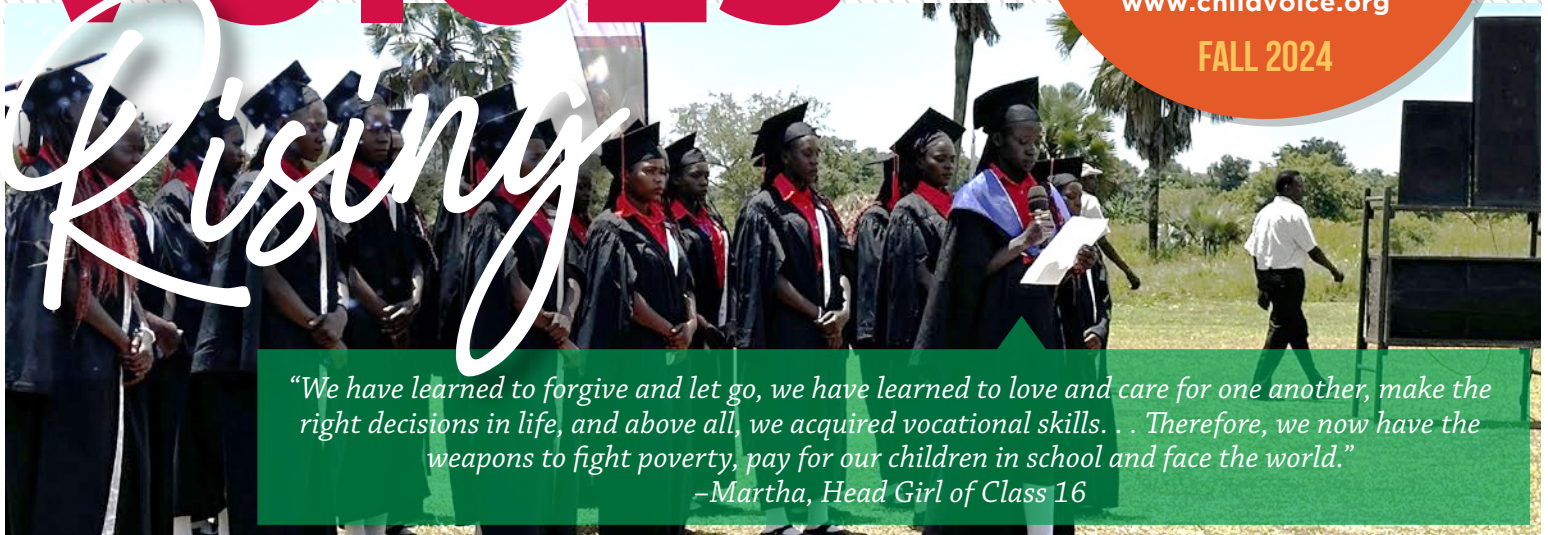


VOICES

ChildVoice 
www.childvoice.org

FALL 2024

Rising




*"We have learned to forgive and let go, we have learned to love and care for one another, make the right decisions in life, and above all, we acquired vocational skills. . . Therefore, we now have the weapons to fight poverty, pay for our children in school and face the world."
-Martha, Head Girl of Class 16*

THE LUKOME CENTER'S CLASS 16 GRADUATES!

THESE ENCOURAGING WORDS in the caption above were delivered by Class 16's Head Girl, Martha, as part of her speech during Class 16's jubilant graduation ceremony in September.

The day was marked by colorful activities, including food, music, and dance. ChildVoice CEO, Nathan Mandsager, was there to take part in the festivities, along with a team from Lutheran Church of Hope of Des Moines, Iowa. Also in attendance were several dignitaries, including Paul Kenya, UNHCR's Head of Sub-Office for West Nile. Mr. Kenya entertained the impressively large crowd of celebrants with an inspirational rap "I Believe I Can" he wrote for our students, encouraging them to remember they now have the skills they need to change their lives. Students joined in during the joyful call-and-response rap session, chanting "I know I can, be what I wanna be!"

The ceremony was marked by Martha's moving speech. She implored students to make good use of all they have learned, asked parents and community leaders to work to end the stigma and abuse that victims of exploitation often endure, and offered thanks to ChildVoice staff, donors, and partners for their devotion to child mothers and their children.

 To view a video of Martha delivering her speech, go to: childvoice.org/voicesrisingfall2024

UPDATE: MUBI, NIGERIA

Students in our Mubi program in northeastern Nigeria have been busy growing crops of maize and sorghum, as well as learning to raise chickens in order to bring both eggs and chickens to market.

Also, our pilot tailoring apprenticeship program continues going well. We have a new cohort of 20 students in the program. The 40 Students from the first cohort are now working in workshops.



CLASS 17 STUDENTS ARRIVE AT THE LUKOME CENTER

As Class 16 girls were finishing their time at the center, Class 17 students had recently arrived and were settling into life on campus. This group has some of the youngest girls we've seen at the center, two of them only 13 years old. They all have endured their own traumas and each one of them faces unique challenges.

But as ChildVoice CEO Nathan Mandsager commented: "They are all adjusting well so far to their new journey toward healing and transformation. As one of the girls commented to our staff last week, 'This Center is like heaven on earth!'" Please join us in welcoming these adolescent girls as they begin their journey toward hope and healing.



A VISITOR REFLECTS ON THE LUKOME CENTER

A team from Lutheran Church of Hope in Des Moines, Iowa, visited the Lukome Center in Uganda in September. While there, they were able to get a glimpse of what life at the center is like for our students, including how they are healing and learning during their 20-month programs as well as how great the need is for our programs. One of these visitors, Dina Remington, took time to reflect and share her thoughts with us.

“I learned that abuse does not discriminate, that it happens whether you are old or young, rich or poor, no matter what your skin color is or what geographic area you live in,” Dina said. “Unfortunately, sexual abuse is prevalent across all of those.”

To view a video of Dina commenting on her experience and/or read a full transcript visit childvoice.org/blog and read *A Visitor from Lutheran Church of Hope (Des Moines, Iowa) reflects on her recent visit to Uganda.*



TESTIMONIALS FROM Ukraine

In wartime conditions, children and adolescents can feel as though the ground has fallen away from beneath their feet. They suddenly find themselves adrift in an unrecognizable and frightening world. They lose their homes, their family members. They lose hope. We’ve only just begun working with our partners in Ukraine to bring hope and healing to young people affected by the ongoing war in Ukraine, and we are already beginning to hear encouraging words from some of them who have participated in volunteer-led summer camps designed to bring relief from the painful and traumatizing challenges they continue to face. As Victoriia, one of the program leaders, said: “none of this would have been possible without ChildVoice, which has supported House of Youth throughout its existence.”

To read stories from some of the volunteers and young Ukrainian kids we’ve been helping our partners serve, visit childvoice.org/blog and read *Testimonials from Ukraine.*

childvoice.org

