



Kenyan Orphan Children Foundation

Newsletter
December 2009



Dear Friends of Mama Orphans,

Greetings and habari to you all. Thankfully 2009, has been a better year for Kenya, in general, and Mama Orphan's Home, in particular than 2008. The civil unrest which erupted after the 2007 elections has died down, so that the general level of security has returned to pre-election levels. Unfortunately, the economic instability which began with the post-election violence has deepened because of the global economic crisis. This has largely affected Mama's family and the children in terms of higher costs for food and other basics. The generous support of individual donors has been of great help to the children during this time.

In October, the home was visited by a group of about 20 teachers from the Netherlands. They had been sponsored by the Dutch NGO, Edukans to visit several projects. Edukans had provided some assistance to Mama Orphan's Home in the past and were happy to accommodate the visitors. The group brought with them shoeboxes filled with small toys, pencils and other gifts for the children. These were much appreciated.



**Children playing soccer in the new play
area**

Mama took the opportunity to advocate for ongoing assistance from the visitors once they return home to Holland. Her hope is that other organizations like ours could be developed in other countries to provide further support for the home.

In 2008 the Mama Orphans' Home was able to purchase an additional plot of land adjacent to their existing compound with funds provided by a generous donation from Calgary and administered through the Foundation. The land was not well used initially since Mama and the other staff were concerned about the safety of the children. This past year, Monica was able to use funding from the Foundation to build a permanent wall which has enabled the children to now fully utilize the space as a play area. Part of the new land is also being used to raise chickens.



**The additional land also provides a new
home for chickens**

Despite the economic downturn supporters for the home have remained very generous, with donations for this year only falling slightly from 2008. We have been able to continue to provide quarterly transfers of approximately \$6000 to support the running costs for the home. While this regular support has been of great assistance to the children and their caretakers, as always we could provide better support with more donations.

Strawberry Hill United Church in Delta was able to raise funds specifically to help Mama replace old and worn-out mattresses in the dormitories. These were purchased in September and the staff and children greatly appreciated this initiative.

Monica's long term project is to build a primary school to provide in-home education for the children as well as to generate income from paying students from outside. There is a commitment by the Swiss organization Pro Victimis to pay for half of the costs, but the orphanage would need to come up with the other 50% through other means. Currently this is not in the range of projects which our Foundation in Canada would be able to support, but we are looking for additional donors, elsewhere.



Some of the children helping to prepare the midday meal

The grade 7 students at Quilchena Elementary School in Richmond, BC have been involved with fundraising and raising awareness for the Free the Children Foundation this year. This organization supports the efforts of youth helping youth both internationally and locally. This year the grade 7's have chosen Mama Orphans Children's Home to be

recipients of funds raised this year. The students will be involved in organizing and promoting a water campaign that will help provide money for regular running water at orphanage. Money will go specifically towards a rain water collection system and towards paying for electricity to pump well water to the existing water tower.

We wanted to thank all our donors and supporters who have assisted Mama Orphan's Children's Home in the past year. It is clear that anyone who has had the opportunity to see the safe and loving environment that Mama and her family are providing for these children are compelled to help her on her mission. Please pass on our information about Monica and her children to your friends and family and please consider donating again.

We now have the ability to accept automatic monthly donations; if you are interested in participating in this program, please contact us at admin@kenyanorphans.org for further information.

Those wishing to donate online can go to our website at www.kenyanorphans.org or send a cheque to: Kenyan Orphan Children's Foundation #303 1450 Laburnum St. Vancouver, BC, Canada, V6J 3W3

