

NEWS

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Starbucks Community Service Program Gives Grant to Local Charity

Holmdel, NJ...Sylvia's Children, a 501(c)3 based in Holmdel, New Jersey, is pleased to announce it has received a \$2,500 grant from the Starbucks Community Service Program. The grant was made in recognition of a group of Starbucks employees who provided 47 hours of community service on behalf of Sylvia's Children.

In an ongoing effort to support the charity, a handful of Starbucks locations in central New Jersey have partnered with Sylvia's Children for a charity clothing drive that has generated \$12,250 in just over a year.

Sylvia's Children supports 1,020 children at the Mbirizi Advanced Primary and Day School in Uganda, Africa, a quarter of which are orphaned due to the AIDS pandemic. The community is poor and the charity aims to help eliminate poverty by creating African entrepreneurship within the school and giving the children a quality education so they can go on to secondary school and a career.

Sylvia's Children has been developing a working model at the school that is allowing the children to become educated and break the poverty cycle. Several businesses are being developed - a sewing business where children will learn to sew and women from the town can come after school to work in a uniform sewing business; a chicken farm, which will supply the children with protein and allow surplus eggs to generate revenue; and corn milling operation.

Since its launch in 2003, Sylvia's Children has succeeded in ensuring an annual sponsorship for 93 of the 235 orphaned children and has raised \$550,000, all of which has gone directly to the school. It has built a well; purchased seven acres of land, a school bus to transport the children; provided an Internet-equipped computer; constructed a dormitory

with triple-decker bunk beds; built a playground; provided sporting and musical equipment; and built three additional double classroom blocks as well as providing a full-time nurse and new stoves for increased cooking efficiency. Sylvia's Children also has a goal of providing quality health care for the children and the village through the construction of a clinic and providing a doctor and nurse on duty at all times. For more information, visit www.sylviaschildren.org or call 732-946-2711.

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