, and started carrying them over to Uganda a few at a time. On their first delivery trip, he and his wife, Donna, packed 10 desktop computers without the monitors in their luggage. Seven made it. They were able to purchase monitors in Uganda and get a school equipped with "new" computers for their students. In the last few years, The Pantry, operators of Kangaroo Express convenience stores in the Southeast has been donating old laptops. John and Donna cart suitcases of those refurbished laptops to Uganda multiple times a year.

John is a friendly, quiet man who has made a huge impact with little fanfare. John says, "The best thing about doing this is seeing the faces of the people when you give the computers to them. Whatever time I put into it is well worth it for that 5-10 minutes." He just took what he knows how to do, and put it to the service of others. What gifts do you have to share?



A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT, Ed Collupy: I've had the opportunity recently to look back at how Share The Blessings came to be and believe it is all about connecting. For those of us who traveled with Fr. Emmanuel Katongole on his first group visit to his homeland, Uganda, we connected with one another in a circle on the day of our departure home at the airport gate. It was there with our minds filled with what we left behind in Kampala, Nakasongola, and Malube, that we would find a way to stay connected to not only the overwhelming experience but to the people we had met.

Since then, Share The Blessings through your generous support of prayers and gifts has certainly been able to make a difference to so many friends - individuals, villages, schools - in many different ways. Tuition assistance, clean water wells, Personal Computers to name a few. The difference beyond these material gifts is that we've stayed involved with those we met on the many journeys people have made to Uganda and the people they have connected with.

As I look forward to what's next for Share The Blessings I am committed even more to building stronger relationships and creating connections that can make an even bigger difference. I am excited about the work some Share The Blessings volunteers have completed so far to establish a student sponsorship program that we will launch in the Fall – watch your mail for more info.

The stories of how being connected to those thousands of miles away are amazing – I can see Fr. Tony smiling as he tells me how a well can make a difference in hundreds of people's lives...I can hear John Fitzgerald's excitement as he turns a PC on for the first time in a classroom full of students...I feel the peace of Frs. Simon & Sylvester as they refresh on retreat from the pains of Gulu in Northern Uganda...I know firsthand the joy of a young boy's yearning to learn more about the world beyond his village school.

You make a difference! We need to stay connected with each other and our friends in Uganda. Help me, as I begin our next journey of strengthening our relationships by first sending me your email address and when you have a minute a story about how Share The Blessings is your connection to those in need. Hope to hear from you soon at: stbedcollupy@yahoo.com.

Connect With Us!

- ☐ I would like to share the gift of education
- ☐ I would like to share the gift of clean water
- ☐ I would like to help with other projects (computers, Maria Goretti girl's vocational training center)

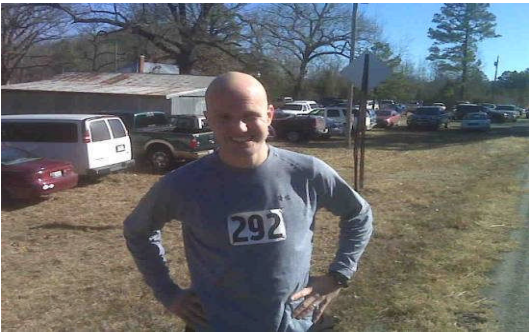
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**Please make checks payable to *Share the Blessings*
and mail to PO Box 3024, Cary NC 27519**



Fundraising Highlights

2nd STB Community Yard Sale raised \$1600. for girl's vocational training

Jay Carney's Annual Run for Uganda raised over \$4000. & our Annual Dinner and Silent Auction raised over \$5100 for children's education

St. Michael's – Green Hope Community raised \$4000. for Water Harvesting

THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED AND CONTRIBUTED!!!