



NEWSLETTER

2010/2011

It's not as if there aren't other agencies working with orphans. Many have felt the call and compassion to reach out to those without parents, but at Orphans Know More, we approach this task from a slightly different angle.

Our mission is to partner with families raising children they've taken under their wing, to give them back their identity, to free them from the stigma of "AIDS orphan."

So pick up this newsletter and discover the ways OKM gives orphans a face, a family, and a future.

INSIDE

Vision, Mission, and Values
our guiding principles

What Does OKM Do?
the basics

Staff Bios
who we are

Ruth's Choice
one woman does her part

Rose's Story
a life turns around

Harvesting Water
serving in a practical way

Debit Like Declan
even a little bit can help

Campaigns and Events
how to get involved



Vision

Orphans Know More is a relationally-based partnership working together to give orphans a face, a family, and a future.

Mission

Dispelling the myth of a faceless crisis

Statistics like 12 million orphans in Africa can be mind- and heart-numbing. Rather than motivated, we are unmoved or become overwhelmed. OKM wants to dispel the myth of a faceless crisis by relating to real children and families, each with their own story of loss and restored hopes and aspirations.

Strengthening families caring for orphans & vulnerable children

OKM focuses on families, not institutions. Family and extended family are vital.

Orphans and vulnerable children are freed from the stigma and prejudice of labels such as “AIDS orphan” as they become valued members of a new family.

Awakening hope and equipping children to develop their potential

Children are amazingly resilient but repeated suffering, tragedy, and loss can lock down hope for a better future.

We work through counsellors, social workers, and workshops to help children and their families regain their hope and develop their God-given potential. Children can realize their significant place in society through opportunities for consistent learning as we fund primary, secondary, vocational and college education.



Values

- Restoring dignity**
- Working relationally**
- Recognizing uniqueness**
- Sustainable commitment**
- Creating belonging**

Orphans Know More strengthens families caring for children in a holistic way. We operate as a ministry of the international charity Youth With A Mission.

Orphans Know More believes that the best way to tackle the international orphan crisis is to care for children in families. Over the course of almost 20 years, Sam and Irene Kisolo, former HIV/AIDS counsellors, have taken many orphans into their family alongside their own 4 biological children. They also care for many others in the wider community. Some of these former orphans are now grown.

We asked Sam why he feels that adoption, rather than opening more orphanages, is of such importance. He replied, “Placing children in families gives them the right to be children again. They no longer have to live with the stigma of being an orphan, but become a child again as a part of a family.”

The Jinja Region in Southern Uganda is where Orphans Know More has its pilot project. 19 local families care for 138 children as their own, offering love, acceptance and care without condition. These families still function as a nuclear unit free from institutionalization, inspiring hope that this model can be replicated on a larger scale. Stronger families within the network also care

for other families who may be headed by a widow who is HIV positive. In this way we can partner together to strengthen more families who care for orphans and vulnerable children.



What We Do

Orphans Know More supports African families we know personally who have adopted orphans. Our pilot partnership is with Ugandan families who began responding to the needs of those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

