

ChildVoice

ChildVoice Students Work Hard for Success



An important part of the ChildVoice model at the Lukome Center is sending war-affected adolescent girls back to their families and communities with a vocation. These practical skills translate into job opportunities and much-needed income once students graduate.

For instance, Susan, pictured above carrying an evening meal, has shown an aptitude for cooking and hopes to one day cook in a nice hotel.

To ensure ChildVoice students have a competitive edge when they head out into the marketplace, we've upgraded our vocational training to meet new government standards. Our students now will have official certification when they graduate in vocations like hair salon, knitting, bakery/catering, and driving/auto mechanics. This should be a big plus on their job applications!



Opening a New Chapter in Nigeria

We are very excited about expanding the ChildVoice program into the IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) camps of northeastern Nigeria. Tens of thousands have fled their homes and villages in the wake of violent attacks and sexual assaults by Boko Haram insurgents. Little is being done to address the needs of these survivors—especially the adolescent girls living in the camps.

In the beginning of March, ChildVoice CEO Conrad Mandsager (above left) and Director of Programs Kristin Barlow (right) visited a camp in Yola with ChildVoice's new Country Director for Nigeria, Nari Wuniya Welye (center).





Empowerment Groups in High Gear

Since January, ChildVoice has quickly ramped up its work among young South Sudanese girls living at Imvepi refugee settlement in northern Uganda. A permanent compound was built, local staff were hired, and now the first of many Empowerment Groups have begun. Each group has 15 girls and meets two to three times per week. We hope to have more than 850 at-risk girls enrolled by June.

“This is designed to be a preventative program,” says ChildVoice’s Kristin Barlow. “We want to help girls make better life decisions and give them a positive identity within the group. Each girl is getting psychosocial support along with life skills and vocational training—all within a safe environment.”

For more up-to-date news on this and other programs, visit childvoice.org.

They spoke with refugees and discovered for themselves how dire the situation is. They also met with officials from two government agencies that operate the camps, as well as with local camp leadership. The response toward ChildVoice was very positive, and all said that the program would be warmly welcomed there.

One camp in particular is interested in ChildVoice’s well-established agriculture program. There is a great desire for refugees to be able to grow their own crops, which involves a need for seeds, tools, and instruction in better farming practices. We also hope to offer counseling, basic life skills, and vocational training.

Currently, Nari and a group of volunteers are visiting IDP camps, conducting a needs-assessment survey by interviewing 300 at-risk adolescent girls during the next month. Nari and her team will ask if girls are orphaned, child brides, young mothers, etc., in order to assess their level of vulnerability. Our hope is that this survey will reveal the gaps in service for these girls and will help us develop and implement a targeted program.

We also are excited to have Nari and our Head of Office in Uganda, Richard Kyitarinyeba, visit the ChildVoice headquarters in New Hampshire for the first half of June. We will hold a pastors’ luncheon and are looking for other opportunities for them to speak during their stay.

Upcoming Lukome Center Trips

- 2018: August 4–18, and October (TBD)

To learn more about joining a trip, contact our Team and Intern Coordinator, Kelsi O’Neil, at teamsandinterns@childvoiceintl.org.

1st Annual ChildVoice Golf Tournament!

On June 4, ChildVoice will be holding its first-ever golf tournament fundraiser at The Oaks in Somersworth, New Hampshire. Our staff and volunteers currently are hard at work getting sponsors, golf foursomes, raffle prizes, and swag-bag goodies put together to make this a really special day.

All funds raised will be used to support our work with vulnerable young girls in war-torn regions of Africa. If you’d like to get involved or just learn more about this fun day out on the links, visit childvoice.org/golf. If you’re in the area or visiting New England, we’d love to have you participate!