

Hello Everyone!

As we head into the 2021 year, we are excited to share with you some changes to the Miryante Project. Miryante has always worked closely with the Uganda government's family and child services to take in children who were orphaned or abused. Uganda's Ministry of Gender, which is in charge of child and family services, is now working to help organizations shift orphaned and vulnerable children from an institutionalized setting to foster care homes. To follow the Ugandan Government's priorities and best practices, Miryante is also shifting its service plans to focus more on holistic services that can help orphaned children stay in safe and loving homes.

Because Miryante is well known in its community for providing quality services and has an established network, it is also expanding its services to other vulnerable groups. It is doing this by partnering with local and international organizations that focus on vulnerable women and people with disabilities. In light of its new service structure and expansion of services, Miryante is transitioning to **Miryante Community Centre**, which will help to provide more comprehensive foster care services for Miryante orphans and vulnerable children, as well as provide additional services for vulnerable women and people with disabilities.

Miryante Community Centre has the following new partners:

Crutches for Africa: This a non-profit organization based in the USA. It offers services to people who are physically disabled by war, injury, disease, birth defects, accidents or polio. It provides mobility devices such as crutches, wheel chairs, walkers, canes and scooters.

Uganda Women's Network: This is an advocacy organization that exists to coordinate collective action for women's rights and gender equality. It is not uncommon for women in Uganda to experience discrimination, so the mission of Uganda Women's Network is to attain gender equality and equity in Uganda. It offers free services for institutional development, leadership, democratic governance, human rights, access to economic justice and empowerment for women.

Rotary Club of Mubende Metro (90841)/ District 9211
Rotary club is a global community of people dedicated to making positive changes through community service. This group is made up of dedicated people who share a passion for both community services and friendship, with the motto "service above self".

Guardianship Program Funding:

One of the biggest barriers to orphans being taken into homes is the cost. As Miryante tries to find more placements for its children within the community, some of the children that you are sponsoring might be moved to a home. If this is the case, Miryante is still in need of your support to help it cover the costs of the orphaned child in the home where they are placed. Below is a breakdown of how your sponsorship will be used for your child if they are placed in a home:

EACH CHILD SPONSORED RECEIVES \$480 ANNUALLY TO CATER FOR THE ITEMS BELOW

Item	Cost
Mattress	\$27
Blankets & Bedsheets	\$15
Mosquito net	\$5

School fees per term in public school	\$19/term for 3 terms, \$57/year
Sandals & shoes for the year	\$12
Clothing for the year	\$21
Hygiene products for the year	\$24
School supplies	\$9
School uniforms	\$10
Food (maize meal & beans)	\$204
Medical Coverage	\$68
Administrative costs including social workers salary, transportation to the home & school, trainings & sensitizations for guardians	\$28

How the Guardianship Program Works:

Miryante has a team of social workers which works closely with the Ugandan child services to find home placements for its orphans. We will first start by trying to find placements with any relatives of the children. In the event that we find a home where the child can be placed, the home is first inspected and the foster family goes through orientation and training.

Miryante helps to register the child in the local school and prepare all academic requirements so they can start school. Miryante social workers will continue to visit the child monthly both at the home and the school to see their progress. During their visits, the social workers provide training to the families in perma-gardening, animal-rearing, hygiene, and provide psycho-social support and sensitization.

Please note that it is likely that we will not be able to find homes this year for many of the children, so the current campus at Miryante will continue to be utilized for orphaned children who have not yet been placed in a foster home, and any other orphaned or vulnerable children that child services bring who need short term services. Also, in the event that a foster care placement does not work out, the child can always come back to the Miryante main campus.

A Note on Funding Channels and the Website:

Because of this transition to a community-based model, Root Cause Uganda, the US-based non-profit corporation in charge of fundraising for Miryante Community Centre, is going to help by channeling donations from the website to the project. Root Cause Uganda is a 501c(3) registered non-profit corporation, so all donations will continue to be tax deductible. Sponsors are not required to make any changes, but we wanted everyone to be aware of this change. Direct donations can also be directed to the Diocese of Columbus which continues to support the project. We are so thankful for everyone's continuous support that make all of our services possible! If you have any questions, please feel free to direct them to our email at miryanteorphanshome@gmail.com.