

[www.thislifefoundation.org](http://www.thislifefoundation.org)



## This Life Children Centres

This Life Foundation is holding its second Fundraising Dinner this year to raise fund to support the building of This Life Children Centre in the North and North-eastern Uganda, a drop-in centre for social activities and space for critically vulnerable orphaned children in need of immediate help. The dinner is scheduled for **30th October 2015 at The Grand Royale, South Street, Granville.**

### This Life Children Centres

The Foundation is raising funds to build This Life Children's Centres to provide support to vulnerable families left behind to enable them cope with the changes and to empower them by providing access to services they need to build a better future. This Life Children's Centre will provide the following services:

**A Library:** To ensure disadvantaged children have access to developmental books and a space to host volunteers (teachers) who will provide extra support to children performing poorly in school. The Foundation will also use this space to educate parents on their roles in their children's education and future.

**Counselling:** The war and now resettlement has drastically affected the people of Northern Uganda. The Foundation will provide psychosocial support to children who have experienced trauma and other disadvantaged adults living with orphaned children in communities we work.

**A Sick Bay:** A space for sick children to rest and be looked after by our volunteers at day time instead of being left in their homes alone without help. As people deal with the aftermath of the war, most people have no time to deal with sick children or to provide them with the attention they need when they sick. People are too busy trying to survive and sick children are normally left on their own at home. Children will have access to our Sick Bay and will be attended to by our trained nurses to ensure they have medication and feeding well while recovering.

## Christmas Gifts

It is also our yearly ritual to present Christmas gifts of food, clothes, shoes and other household goods to orphaned children in Northern Uganda during the festive seasons. We want the kids to celebrate the festive season just like everyone else. Last Christmas, our volunteers visited families in their homes on Christmas Eve with different gifts and we are looking forward to giving more surprises to the kids.



This Life Foundation is currently supporting thirty-eight (38) families both at school and at home through the amazing volunteers from within their own communities.

We invite you to get involved and help close the gap by blessing a family with Christmas gifts. To participate, Please Contact Us: [info@thislifefoundation.org](mailto:info@thislifefoundation.org). You can also donate online at [www.thislifefoundation.org](http://www.thislifefoundation.org)

## Newsletter ~ 26th August, 2015



**Mercy Akongo, Founder**

## Resettlement in Northern Uganda

I had the opportunity to work in Camps with Internally Displaced Persons in the War-torn Northern Uganda from 2007 - 2009, the experience which has left a mark in my life forever. While working in Northern Uganda, children and older people captured my heart because of their high level of vulnerability and suffering. Between 2007 and 2009, I identified eighteen (18) critically vulnerable orphaned children from Child-headed families and I have been supporting them to attend schools and with other basic needs at home since 2007.

After completing my studies at UNSW, I started up This Life Foundation to continue supporting and empowering vulnerable children in the War-torn North and North-eastern Uganda especially supporting them to cope with life as the people of Northern Uganda are now resettling back into their homes and rebuilding their lives after the war. Whereas resettlement is a good thing for those who have land and can now utilise them to survive as they rebuild their lives, most families are not coping well with it. They have lost everything during the war and particularly children born in Camps do not even understand what it means since this has been their homes. They have now been disconnected from their friends, neighbours and the community they have known and belonged to for over two decade. The resettlement process has not only been harsh to child-headed families but also to the elderly who cannot afford to move or have lost their land due to the rampant land grab in the region.

To attend our Fundraising dinner, please go to <http://thislifefundraising.eventbrite.com.au>