

# What Angel Heart and Soul Foundation Aims to Solve

## Problem Statement & Core Needs Analysis

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### 1. The Core Problem

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Angel Heart and Soul Foundation (AHASF) exists to address a fundamental and interconnected crisis: children around the world are being denied the basic conditions necessary for survival, dignity, and future opportunity. Across the communities we serve — in Uganda, Honduras, and the tri-state region of New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania — the absence of food, safe shelter, clean water, medical care, and education creates a cycle of poverty that, without intervention, becomes self-perpetuating across generations.

AHASF's founder, William Lawson, personally witnessed the depth of these conditions during the Foundation's inaugural mission to Kyotera, Uganda in May 2025. What he and his team encountered at the Ddembelyabato Orphanage — run by VEROWGDEC (Voice and Rights of Women and Girl Child Development Center) — encapsulated the totality of needs that the Foundation was formed to address.

### 2. Specific Problems AHASF Addresses

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#### 2.1 Child Poverty and the Absence of Basic Necessities

The most immediate problem AHASF addresses is extreme child poverty — not as an abstract concept, but in its most physical and daily manifestations. At the Ddembelyabato Orphanage, 82 children who have lost parents or been abandoned depend entirely on institutional support. Prior to AHASF's intervention:

- The kitchen had no proper structure for meal preparation, creating smoke hazards, burn hazards, structural risks, and fire dangers for those cooking for nearly 100 people daily.
- Children lacked protective footwear, walking barefoot on muddy paths, across hazardous terrain, and into unsanitary pit latrines — resulting in regular cuts, infections, and compounding injuries.
- In cases of extended power outages — which are frequent in Kyotera — children were required to walk a 15-mile round trip to a community well with 350 steps to the water source, carrying containers to transport drinking water back to the orphanage.
- Sunday meals and fruit and vegetables were luxuries the children rarely received due to budget constraints.

#### 2.2 Unsafe and Unsanitary Living Conditions

Adequate sanitation is a foundational human right that was systematically absent in the communities AHASF serves. At Ddembelyabato, the pit latrines were in such severe disrepair that:

- Children, including barefoot children, had no dignified or sanitary means of using toilet facilities.
- During heavy rains, the original latrines would back up and overflow, creating serious public health risks.
- The township issued a formal ultimatum — repair or shut down — due to health code violations, underscoring the urgency of the crisis.

Beyond sanitation, sleeping conditions posed risks. Many children slept on the floor or on failing beds, exposing them to insect bites and ground-level hazards. Approximately 60 children needed new mattresses and bed frames. The roof over the boys' sleeping area was leaking, leaving children exposed to rain damage during sleep.

### **2.3 Educational Inequity and the School-to-Nowhere Gap**

One of the most structural problems AHASF targets is what can be described as the "school-to-nowhere gap" — the point at which public education fails and children with potential are left without a pathway forward.

The Ugandan public education system provides free high school, but in practice this system frequently fails its students: teachers do not consistently show up, and the curriculum does not adequately prepare students for college or vocational training. The only viable path to a quality secondary education is private schooling — which costs between \$700 and \$1,000 per year including room and board.

Without scholarships, orphaned children who have already overcome extraordinary odds to complete primary school at Ddembelyabato face a dead end. AHASF has identified this as one of the most solvable and highest-impact problems it can address — directly sponsoring specific children with the potential, determination, and dreams to transform their communities.

- Ssewanyana Uthiman — dreams of attending law school and becoming a judge
- Christine Blessing — studying to become a teacher and musician
- Mugisa Fortunate — studying to become a businessman

### **2.4 Medical Neglect of Vulnerable Children**

Children with medical needs in underserved communities face compounding disadvantages: limited access to specialists, unreliable medication supply, and transportation barriers that prevent consistent care. AHASF has directly encountered this in the case of Nakalule Peace, a four-year-old child at Ddembelyabato with cerebral palsy who:

- Cannot sit upright, stand independently, or close her mouth
- Requires diapering throughout the day due to inability to control fluid passing
- Cannot communicate or interact with other children
- Requires monthly transport to the larger LACHO Hospital in the city, as the local hospital cannot manage her condition or consistently supply her required medications

Her situation represents the broader failure of rural and under-resourced medical systems to serve the most vulnerable — children who will fall through every crack of the system unless a specific organization advocates and funds their care.

