



# INTERNATIONAL CHILD ADVANCEMENT

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## Bollywood Dance Class

Last Saturday ICA held its very first virtual event, where \$228 was raised. Thank you to all who attended and donated! We hope you had as much fun as we did!

All funds raised from this event will go towards our 2020 Capital Campaign. Learn more about it here: [ICA 2020 Capital Campaign](#)

## FREE VIRTUAL BOLLYWOOD DANCE CLASS!

SATURDAY MAY 9TH, 2020

2:00 - 3:00 PM

ZOOM INVITE UPON RSVP

RSVP [Info@childadvancement.org](mailto:Info@childadvancement.org)

Instructor: Sri Haritha Thimmaraju

Professional Indian Classical Dancer

DONATION OPTIONAL TEXT: DANCE2EDUCATE TO 44-321



## GUAOA Orphanage Update

**Health:** Presently the children are in good health, none of them have Corona virus or Ebola.

**Quarantine:** The schools are presently closed due to Coronavirus as a result of guidance from the government. Some school leaders spend the day at work to receive tuition payments from parents for their children while they await the tentative re-opening of schools scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup>. If schools do not open May 18<sup>th</sup> the next proposed date is June 2<sup>nd</sup>, unless informed otherwise.

**Free K-6 Education:** DRC's President; Felix Tchisekedi Tchilombo had announced free tuition in the DRC. This announcement was made when the school year was already in progress. This is applicable to public schools and only primary schools (not secondary schools), thus grades K-6. Although free education was announced, there are many hurdles the Government must first address: how will they pay the teachers, verification that teachers are certified and trained, and the process by which they will increase the number of public schools in the DRC - these efforts can take years.

If you have any questions regarding these updates, please do not hesitate to contact us: [info@childadvancement.org](mailto:info@childadvancement.org)



## Sponsor News

**Thanks to your donations, we were able to cover 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester tuition payments for 16 non-sponsored orphans!**

We are also excited to announce that we have paired Benedicte with an Educational Sponsor, our very own Associate Director Ray Kemp Sr. has committed to paying for her Freshman year in college!

Benedicte graduated High School in 2019 thanks to your generous donations. She's been praying for the opportunity to attend I.S.A.M. College in the city of Goma (DRC) where she can study Fashion Design. Her prayers have been answered; she will begin her Freshman year in the fall of 2020!

We thank Benedicte's new Sponsor for committing to her advancement!!

#NewSponsorPairing!

"THANK YOU FOR BELIEVING IN ME!"

Benedicte

# GUAOA Vocational Program Updates

## Sewing Program

GUAOA started off 2019 with 3 sewing machines, but in February 2019, one of those machines were no longer operable; we were grateful to receive a \$250 donation to replace it. Last year, 15 orphans opted to enroll in the program. Thanks to the training they received, they were able to solicit clients and render their services. They made a total of \$700 in 2019 which helped them cover program costs, pay for a conference room to work out of whenever the room was not donated, and most importantly it helped cover the 15 children's day-to-day needs and contribute towards the purchase of food. We hope to raise additional funds to expand this program by purchasing additional machines which will allow people in the community to take classes from skilled GUAOA children where they can charge a small fee in addition to making funds from sewing. This will ensure our mission of empowering them to become self-sufficient is realized.

### SUCCESS STORY

One of our Sewing Program success stories is **Aline**. Aline graduated High School in 2015 thanks to a Sponsor in Goma. She completed our Vocational Training Sewing program in 2018. She now teaches other orphans to sew and has clients of her own which helps her make a living. Aline recently got married in 2019!



## Computer Training Program

This program is being run with 5 computers, and a printer where the orphans learn how to use Microsoft office and the internet. In 2019, 10 children enrolled and completed the program. With this program, our goal is to raise funds to purchase additional computers, another printer and a scanner to not only train more orphans but also create an opportunity where children that have completed the program, can charge those in the community who want to learn and some of the computers can be used for a Cyber Café. This Cyber Café will help people in the community who do not own a computer (the majority of the population), to pay for the use of the computer and printing services (similar to a FedEx Office Center). Funds they make will allow them to cover their operating costs and livelihood provisions.

