



General Background

St. Francis Family Helper Project (SFFHP) was founded in 1984 with the aim of helping children from disadvantaged families to receive an education. As the organisation developed, the name changed to St. Francis Family Helper Programme to reflect the expansion of activities and departments which now include a Tailoring School, a Child Sponsorship Department and a Counsellor Training Institute.

SFFHP was registered as a NGO with the National Board of Non-Governmental Organisations in 1990. In later years the organisation was also registered for tax purposes in Germany, the UK and Ireland.

The organogram showing the structure of the organisation is attached. The legal owner of the organisation is a Board of Trustees. The everyday management is carried out by a management team with an executive administrator holding a key position in the team. Presently the patron is the His Grace Archbishop Paul K. Bakyenga. Most of the funding comes from external donors through the support of the Archbishop.

Vision

That all people might have a more equitable sharing of gifts needed for human development (social security, education, health and happiness).

Mission

To help raise the standard of living of disadvantaged families through the sharing and transfer of knowledge and skills in the hope of building a more equitable world.

Departments

- The **Child Sponsorship Department** is still educating children from very disadvantaged families and we look for sponsors from different parts of the world. We are lucky in the fact that we often get volunteers working in this department and they are always happy to have an opportunity to go around the villages and schools visiting our sponsored children and their guardians.
- **St. Francis Tailoring School** offers a two year training in garment design and construction as well as in home furnishings.
- The **Counsellor Training Institute**, accredited by Uganda Martyrs University offers a variety of training in counselling psychology and psychosocial facilitation. Participants can be trained to certificate, diploma and degree level. The psychosocial facilitation training is offered to counsellors, development workers, social workers and catechists and has been given to Misereor funded organisations in Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, DR Congo and Rwanda. Trainings are designed to suit the specific needs of the groups being trained. One of the projects being carried out at present is the training of primary school teachers, with the aim of preventing violence against children in homes and schools of the Archdiocese.



The photograph was taken at a farewell to one of our German Annika volunteers who actually bought the paint, the cloth and then had members of staff who were present, leave the imprint of their hands on the fabric.



Mary Moran communicating her joy to a child who also looks happy.

We train male and female tailors for two years in clothing design, pattern cutting, clothing construction as well as in household furnishings.



Mary Moran awarding a Certificate of Excellence to the student builders from Rwanda who did their industrial training on the building site of St. Francis Educational Centre.

Greetings from St Francis Family Helper Programme.



I, Christine Ntibarutaye, started working in St Francis in September 2014. I worked as a volunteer for 8 months. I was impressed with the various services carried out in St Francis especially those which target the poor, the disadvantaged, orphans and those with HIV/AIDS. I got a chance to go through all the departments and see what was happening. Like other members of staff in the past, I was also trained in Personal and Group Transformation

and Psychosocial Facilitation and got a certificate accredited by Uganda Martyrs University, Nkozi. I also received some training in Applied Behavioural Analysis which, as the name implies, gives skills in analysing behaviour as well as in helping people to change undesirable behaviour. Dr. Felicity Butterly was my trainer and hopefully I will be able to use it in the project to prevent violence against children.

In April 2015, I was asked to be a coordinator of the above mentioned project and so far we have partly trained over 130 primary school teachers. We hope to be able to train at least 1000 teachers in the next 30 months.

This is our first group of teachers who completed 4 weeks of training.



In August 2015, the Daughters of Mary and Joseph, who were instrumental in the founding of St. Francis, agreed to take over the management of the organisation for a number of years. I was interviewed for and appointed as the Executive Administrator. I am still new in the office, I am learning and meeting challenges but with God's help, the support of the staff and our

beneficiaries as well as the example of St. Francis of Assisi I hope we shall be able to meet the needs of those whom we are called to serve.



Teachers doing a mindfulness exercise before they begin the day's training.

Mindfulness invites us to WAKE-UP! We are assured that if we are mindful and fully present we can neither harm ourselves nor others.

In the group above, we have our three sisters from Coloma, Mona Maher, Grace Asimirwe and Marie Goreth Ntakirutimana who attended the training.

We always welcome volunteers and visitors to St. Francis so please do come!

You are most welcome!!!!

Christine Ntibarutaye

Mbarara- Uganda