### **2.5 Community Church and Spiritual Support Infrastructure**

AHASF recognizes that in the communities it serves, faith institutions serve as primary social safety nets, community centers, and sources of hope. When those physical structures are themselves in disrepair or unfinished, the entire community loses a pillar of resilience. The Siloam Pool Ministries church in Kyotera, which provides direct pastoral and community support to Ddembelyabato Orphanage, had an incomplete roof — exposing congregants and community gatherings to the elements. AHASF coordinated with partner Pastor Joseph Oh and His Church on the Rock to fund and complete this roof, restoring the church as a functioning hub for the community.

## 2.6 Domestic Poverty and Community Need in the Tri-State Region

AHASF does not limit its vision to international need. The Foundation actively addresses poverty, food insecurity, and lack of educational resources in the New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania tri-state area. Through partnerships with local businesses, churches, and community organizations, AHASF:

- Conducts back-to-school supply drives, distributing materials to children in underserved local communities
- Partners with employee volunteer groups — including Amazon delivery service partners — to extend community reach
- Collaborates with His Church on the Rock on local food drives, including donations to St. Peter's Food Drive
- Actively recruits local volunteers for boots-on-the-ground service: meal service, mentorship, event planning, photography, and administration

## 2.7 International Neglect and Lack of Coordinated Mission Support

Beyond direct service to children, AHASF addresses a systemic gap: the lack of coordinated, verified, and accountable mission support in impoverished countries. Many organizations operate in isolated silos; local community purchases are bypassed in favor of imported goods; and the economic ecosystem surrounding impoverished communities is often ignored.

AHASF's model specifically addresses this by:

- Purchasing all project materials — water tank supplies, food, construction materials — from local vendors in Kyotera to circulate economic benefit within the community
- Building lasting partnerships with local pastors, orphanage founders, and community leaders rather than imposing external structures
- Supporting the International Christian School in Urraco, Honduras in building a library of Spanish-language books for Grades 1 through 12
- Operating with boots-on-the-ground presence (Year 1 visit May 2025, Year 2 return planned May 2026) rather than purely remote grant disbursement

## 3. The Cycle AHASF Aims to Break

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At its heart, AHASF exists to break the cycle of poverty — a cycle in which the absence of food leads to cognitive underdevelopment; the absence of education leads to permanent economic exclusion; the absence of medical care leads to preventable disability; and the absence of hope leads to the transmission of all of the above to the next generation. By addressing each link in this chain — simultaneously and with accountability — AHASF aims

not only to alleviate suffering today but to permanently alter the trajectories of the children it serves.

## 4. Summary of Problems Addressed

| Problem Area                        | Specific Need Identified   |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Food &amp; Nutrition</b>         | 3 meals daily for 82 children; fruits, vegetables, and Sunday special meals    |
| <b>Safe Cooking Infrastructure</b>  | Institutional kitchen with proper ventilation and commercial stove             |
| <b>Sanitation</b>                   | New pit latrine / toilet facility built to safety standards                    |
| <b>Clean Water Access</b>           | 3,000-liter reserve water tank with UV filtration system                       |
| <b>Footwear / Protection</b>        | 60+ children needing sandals to prevent injury and infection                   |
| <b>Sleeping Conditions</b>          | ~60 new mattresses and bed frames; roof repair over boys' section              |
| <b>Secondary Education</b>          | Private school scholarships (\$700–\$1,000/year) for orphaned graduates        |
| <b>Special Medical Needs</b>        | Monthly hospital transport, medication, and dietary support for Nakalule Peace |
| <b>School Supplies</b>              | Curriculum materials, books, computers, desks, blackboards                     |
| <b>Land / Recreation</b>            | Repurchase of lost land for children's play area and soccer field              |
| <b>Community Church Support</b>     | Completion of Siloam Pool Ministries roof in Kyotera                           |
| <b>Honduras School Library</b>      | Spanish-language books Grades 1–12 for International Christian School          |
| <b>Domestic Poverty (Tri-State)</b> | Back-to-school drives, food drives, community volunteer programs               |