



Kenyan Orphan Children's Foundation

Newsletter December 2012



Dear Friends of Mama Orphans,

Merry Christmas 2012 from the Kenyan Orphan Children's Foundation, and our friends at Mama Orphans Children's Home in Busia, Kenya. The Home continues to thrive thanks to the generous support of donors in Canada and elsewhere. We would like to thank you once again for your ongoing and generous support.

In the past year, the Foundation has managed to support a salary for a full-time administrator, which has greatly improved the sustainability of the Home. However, the needs of the local population to develop strategies to deal with orphaned and abandoned children remain great. Local officials in Busia continue to bring abandoned children, even on a temporary basis, to Mama Orphan's in order to provide a caring environment for children found on the street. These children are intended to stay at the Home for only a few days while local officials try to locate other family members. However, often no family can be found and the children become residents. As such the number of children at the home continues to grow. In 2012, an additional 20 children were brought to the home.



Preparation for a dance performance

One means to solving this capacity problem is to help the older children who have completed secondary school find employment. The Vocational or University Training Initiative (described below) is one means of doing this.

Primary School Developments

In 2011, the Home expanded its nursery school to include the first 3 grades of primary school. In 2012, the primary school has again expanded to include classes up to Grade 5. The classrooms have been developed from rental properties on the orphanage compound. Having the primary school on site is a very cost-effective way to provide education, since the costs of employing teachers directly are much less expensive than paying school expenses for all the children to attend outside schools. While primary school is technically free in Kenya, in reality the underfunding of the education system means that all schools require significant financial contributions from students' families in order to operate.

In 2011, a former volunteer, Joshua Bicknel and his mother Melinda Phillips, successfully raised funds to allow MOCH to purchase a plot of land just outside of Busia. Melinda's and Joshua's organization, Kenya Works (www.kenyaworks.org.uk) is in the process of raising funds to build a larger primary school and have organized a number of fundraising events in the UK for this purpose. Supporters of the Kenyan Orphan Children's Foundation have also contributed to this initiative. Anyone interested in contributing to this project should contact Melinda and Joshua through the web-address above.

Vocational training/University

Children who complete secondary school in Busia often have fairly limited employment prospects. With very generous support from two supporters of the Foundation in Calgary, the Home has been able to support four young adults into post-secondary education. Three of the children are undertaking degree programs which are a four year course and several others have enrolled for trainings of some sort in polytechnic which will begin in January.

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

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 help with further efforts to keep the home going.

Scholarship update

In 2010, SASsy, a women's social action group in Vancouver, sponsored a charity run to support Joseph Odihambo, one of the senior students from MOCH in furthering his education. Joseph will be graduating in December from Nairobi University with a diploma in Human Resource Management

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.



Children with sponsorship to attend secondary school

Those wishing to donate online can go to our website at www.kenyanorphans.org

You can also send a cheque to:
Kenyan Orphan Children's Foundation
#4 - 149 West 13th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.
V5Y 1V8

NOTE THAT OUR ADDRESS HAS CHANGED!

THANK YOU AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!