## Agricultural Program

Thanks to an anonymous Donor, we were able to purchase a small plot of land in 2019 where GUAOA has been able to grow vegetables. In 2019, 11 children enrolled in the program and were able to harvest twice that year. During their first harvest, they were able to provide a meal for 66 orphans and during the 2<sup>nd</sup> harvest they were able to feed 77 children. With this program, we hope to raise funds to purchase an additional plot of land in order to increase production. Our goal with this program is for GUAOA to grow enough food to feed all the orphans and have the ability to sell any surplus to cover this program's expenses.



## Your Donations at Work!

When it was announced that NY state was putting into place a stay at home order, we had no choice but to cancel 2 of our scheduled fundraiser events. We reached out to you, seeking assistance from those that were able. As a result, we raised \$875, for that we Thank You Very Much!! \$875 may seem like a little to some but it is a huge deal to the children of GUAOA! This is how your contributions have helped them:



Room rented for 6 months where GUAOA can conduct the computer training and sewing programs. This gives them space to run the programs 5 days a week on a consistent basis as opposed to when a business is willing to let them use a conference room sporadically.



Getting more than one meal a day continues to be a struggle for GUAOA due to limited funds but thanks to your donations, beans, peas, potatoes, corn and oil have been purchased which will sustain the children for approximately 11 days:



## GUAOA Child Special Feature



### Arielle Muyuwana

Arielle is 17 years old. She is one of the 15 children enrolled in ICA's vocational sewing program launched in 2017. When asked what he wants to accomplish in the future and what impact she would like to have in his country and/or the world, Arielle answered:

*"I am in the Sewing Program to gain some skills so that I can start my own business. With money I make from the business, I will help my country and provide food for orphans."*



## Other Ways You Can Help

2020  
CAPITAL  
CAMPAIGN

This year, our goal is to raise \$20,000 to purchase a small building, an additional plot of land, sewing machines, computers, additional equipment, and supplies to expand our three Vocational Training Programs.

Will you join us in giving the children of GUAOA Orphanage a Hand Up (Not a Hand Out)? All donations (no matter the size) are welcome! You can donate by texting GIVE2ICA to 44-321. Thank You!



**amazon smile**  
You shop. Amazon gives.

When you shop at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com), .5% of your purchases will go towards supporting our mission!

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!

TELL EVERYONE YOU KNOW ABOUT OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN!  
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY, NEIGHBORS AND CO-WORKERS TO LEAN MORE!

**BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT**

Stay Tuned for More Info!

## ICA Updates



**Liz Wilhelm**

Liz has been on our Finance Team since 2017! On May 1<sup>st</sup>, she transitioned to her new position as an ICA Board Member. Liz is an Organizational Change Manager who will bring much needed skills in helping us advance on a stronger and more streamlined footing.



**Maya Mbukapindu**

Maya has accepted the position of volunteer Social Innovation Director. Her background is in health care management and clinical research where she recommends changes, and brings projects to completion. She will use her experience and skills to oversee and enhance our Penpal & Mentoring programs, and our Vocational Training programs.

### New Board Members



**Adam Revezzo**

Adam also joined ICA's Board on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Our current Treasurer Bob Little will move into the role of Board President when Evelyn Kessler's term ends on July 1<sup>st</sup>; on that date, Adam will move into the Treasurer role. Adam currently works in Financial Planning and Analysis; he hopes to apply his skills in growing ICA.



**Chantelle Thompson**

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, Chantelle will join ICA's Board of Directors! She will replace Adrienne Garr as Board Secretary. Chantelle is an Assistant Director of Ambulatory Services who has committed her life and professional career in service of her community. She looks forward to joining the Board and having an impact locally and internationally.

### New Team Members



**Paula Tubbs Keppel**

Paula has joined our Finance Team, bringing with her over 25 years of accounting experience mainly in the non-profit sector. She has a track record of increasing the accuracy and timeliness of financial data by identifying and executing improvements to processes and procedures.



**Nnenna Ferguson**

Nnenna recently joined our Marketing team to provide strategic insight on our marketing strategy, assist with public relations and social media content. Nnenna studied Journalism and French, and has a passion for community building and brand activation.

