



Children
of Uganda

Leadership Circle



FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

HOPE FOR A CHILD-HEADED HOUSEHOLD

6 years ago, 5 children were abandoned by their parents. The youngest was only 2-years-old at the time and 11-year-old Karim became head-of-household. Due to the vulnerable living conditions, his older sister became pregnant at 19 and moved out. Since then, Karim has been solely responsible for the care of his siblings: Grace, Bashir and Pamela.

Karim is a determined young man and struggles every day to provide food, pay rent, cover medical expenses and school fees for his sisters. In 2015, Karim dropped out of school in P.5 (4th grade), to work as a casual laborer in a liquid soap workshop. Bashir also dropped out and began an apprenticeship at a local bakery where he earned very little - if anything. *Hope was running out until Children of Uganda stepped in.*

Earlier this year, **Karim was informed that he and his siblings had been chosen to join our Family Empowerment Program.** Since then, we have been able to secure full education sponsorships for both Pamela and Bashir. As much as Bashir enjoys baking, he dreamed of going back to school and certainly that's where a 13-year-old boy should be!

We are also currently facilitating counseling sessions for Karim to help him process the trauma of his past and to instill him with confidence for the future. Once we all determine he's ready, we will provide training and support for him to start-up an Income Generating Activity (IGA). His dream is to establish his own liquid soap business and become financially stable. *We so believe in him!*

Karim, 17-years-old



Pamela, 8-years-old



Grace, 15-years-old



Bashir, 13-years-old



Karim, Bashir and Pamela solemnly show our staff the humble, one-room house that they all share.



Social Worker, Winnie Nakalembe, meets with the family to discuss their challenges and hopes for the future.



Program Director, Ritah Namakula, warmly embraces Pamela and Grace at school.



Executive Director, Pamela Brannon, is seen here with Grace, Bashir, Karim and little Pamela at Children of Uganda's head office in Kampala.

"I never thought anyone would ever love us again."

-Karim



By virtue of his age, family responsibilities and all that he has endured psychologically, it was recommended that Karim undergo counseling before starting up an IGA. He had his first counseling session on April 23rd, 2021 (as you can see above) and it went well. Karim is so grateful for the support and believes it will be helpful to him and his family.



New recruit, Bashir, began tutoring with several of our other sponsored students while he waits to return to school. On the very first day, he couldn't remember how to write - but he's making good progress now.



Head-of-household, Karim with his youngest sister Pamela. They are so excited for this new chapter of their lives.



Pamela and Karim receive new bedding, food and sanitary items thanks to the support of Board Chair, Cheryl Hargrow.