

Kenyan Orphan Children's Foundation

Newsletter December 2011



Dear Friends of Mama Orphans,

Greetings and habari to you all. We would again like to thank all our donors for their generous support and provide an update on the comings and goings at Mama Orphans Children's Home in 2011.

There have been a number of challenges throughout the past year, which have affected the Home. Most importantly, food and fuel prices have increased dramatically, making most things much more expensive. Education expenses too, have increased substantially, such that Mama and her family decided that it would be more economical to start their own primary school within the Home, rather than pay school fees for all of the primary school-age children to attend elsewhere. As such, the Home is now employing 3 teachers to teach the children enrolled in Grades 1 - 3. Rental properties on the orphanage compound were converted to classrooms for this purpose. The school now services about half of the children enrolled in primary school.



Children in one of the new primary classrooms

been involved in raising chickens and rabbits. The project began last year and has already contributed

New library

MOCH received a very generous gift in mid-2011 in the form of a shipping container sent from England. This was initiated and organized by Helen Retallic, a volunteer who visited the home last January. In the container were books, furniture, toys, clothes,

school items and shoes. MOCH now has a well stocked library where the children are able to sit quietly and enjoy a good book.



New plot of land

A former volunteer, Joshua Bicknel and his mother Melinda Phillips, successfully raised close to \$20,000 in the UK this year, to allow MOCH to purchase a plot of land just outside of Busia. Mama and her family would like to build a comprehensive nursery and primary school on this land. Melinda's and Joshua's organization, Kenya Works (www.kenyaworks.org.uk) is planning to help to raise funds to help to build the school. Melinda hopes to partner Kenya Works with other interested individuals, companies, and organizations to help finance the building.

Poultry and rabbit projects

In an effort to continue to develop income generating projects, and to give the children experience raising different animals, the Home has

some supplemental meat to the children's diet. Both the chicken and the rabbit populations are on the increase!



Joshua Bicknell, a volunteer from the UK with Muchimba

Community Outreach

In order to forge better relationships between the children and their relatives in villages around Busia, the Home conducts Outreach activities twice per year. The goal of these activities is to facilitate eventual re-integration by the orphans with their extended families.

Volunteers

Again this year, MOCH hosted a number of volunteers from many different countries. The Home has now renovated a few rooms in a former rental house to accommodate volunteers. It is self-contained and includes a kitchen. Anyone interested in visiting Mama Orphans Home and/ or volunteering should contact Betty Odour at mamaorphans@yahoo.com

Visitors

Several regular and generous supporters of MOCH visited the Home during 2011. Alex and Wendy Campbell who have supported the orphanage for several years visited from Calgary, Alberta. Melinda Phillips from Kenya Works visited from the UK, Christine Pellegrini, from Sidecole came from Switzerland, and David Moore, from Vancouver BC, visited three times, bringing his son Kieran with him once. These people, along with Betty Langtry and her husband George, and their fellow parishioners at Cross Roads United Church have been longtime

supporters of MOCH. Their support and dedication to providing care to the children at MOCH has been very appreciated.

As well as bringing goodwill and financial support to the orphanage, visitors provide a basis for an ever growing network of people who have come to know and care about the children at MOCH. Visitors go home and share their stories with their friends and family and continue to build awareness in their communities about Mama and her children, and the plight of many of Kenya's youth.

Individual Child Sponsorships.

In 2010, we developed the possibility of sponsoring individual children. To date, donors have provided direct sponsorship for 5 children in the Home. Providing the full costs of living for an individual secondary-school aged child is estimated to be approximately \$867 per year, or about \$72 per month. If you are interested in sponsoring an individual child or just making regular monthly contributions to Kenyan Orphan Children's Foundation 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

THANK YOU AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!



T-shirts with the new logo for Mama Orphans' Children's Home