



Kenyan Orphan Children's Foundation

Newsletter
December 2013



Dear Friends of Mama Orphans,

Merry Christmas 2013 from the Kenyan Orphan Children's Foundation, and our friends at Mama Orphans Children's Home (MOCH) 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 March of 2013, Kenya underwent general elections and while there was some dispute with respect to results, there was no repeat of the widespread post-election violence, which marred the 2008 elections. For a month after the election, Busia was affected by some violence, and though it disrupted a lot of regular daily activities, no one in the Orphans' Home was hurt.

Local officials in Busia continue to bring abandoned children to Mama Orphan's in order to provide a caring environment for children found on the street. Many of 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 permanent residents. The orphanage is now home to 136 children, including many infants under the age of two. These increasing numbers continue to put a strain on the resources and living space at the Home.

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 10 young adults with access to formal vocational training programs or university. All participants in the vocational programs undertake a 3-month practical training course where they receive on-the-job-experience. To date most of the

graduates, have found employment as clerks, waiters or drivers and are living independently. Three other residents are enrolled in degree programs at the university.



Participants in the vocational training program

Primary School Developments

Two friends of Mama Orphans, Joshua Bicknel and his mother Melinda Phillips, have been working through their organization Kenya Works (www.kenyaworks.org.uk) to raise money to build a larger primary school. They have organized a number of fundraising events in the UK for this purpose. In June of this year, some other supporters of the Home paid for Mama and Betty to travel to the U.K. to participate in several fundraising activities.

Travel to Canada

In August of this year, another friend and former volunteer of Mama Orphans, invited Mama and her son Bobby to attend her wedding in Delta, BC. Mama was able to spend 3 weeks in Greater Vancouver and

visited several churches, and the homes of many supporters. It was a terrific experience and we hope that seeing Mama in Canada, will leave a lasting impression on those who met her.

Volunteers

In the past year, two teachers in the U.K. assisted the Home in bringing volunteer teachers to Kenya to teach at the Home's primary school. In May, two teachers came to Busia for six weeks and greatly assisted the Home's regular teachers in school instruction. The visit was highly motivating for the teachers and the children in the Home. Following this success, second pair of teachers have been recruited to come in the near future. Having teachers from other countries work in the school raises the profile of the school in the community and makes it easier to attract other children from the community to the school. In turn the fees that these children pay offset some of the costs of running the school. The Home is planning to continue to offer volunteer placements for teachers from the U.K. in order to improve the education delivered through the school. Mama and Betty's trip to England helped publicized MOCH, its activities and its educational program. We hope trips such as this help us move towards reaching our goal of a new primary school.

Again this year, MOCH hosted a number of other volunteers, from many different countries, who help with the daily running of the orphanage. 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 Oduor at mamaorphans@yahoo.com

Individual Child Sponsorships.

In 2010, we began a sponsorship program where donors are matched to 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

contributions to the Foundation, please contact us at admin@kenyanorphans.org for further information.



Visitors

This year, the Home received visits from Sidecole (Switzerland), the Kenyan Orphan Children's Foundation and the State of Geneva, among other 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 family and help with further efforts to keep the home going.

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**

THANK YOU AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!