

Summer 2023 Newsletter



MARY'S REFUGE

— cloaked in love —



Rediscovering Hope

Josephine lost her mother at a young age, and at that point she was split up from her step-sister and taken to stay with an aunt. A guy came along while she was out of school during the covid-19 outbreak, and she was excited by his promise to take her away so she could escape the mistreatment she experienced at her aunt's. As soon as he learned of her pregnancy, he ran away and disappeared.

She was working as a maid, and when her boss discovered the pregnancy, she was offered money to abort the baby. Josephine refused and went looking for the father of her baby. Already having a wife, he sent her to stay with his own mother.

Through involvement in Mary's Refuge, Josephine has received the support of community. Her daughter, Joselin Tricia, turned 2 years old this past March.

"In Mary's Refuge I thank God that I got new friends and friends of value in my life. It helped to know that giving birth at an early age doesn't mean that my life has come to an end, and I am so sure that I can still be that kind of a person I wanted to be. It has helped to know that even me I can, if others can, and be an important mother in the world." - Josephine

There is nothing quite like the joy of hearing that a young mother has rediscovered hope.

I cannot understand living in extreme poverty, teenage pregnancy, not being able to attend school, being forced into a marriage, etc—but I do understand feeling forced to give up my dreams as a teenager. I am familiar with hopelessness and despair.

At 16 years old, I was in a near-fatal car accident that left me with severe chronic pain, an end to my athletic aspirations, a struggle with the ability to work, crushed hopes for travel and mission, and a fear I would never be physically capable of being a mother.

In the years since, God has done incredible things in my life—truly making possible the impossible. I have seen countless miracles, and I have learned to hope again for what I cannot yet see. One of my hopes is that the young mothers we serve in Uganda experience this transformation of rediscovered hope.

Mary's Refuge brings resources to these young women to pursue their dreams. Some are returning to school to receive an education that will allow them to become the teachers, lawyers, and nurses they before dreamed to be. Others are learning trades in order to make a living and provide for their children, striving to break cycles of poverty and abuse. This is all good, but it is not the most important part of the mission.

First and foremost, Mary's Refuge is affirming these young women in their identities as daughters of God—showing them that they matter, that they are loved, that there is hope for them.

Our young mothers who have been ostracized and isolated have found refuge in community with their peers and the support of our team (which includes you, donors and prayer partners!). Thank you for making this mission possible. Thank you for encouraging the gift of hope.

Mikayla,

Director of Marketing & Donor Relations



Please Pray...

- For the young women we serve, that they will come fully into relationships with Jesus Christ and know their true dignities in Him
- For our board and ministry staff, that we may also know and live out our true identities in Christ, for we cannot give what we do not have
- For the safety and economic growth of Uganda, that the young women we serve will be able to find meaningful work with our assistance
- For an increase in the financial support needed to continue and further this ministry



Returning to School

(far right, L to R) Blown, Evas, Olivia, & Prossy at school



Learning Trades

(L to R) Sarah, Janat, Leticia, Sarah, & Agnes at trade school; Agnes' first dress; Janat & Leticia practicing; Leticia's new braids



Growing in Community

(L to R) Ronnie distributing care packages to mothers who were unable to attend the Easter gathering; JB leading the mothers in praise before a meeting



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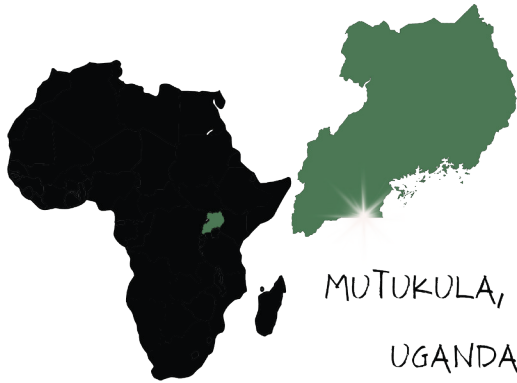
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MUTUKULA,
UGANDA



1 IN 4

TEENAGE GIRLS IN UGANDA
HAVE BEGUN CHILDBEARING



MARY'S REFUGE FOSTERS
SISTERHOOD AND SUPPORT

Join the Mission

Though teenage pregnancy is highly prevalent in the country of Uganda, support is not. Young women are chased from home, abandoned by their babies' fathers, and left vulnerable to further abuse. In response to this crisis, Mary's Refuge was launched in January 2022.

Mary's Refuge exists to foster sisterhood and support among teenage mothers within communities by providing spiritual and faith formation, emotional and spiritual healing, financial support for education, and trade training and business workshops.

Your financial support makes this mission possible by allowing us to employ our team of ministers directly serving our young mothers in Uganda, provide resources enabling the mothers to grow and thrive, cover transportation costs for our team in the field, as well as cover fees and expenses stateside.

Direct Sponsorship donations go towards supporting individual mothers returning to finish their education or attend trade school to learn hairdressing or tailoring. Please let us know if you are interested in taking on a sponsorship role in 2024.



Donate by Check



Mary's Refuge
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South Lyon, MI 48178

Donate by Card



one-time, monthly, or annually
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Direct Sponsorship



school, trade, misc.
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