



EDUCATE. EMPOWER. ENRICH



MARCH 2025

## Newsletter Highlights

### STACE Students Shine in National Exams & Champion Peace at Annual Conference

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It is with immense joy and gratitude that I share the remarkable achievements of St. Thomas Aquinas Campus in Erepi, Uganda (STACE) as we begin a new school year. Our students have once again demonstrated their commitment to excellence, earning recognition as the best-performing school in the West Nile region in the recent national exams. This achievement is especially significant as it marks only the second time our students have participated at the national level, a testament to the exceptional quality of education at STACE and the unwavering dedication of our staff and students.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our incredible teachers, whose commitment to shaping young minds into high achievers is truly inspiring. Their passion for education and pursuit of excellence continue to equip our students with the knowledge and skills to rise above challenges and reach new heights.

The school year also began with our Annual Peace Conference, reinforcing the values of unity, teamwork, and perseverance that define the STACE community. This gathering was a powerful reminder that an environment of peace is the foundation for both academic success and personal growth. The celebration was filled with music, dancing, and heartfelt messages of gratitude to all who make our students' dreams possible through their generous support.

As we move forward, STACE students and staff remain committed to excellence, pushing themselves to new heights in their pursuit of knowledge. We deeply appreciate your unwavering support—through sponsorships, financial gifts, and prayers—which provide the critical resources these students need to excel. Thank you for believing in the mission of STACE. Your generosity is truly empowering young minds and building a brighter future.

With gratitude,  
Rev. Robert Seraph Aliunzi

STACE Students Shine in National Exams & Champion Peace at Annual Conference

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E3 Africa's Parish Partners Make a Lasting Impact!

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E3 Africa names new Board Chair Nate Cottrell

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Tonny Okema's Journey: From Struggles to Success

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E3 Africa is seeking new Board Members- Learn More!

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MARCH 2025



## E3 Africa's Parish Partners Make a Lasting Impact!

We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible generosity of our parish partners and donors who have made a profound difference in the lives of the orphaned and impoverished children we serve in Uganda. Your unwavering support continues to bring hope, education, and essential resources to the students at St. Thomas Aquinas College Erepi (STACE).



Thanks to the dedicated support of St. Andrew the Apostle in Chandler, Our Lady of Lourdes in Sun City West, St. John Vianney in Sedona, Corpus Christi in Phoenix, and St. Francis Xavier in Phoenix, E3 Africa has been able to sponsor 45 additional children this year! These life-changing sponsorships provide education, nourishment, and opportunities that these students would not otherwise have.



In addition to student sponsorships, the generosity of our parish partners has allowed us to fully fund critical campus needs, including:

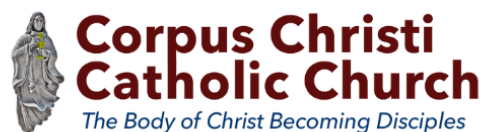
- ✓ Lab Equipment – Enhancing science education and hands-on learning opportunities.
- ✓ Security Cameras – Ensuring the safety of our students and staff.
- ✓ Motorcycle for Staff – Enabling our Uganda team to travel to remote areas and qualify students for sponsorship.
- ✓ 88 Beds & 175 Mattresses – Providing much-needed comfort and rest for our students.
- ✓ Textbooks for All Students – Equipping every student with the resources they need to succeed academically.



These incredible contributions, along with the sacrificial giving of so many who supported our year-end appeal, have transformed the lives of the students at STACE. On behalf of these children, we extend our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you. Your kindness is paving the way for a brighter future, one child at a time.



Thank you for believing in our mission and standing with us in our commitment to educate, empower, and enrich the lives of Uganda's most vulnerable children.



MARCH 2025



## **E3 AFRICA'S NEW BOARD CHAIR, NATE COTRELL**

Nate Cottrell has been a steadfast advocate for the mission of E3 Africa, dedicating his expertise in civil engineering and construction to the development of St. Thomas Aquinas College Erepi (STACE) in northern Uganda. A 1994 graduate of the University of Arizona with a degree in Civil Engineering, Nate is the owner of PRE-CEG, an engineering and field services company specializing in commercial land development across Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and California.

