

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER FROM THE LITTLE SISTERS EDUCATION FUND (LSEF) COMMITTEE PUBLISHED FOR AND ABOUT SPONSORS, STUDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE LITTLE SISTERS OF SAINT FRANCIS



## Mother Cecilia Meets With Wisconsin Sponsors

Nearly thirty Little Sisters Education Fund (LSEF) sponsors and volunteers gathered on a warm summer night in June on the shores of Lake Michigan to meet with Sr. M. Cecilia Njeri, the Superior General of the Little Sisters of St. Francis (LSOSF). Mother Cecilia was accompanied by Sister Seraphine, the Education Representative on the LSOSF General Counsel.

Mother Cecilia expressed her heartfelt gratitude to sponsors and friends for their support and love of the Little Sisters and the children and families of Nkokonjeru.

We were gifted with sung prayer and the blessing of the Little Sisters present for those of us gathered, and

all of our sponsors with us in spirit. Also with Mother Cecilia and Sister Seraphine were several of the Little Sisters who are living and working in the United States serving the poor in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Besides the Midwest, the Little Sisters are also working in New York and Virginia.



Mother Cecilia took questions from sponsors and offered some background on the history of the Little Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi. She shared important news with us regarding Mother Kevin, the foundress of their order. An Irish nun, Mother Kevin worked for the advancement of medical care, education, and the empowerment of women in East Africa in the 1900s. Mother Kevin has been declared a Servant of God in the process of recognizing her as a Saint.

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# Meet Our Team in Milwaukee

## *The Little Sisters Education Fund Committee*

The Little Sisters Education Fund (LSEF) Committee was started in January 2017 as a result of the decision by the Little Sisters of Saint Francis to manage student sponsorships independently of any other outside organization. Based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the LSEF is served by a committee of sponsors who volunteer their time to collaborate with the Little Sisters in the education of sponsored children. Among the committee's major duties and responsibilities are the distribution of sponsor donations supporting the education of the children and the collection and dissemination of letters and school reports.

All committee members are volunteers. We feel strongly about our personal commitment to the program, to the Little Sisters of St. Francis, and to the mission of educating the Ugandan children. Many of you have already been in communication with your LSEF Committee members. We are: Mary Ann McEllistrem, Chairperson; Vicki O'Neill, Sponsor Communication; Terry O'Neill, Treasurer; Jeanie Lewandowski, Uganda Liaison, and Carl J. Malischke, Advisor

If you have any questions about student sponsorship, or about your student, please direct your inquiries to Vicki O'Neill at [lsafsponsorship@gmail.com](mailto:lsafsponsorship@gmail.com) or by phone at 414-228-8845. General inquiries may be directed to Mary Ann McEllistrem at 414-540-1045.

## LSEF Highlights

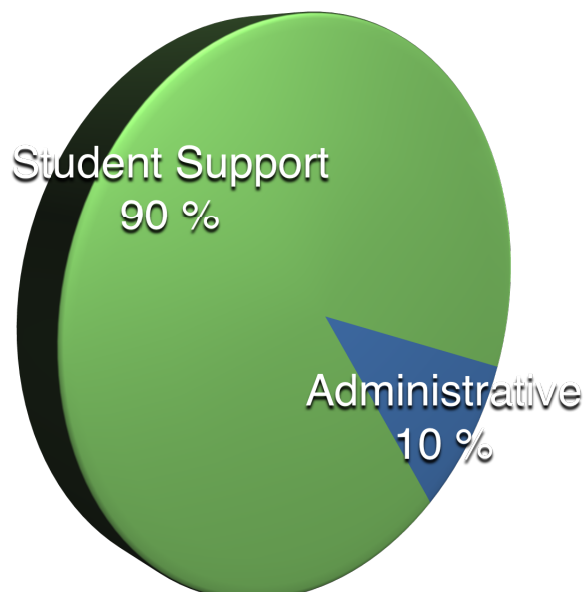
### *Student Sponsorships and Allocation of Resources*

WE ARE PROUD TO  
INFORM YOU THAT:

66 STUDENTS HAVE RECEIVED SPONSORSHIP SINCE THE LSEF STARTED IN JANUARY 2017.

90% OF FUNDS DONATED ARE ROUTED TO UGANDA IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATING EACH SPONSORED STUDENT.

● Administrative ● Student Support





## Meet Our Team in Uganda

*Supporting Our Students and Sponsors*



### Women Dedicated to the Ministry of the Little Sisters of Saint Francis (LSOSF)

From left to right:

- Sister Yusta, Bursar for Little Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi
- Sr. M. Cecilia Njeri, the Superior General of the Little Sisters of St. Francis
- Sandra Villegas, LSOSF Lay Worker, LSEF Academic Records
- Sister Angeline, Director of Providence Home
- Sister Pontiano, LSEF Location Coordinator.



## From One Sponsor To Another

### *Dear Fellow Sponsors,*

In December of 2015 I, along with my husband and two twenty-something sons, started sponsoring a child. Sharon currently attends Stella Maris Secondary School in Nkokonjeru. This spring I decided that I wanted to meet Sharon as the letters we were receiving from her were not telling me enough about her to satisfy my need to know her. My oldest son Kyle was able to take two weeks out of his life here in the States to travel with me.



Our experience in Uganda was wonderful and we found ourselves “most welcome” to the country. Our home base was Providence Home (a residence for special needs children and adults) run by the Little Sisters of St. Francis (LSOSF) in Nkokonjeru.





Here reside three of the LSEF Ugandan team members, Sr. Angeline, Sr. Pontiano and Sandra. Sandra and Sr. Pontiano took us to visit many of the LSOSF schools and the children that are sponsored through the Little Sisters Education Fund. Several of the schools are in Nkokonjeru, but some are further away. We traveled in a Land Rover that maneuvered the dirt roads full of potholes and ruts. Many of the local people travel by boda bodas (small motorcycles) which weave in and out of traffic – very nerve wracking!



We were able to spend time with our child Sharon and we even met her Uncle (guardian) and the extended family!

Through Sr. Angeline, Sr. Pontiano and Sandra we learned about life in Uganda, the hardships of the local families and country and the tremendous work the LSOSF do to educate and medically treat the whole child with compassion despite the obstacles they face. They truly are Servants of God!

While in Nkokonjeru our home away from home was the Mother Kevin Guest House, a 20 minute walk to Providence Home. The house is very comfortable with five bedrooms with





their own bathroom and shower. There is a living room, dining room and kitchen where the housekeeper prepared our meals. There is a veranda on the front and back of the house where we drank our coffee each morning and ate some of our meals.

We traveled to Jinja to meet Mother Cecilia, the Superior General of the Order. On a daily basis she strives to carry out the mission and vision of Mother Kevin. She is an intelligent, warm and charismatic woman!

While in Jinja, we took a boat ride to the source of the Nile River along with Mother Cecelia and Sandra. It was a wonderful ride where we saw many birds and some monkeys.

Kyle and I returned home to the States appreciating our own life more than ever though. The freedom and stability we have in the United States should never be taken for granted.



I hope to return to Nkokonjeru in the next two years. Sharon wants to meet her other brother and Dad too, so hopefully they can travel with me!

I hope that you all have the opportunity to visit your sponsored child soon!

Blessings,

Jeanie Lewandowski  
Uganda Liaison  
LSEF Committee