

## Growing up in Kampala

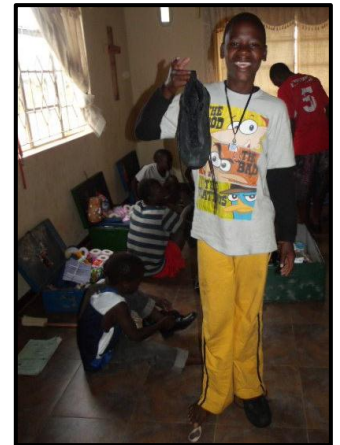
Growing up in Kampala, Uganda can be a world away from a normal American childhood experience. Steeped in poverty and without guidance, thousands of children spend their days begging for food or money on the streets, and their nights in dilapidated shelters. Many children fend for themselves, unwillingly forced into a cycle of poverty that accompanies a lack of schooling and life-skill training. But, in the midst of this circumstance, there are beautiful rays of hope in the city! Thankfully, there are those who have devoted themselves to taking in children from the streets and meeting their physical, educational, emotional and spiritual needs. Soles For Jesus was thrilled to support the children of a boys' home in Kampala recently, providing them with shoes for their school uniforms. The boys were beaming when they received this valuable gift. These shoes are a ticket to attend school and will protect their bare feet from injury as they walk the city streets to their classes. These streets must have new meaning now! The same dirt roads that they once roamed as orphans, begging for food, are now walked with great purpose. These boys have been given a home, genuine care, and are now equipped to receive an education that will change their future. Here's a glimpse into a few of the lives that have been touched by the shoes SFJ sent to Uganda.

**Ivan** spent a little less than one year on the street. He has made one of the biggest transformations of all the boys in the group home. He is a good leader, often showcasing his gift by voluntarily leading the other boys in times of worship and prayer. He is currently studying at a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level and working very hard in his studies.

**Bwanika** spent six years on the street. He is loud and lovable. When he puts his mind to something it gets done. He is currently at a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level and making great leaps of progress. In one year, he has gone from not knowing the alphabet to being able to read chapter books.

**Sam** only spent a few months on the street and is the youngest in the home. He loves to play games and tricks. His fun-loving spirit is matched only by his kindness. He saves his breakfast every day to give to one of his friends, whom he often brings to the home for lunch or even dinner. He also loves to worship and is a mighty little man of prayer. Sam is currently studying in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level, and last term, he was second in his class.

**Emma** was on the streets for three years, during which time he was always trying to find a way to serve those around him. He is a joyful, humble leader with a true servant's heart. Recently, the boys in the home voted Emma's leadership the kind they admire and respect more than any other boy in the home. He is currently studying at a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level.



**Richard** was on the streets for two years. He is a quiet boy who has a heart for the Lord. He loves to read, leave notes with Bible verses for others, and to paint. He is one of the most thankful boys in the home. He is currently studying at a 5<sup>th</sup> grade level.

**Timothy** spent about 6 months on the street. There aren't words to describe him except to call him a man of God. He is a David, after God's own heart. He is a humble boy with maturity and wisdom from beyond his age. He loves leading people in prayer. He is currently studying at a 4<sup>th</sup> grade level.

**Fahad** spent about one year on the streets. He loves music and dancing. He loves spending time with people one on one. When he focuses on the tasks, he loves to read, work hard, and serve others. He is currently studying at a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade level.