Beyond his professional career, Nate is deeply committed to his faith and family. He and his wife, Heather, who has been a special needs teacher at the Phoenix Day School for the Deaf since 1999, have been married since 1993 and have raised five bilingual children fluent in both sign language and English.

Nate has played a pivotal role in the organization's growth, particularly in overseeing the construction efforts at the expanding STACE campus. Leveraging his extensive experience in construction and project management, he leads the school construction committee, ensuring that each phase of development provides the necessary infrastructure to support quality education for orphaned and impoverished students. His long-term commitment to E3 Africa is driven by a deep passion for service, education, and sustainable development. Through his leadership, Nate continues to build not just structures, but opportunities for a brighter future for the children of Uganda.

## ***SAVE THE DATE!***

October 4, 2025

TOPGOLF Glendale  
6101 N. 99th Ave  
Glendale, AZ







## **Tonny Okema's Journey: From Struggles to Success**

Tonny Okema, from Adjumani District, faced significant hardships before joining EENU in 2019. Financial struggles, lack of guidance, and family challenges affected his confidence and academic performance. However, everything changed when he received sponsorship from his generous donor, Rae-Mi.

With financial burdens lifted, Tonny excelled in his studies and developed valuable agricultural skills, including beekeeping, poultry farming, winemaking, and sustainable farming techniques. His passion for agriculture grew, and he is now on a path to becoming an agricultural entrepreneur and extension officer. His goals include improving farming practices, contributing to food security, and creating employment opportunities in his community.

Beyond academics, Tonny actively participates in soccer, learning teamwork and discipline. His sponsorship not only transformed his life but also eased financial pressures on his family. Now, with his completed agriculture course, he has started a small farm at home, which he plans to expand in the future.

**A Heartfelt Message of Gratitude**

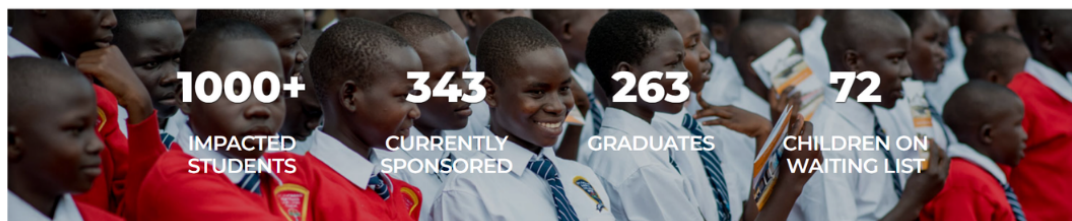
"I am forever grateful for the sponsorship that has transformed my life and empowered me to achieve my education goals. Thank you for believing in me and investing in my future."

Tonny's story is a testament to the power of education and support. Thanks to sponsors like Rae-Mi, students like Tonny are turning their dreams into reality. If you are interested in changing a life through sponsorship of a student in need please visit our website [e3africa.org/donate](https://e3africa.org/donate)



**SPONSOR**

MARCH 2025



## E3 Africa is Seeking: Passionate Board Members to Help Transform Lives in Uganda

E3 Africa is seeking dedicated and mission-driven individuals to join our Board of Directors! If you have a heart for service and a passion for making a tangible difference in the lives of orphaned and impoverished children in Uganda, we invite you to consider this rewarding leadership opportunity.

Our mission at E3 Africa is to educate, enrich, and empower vulnerable children through quality education and holistic support. We believe that every child deserves the opportunity to thrive, and with the help of compassionate individuals like you, we can continue expanding access to education and life-changing resources.

We are particularly in need of board members with expertise in the following areas:

- ✓ Accounting & Financial Management – Help ensure the financial health and sustainability of our mission.
- ✓ Legal Background – Provide guidance on compliance, governance, and contracts.
- ✓ Nonprofit Experience – Bring valuable insights on nonprofit operations, fundraising, and community engagement.
- ✓ Passion for Education & Service – Above all, we seek individuals who share our deep commitment to transforming lives through education.

As a board member, you will have the opportunity to provide strategic leadership, support fundraising efforts, and help shape the future of E3 Africa. If you or someone you know is interested, please reach out to learn more about how you can play a vital role in our mission.

Together, we can change lives—one child at a time!

For more information or to express interest, please contact Kristin Smith  
kristin@e3africa.org or call 480-253-9403.

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