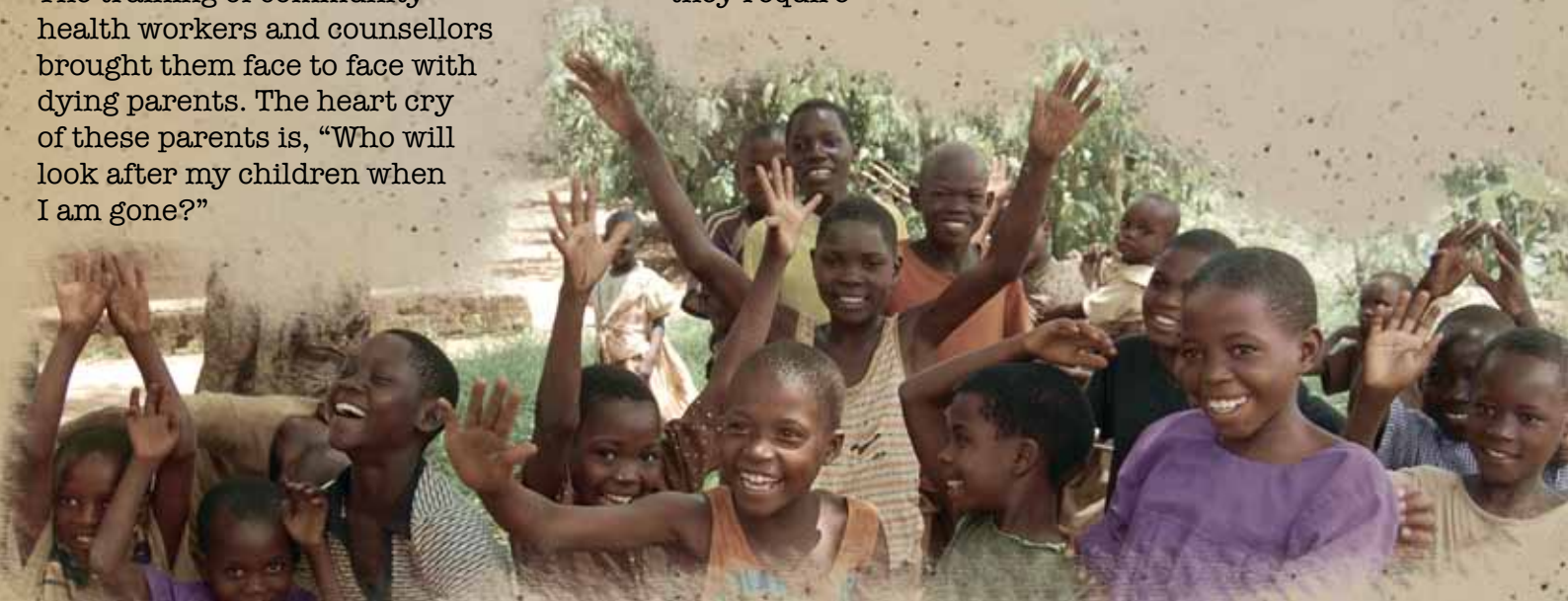
The training of community health workers and counsellors brought them face to face with dying parents. The heart cry of these parents is, “Who will look after my children when I am gone?”

Orphans Know More sets out to:

- ✓ Increase the standard of living for these families
- ✓ Ensure that all children are able to attend school, have appropriate nutrition, and live in adequate housing
- ✓ Guarantee that all children who are unwell with HIV/AIDS or other ailments are receiving the treatment they require

- ✓ Give 100% of money raised directly into these areas as well as funding a local social worker to assess the needs of the children and the care they are receiving

It is our hope that people in the West will become linked to developing communities across the world, taking on their needs as if they were our local neighbours.





John & Suzi

John and Suzi Peachey, together with their four children, started Orphans Know More. In 2005, in a crowded room, their eight-year old daughter leaned over and whispered, “Daddy, God just spoke to me! He said I will care for orphans and the poor, and write children’s books and illustrate them.” From the early days with the kids selling homemade salad dressing to neighbours, on to involving friends, recruiting volunteer staff, and visiting the Ugandan children the Peachey’s have dedicated themselves to bringing help to their new Ugandan friends.

Staff Bios

Sosthene Maletougou hails from Central African Republic and is married to **Kara** from Montana, USA. They are in England for a period of practical learning, study and mentorship but their sights are set on moving to CAR. Their vision? “Our heart is to be a voice for the voiceless and to help the hungry ones fish for themselves.”



Sosthene & Kara



Stacey

Stacey Wright is the feisty little Texan in our OKM team. Qualified with a B.A. in Business Administration she has experience in event coordination, recruitment, sales and developing teams. She has a passion for demonstrating and declaring God’s value for individuals and particularly for abandoned or orphaned children and women who are caught up in exploitation through human trafficking.



Ruth's Choice

Choice—the luxury we forget we have! Everyone knows about the “credit crunch” and some of us are experiencing the reality of recession—job-hunting, tightening the belt, holidaying at home, cutting out luxuries. Some might say, “It’s best to look out for yourself and your family, that’s what’s important.”

But for Ruth, a mother of four, the current demands have made her look beyond her own circumstances and see a need greater than hers.

Sitting in a coffee shop Ruth spotted an Orphans Know More newsletter and started reading it. The articles about the orphans, the poor, and the hungry touched her and she felt she’d like to help in some way. “I could give up a meal per day and donate its cost, which would not affect our family’s budget, but allow me a way of expressing love to these children” Ruth decided.

Each month she faithfully sends OKM the money she has put aside from her missed meals. From time to time, Ruth has wondered about stopping but says, “Every time I consider stopping, I think of ‘my new children’ and carry on. I **choose** to miss out on food. They have no choice!”