## Quarantine Vibes

A look at what some of our team is doing to keep their minds happy and healthy!

"During the first 2 weeks of quarantine, I consumed an excessive amount of news and junk food every day. As you can imagine, this left me feeling extremely unhealthy, unmotivated and worried. I have since decided to only briefly get a news update once a day, I started eating healthy again and am working out 30 minutes 6 days a week. This has tremendously helped my mental and physical well-being" – Evelyn Kessler



"The first few days were really rough having my son more than I normally do and also worried about his studies and the extra work that was placed on me. I happen to be a huge video gamer so when I wasn't playing with my son or being his teacher, I was on my PS4 gaming the night away. This has actually helped me to relax as well kept me from being sad or depressed. Mental health during this time is extremely important and we all need to have some fun even if it is indoors. – Raymond Kemp

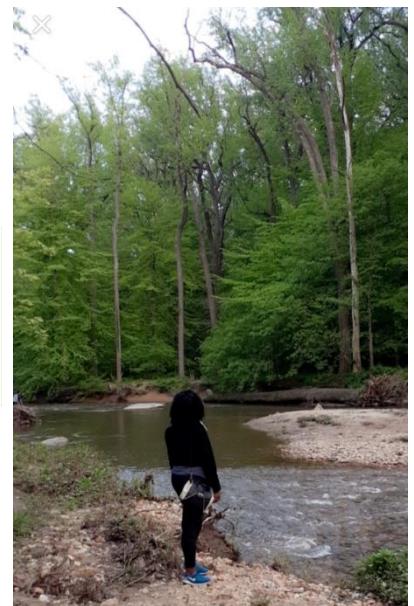


"Like everyone, it has not been easy to deal with the constant bombardment of sad news during these uncertain times. To help clear my head, I have been connecting more with nature with weekly hikes. This has not only helped me drop 19 pounds, giving more energy, it also soothes my daily anxiety."

– Jessica Ngambi Lizza



I'm really grateful for the opportunity to connect with family, friends and people in general through the internet. It may not be the same, but I've enjoyed using zoom, facetime, social media, or watching a fun movie "together" with my brother to lift our spirits on our computers from across the country (Men in Black is on the docket for this weekend! The free Kast app is great). It truly is a surreal moment in time and I suspect I will have to explain to future generations why I have such a fondness for Spam. The way I have been staying sane is by listening to a ton of music, playing guitar and attending live "concerts" on Youtube or Twitch which are lots of fun...I highly recommend. Stay safe and well everyone! – Piotr Kozlowski



## New York State Women Inc – 716 Chapter

*'For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.'*

2 Timothy 1:7

In January we were grateful to accept a grant from New York State Women Inc.

These funds were used to cover 2nd Trimester tuition payments for 7 non-sponsored orphans in grades K-6!



## Congratulations to our Graduates

**International Child Advancement**  
P.O. Box 1788  
Amherst, NY 14226

**Phone:** 1.888.901.4551  
**E-mail:**  
[info@childadvancement.org](mailto:info@childadvancement.org)

**Every child is Important!**



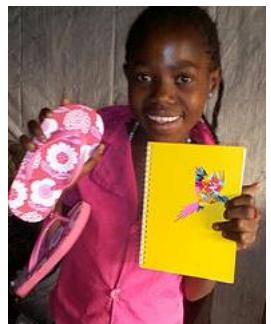
A big congratulations to our HR Generalist James Jackson (left) who completed his Master of Business Administration with concentrations in Strategic Management and Human Resources Management. He obtained his degree from Niagara University. And another big congratulations to Raymond Kemp (right) our Associate Director who completed his Associate's degree in Accounting and has embarked on the pursuit of his Bachelor's degree while working full time as a Banker and being a Dad!

## Mail to GUAOA

Did you know that you can send mail or a package to the child you sponsor at GUAOA?

If you are sending a package or any correspondence, we ask that you inform us first via e-mail at [info@childadvancement.org](mailto:info@childadvancement.org). This will allow us to alert the orphanage so they are aware a package or letter is on the way.

If you have any questions, please contact us via e-mail or call 1.888.901.4551.



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Attn: Isaac Balume Zibira  
P.O. Box 456  
Gisenyi, Rwanda