



Retail Orphan Initiative
Helping Vulnerable Children Worldwide
www.RetailROI.org

Case Study

RetailROI Helps Share the Blessings, Inc. Make Education Possible in Uganda

Share the Blessings, Inc. is a non-profit organization committed to promoting dignity for those in the Majority World by responding to basic human needs with prayer and acts of charity. Since 2003, Share the Blessings has been replacing mud holes in Ugandan villages with clean water wells and providing education for orphans and vulnerable children in central Uganda. Additionally, Share the Blessings partners with an adult education center in Tarija, Bolivia and works to raise awareness about the interconnectedness of the human family.

With the help of RetailROI, Share the Blessings is providing tuition, board and supplies for 50 children in Uganda's Nakasongola and Luweero districts. Most of these children, known collectively as the Saint Francis Group, have lost one or both of their parents to AIDS, malaria, accidents or war. Students whose parents are still living but exceptionally poor are also eligible to participate in the Saint Francis Group when it is found that their parents cannot support them in school. At present, forty-one of the fifty children are orphans; the remaining nine are living in extreme poverty.

During the 2009 school year, 13 children in the Saint Francis Group are in primary school, 20 are in secondary school, and 17 are attending tertiary institutions. One of the primary goals of Share the Blessings' education sponsorship program is to promote self-reliance by equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary for work. Graduation from secondary school and enrollment in a tertiary institution—be it a vocational school, teachers, business or technical college—is critical for success in Uganda, where the primary school completion rate is estimated at 56 percent (UNESCO, 2005). Secondary school enrollment

falls to 18 percent, and only 3.5 percent of students go on to receive a diploma from a tertiary institution (World Bank, 2008). Since they began its sponsorship program, seven students have graduated and are completely self-reliant. They are employed as tailors, administrative assistants, shopkeepers and carpenters.



In addition to receiving education, the children in the sponsorship program learn that they have a loving God who cares for them, and they begin to understand the connection they share with others around the world.

To find out how you can help RetailROI, go to:

retailroi.org/Donate.aspx

To find out more about Share the Blessings, go to:

www.share-the-blessings.org