Food is something many of us don’t think twice about. There’s plenty to choose from, easy

access to grocery stores, and dining out or picking up a take-away meal is always an option.

For our 19 families in Uganda, it’s quite different—none of these are choices they have. Food can take hours to prepare over open fires, let alone the hours of labour needed to dig, plant and grow a crop. They depend on good weather conditions for a decent harvest. Some of the families even have trouble protecting their young maize and bean plants from monkeys! They eat the same food most days, and two meals a day is not unusual.

From her experience of daily fasting, Ruth acknowledges, “I am now ashamed if I use the expression, ‘I’m starving,’ because all I really ever am is peckish.”



So even though the times might be harder we can still be thankful for the luxury of choice.

Rose's Story

A father who died of AIDS, a mother struggling with life challenges and a determined daughter working in a bar as a means of survival...this was the life of Rose.

Sounds like the beginning to a dramatic saga; but actually, it's the ending of a bitter cycle. When all things seem as though they are turning for the worse, in reality it can ultimately have a positive outcome.

Rose, now 23, was just 9 years old and starting Primary Three, when her father passed away with AIDS in 1995. Rose's struggle, along with her mother and siblings, was to find a means

of survival. But Rose wanted to continue her education as well. Education is a privilege and is much desired by African children. They see it as the means to achieve their dreams and goals, the desires of their hearts.

Although education is supposed to be free, there are additional costs. Often families cannot afford primary education for their children, let alone secondary or further education. And for orphans, it can seem impossible.

With OKM's help Rose was able to complete university with a first class degree. She recently married, and she and her husband committed in their wedding vows to help other orphans.



Harvesting Water

Uganda: It's 5 o'clock in the morning. Esther Sarah wakes her younger brother and sister up for their morning routine before going to school. That routine, necessary for their family's survival, is walking long distances to collect water.

Most women and children walk two to three miles a day just to fetch water for domestic use (drinking, washing dishes and clothes, and cooking food). This vital water can come from swampy or polluted sources.



WATER FACTS (Source: WaterAid)

- * Every 15 seconds a child dies from a water-related disease = 4 deaths per minute.
- * About a third of people without access to an improved water source live on less than £0.70 (\$1.12) a day. More than two thirds of people without an improved water source live on less than £1.40 (\$2.25) a day.
- * The daily requirement for sanitation, bathing, and cooking needs, as well as for assuring survival, is about 13.2 gallons per person.

Aisha, an OKM widow who is HIV positive told us: "Fetching water is one of the challenges I face. From my home to the water is a long distance, and I find it hard to fetch water when the children go to school."

“My children wake up early in the morning to collect water, but this is risky for the girls because they could be easily raped or kidnapped,” said Olivia, another OKM widow with HIV.

These are not unusual stories within the Ugandan community, but for our OKM families there has been a spark of hope changing that daily routine.

OKM received a financial grant to purchase water tanks and gutters that makes it possible for 9 of our 18 families to harvest rainwater from the roofs of their own homes. It costs about £400 (\$650) to buy and install gutters and a water tank for a house.

None of these tanks are piped into homes, but access to clean water, the ability to live more efficiently and creating a safer environment for children, has made a dramatic impact on their lives.

The tanks are very useful during the two rainy seasons, but during the dry season women and children must once again walk to fetch water.

Though the tanks have made a huge difference. We still have more families who need rainwater harvesting tanks.





Three years ago, Declan was thirteen and took on his first paid job, delivering newspapers. At the same time Declan heard about Orphans Know More.

debit like declan...

“I started earning some money for myself and I thought that there were people

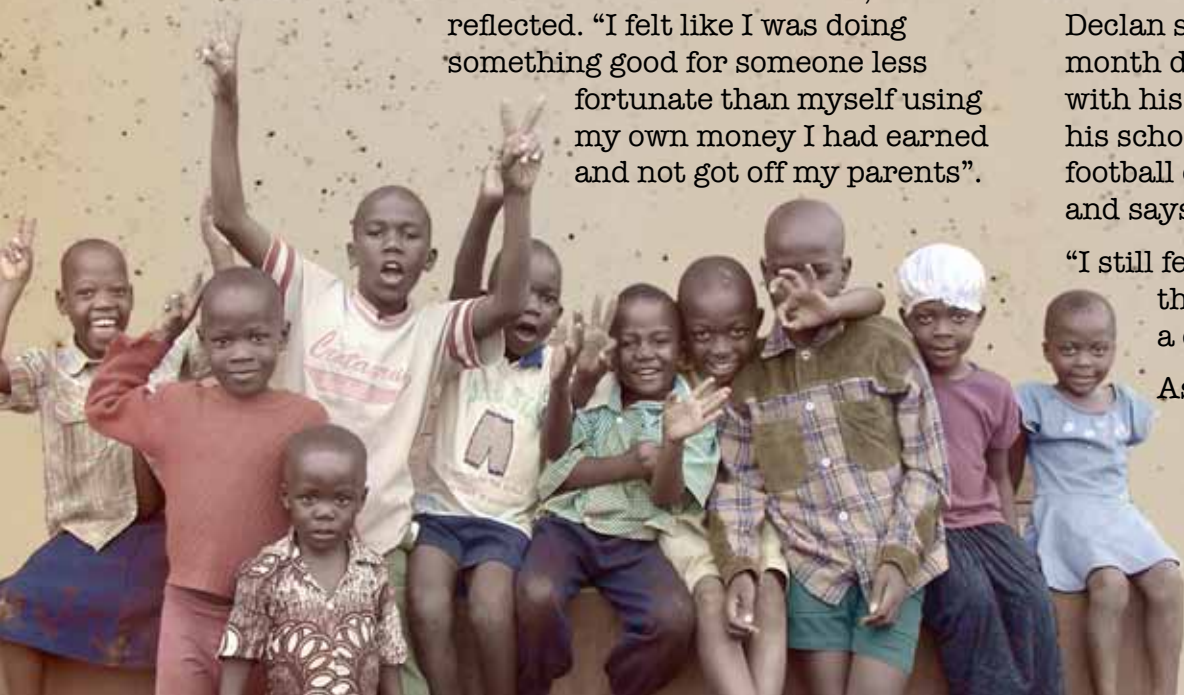
who needed it more than me,” Declan reflected. “I felt like I was doing something good for someone less fortunate than myself using my own money I had earned and not got off my parents”.

“OKM caught my interest,” he continued, “as you help orphans. It struck me that if I were an orphan I wouldn’t know what to do. I’d feel helpless and lost in the world. So I felt compelled to do something for orphans as I can only imagine how hard it must be.”

It’s been three years now since Declan set up a £4 (\$7) per month direct debit. He’s kept up with his paper round alongside his school studies and local football club commitments and says:

“I still feel like I’m helping and that my money is making a difference.”

Asked what he’d say to others considering giving, Declan replied: “Go for it! You’d be making a massive difference to people’s lives. So just go for it!”



1. The Gift Menu

Available year-round, this is a selection of 10 items needed by the Ugandan families. Here's a different way to celebrate friends' special occasions whilst sending a ton of love a very long way!



Action option 1:

Keep a Gift Menu at the ready!

How to Get Involved

2. Egg-ucation

Truancy is not an issue with our Ugandan kids! They are actually desperate to be in school. From Valentine's Day up to Easter Day, the Egg-ucation campaign really gets the creative juices going!



Action option 2:

Get your friends to come up with a unique egg-themed fund-raiser! (Your idea might even feature on our website!)

3. Debit Like Declan

Our primary campaign for 2010! Declan began giving regularly from the age of 13. We invite new donors to give the same amount Declan does, £4 (\$7) per month.



Action option 3:

Sign up to give £4 (\$7) per month today!

4. Pounds for Pairs

Count up how many pairs of shoes you own currently. Through your teens, how many pairs of shoes did you get through? Any idea? Our Ugandan kids need pairs of school shoes and uniforms to attend school and as they grow more are needed.



Action option 4:

Use a few pounds to give a few pairs!



Working together to give orphans a face, a family, and a future.

In the UK:

Orphans Know More
Highfield Oval
Harpenden, Herts
AL5 4BX

+44 (0) 1582 463243
www.orphansknowmore.com
orphans@oval.com

In the UK: 100% of your gift goes directly to Africa.

Orphans Know More is a ministry of Youth With a Mission. Registered Charity No: 264078

In the US:

Orphans Know More
1221 Hancock Ave
Sarasota, FL 34232

011 44 1582 463243
www.orphansknowmore.com
orphans@oval.com

In the US: 100% of your donation received by OKM (after CDP's transaction charge) goes to Africa.

Orphans Know More - USA, a project of Congressional District Program, Inc. a registered 501 (c) (3) public charity. All donations are tax-deductible.



YOUTH WITH A MISSION