



Kenyan Orphan Children's Foundation Newsletter

December 2018



Dear Friends of Mama Orphans,

Merry Christmas 2018 from the Kenyan Orphan Children's Foundation, and our friends at Mama Orphans Children's Home (MOCH) in Busia, Kenya.

Primary school news

In 2017, the Home was able to find a small amount of funds to build new classrooms in the back of the compound in order to replace the decaying classrooms at the front which previously housed the primary school. The school has now being operating in these new classrooms for nearly one-year and both students and teachers agree that it is a much more positive learning environment. The rooms are much more spacious than the previous classrooms which bigger windows for better lighting. They are now located adjacent to the outdoor play area which is used for physical education.



New primary school compound

Income generating activities

Poultry farming and fabric making continues to be ongoing small sources of income for Mama Orphans. In addition, the Home is planning to start adult classes in the newly renovated primary school for

foreign language education (Spanish, German, and French). The Home hopes to make use of the languages expertise of volunteers who visit the home to staff these classes.



Challenges with Climate

2018 saw more challenges with weather extremes. Drought-like conditions prevailed early in the year which led to water shortages, followed by long periods of heavy rain, which lasted many more months than usual. These heavy rains caused severe flooding in and around Busia and led to many farmers being unable to harvest crops this year, leading to food shortages and rising prices.

Mama Orphans Children's Home Alumni News

Kip, a young man who lived at the orphanage for several years and left four years ago is now a television journalist and news anchor in Kenya. He has proven to be a great supporter of the orphanage by becoming the chairman of the MOCH alumni. Now he and other alumni have donated sufficient funds to pay college fees for two MOCH residents.

Reconciliation Project

In response to the rise in ethnic tensions which occurred during the national elections in 2017, Mama Orphans Children's Home founded a project to foster a greater sense of harmony across all ethnic and tribal groups in the Busia region. The project known as TRIBE-ALL is a project whose activities are geared towards bringing together all Kenyans regardless of tribal identity with a view of forging positive relationships amongst young people. Throughout 2018, teens and young adults from the orphanage continued to disseminate messages of pan-tribalism and reconciliation to their counterparts from other parts of society



Overseas volunteers participating in a Tribe-all event with MOCH residents

Volunteers

The orphanage continues to host volunteer teachers from all over the world. The Home has been very pleased with the enthusiasm and high quality of education provided by these volunteers. They also provide much needed collegial and academic support to the teachers employed by the Home, many of whom are just beginning their teaching careers. As well, non-teaching volunteers are also frequently welcomed by the Home. Anyone interested in visiting Mama Orphans Home and/ or volunteering should contact Betty Oduor at mamaorphans@yahoo.com



Balloons released during a celebration at the Home

High school/ Vocational training/ University

The Home continues to support over 20 children in high school and vocational training for other children who are not so academically inclined.

Rest in peace

Unfortunately, two of the children in the Home passed away in 2018. 15-year-old Promise who suffered from epilepsy for many years developed a serious medical problem, possibly meningitis, and died on the way to hospital. As well, 8-month old Emmanuel who was frequently in and out of hospital in his short life due to sickle cell anemia also died, due to a sudden illness. Many other children became ill during the year, possibly due to the prolonged flooding and the ensuing crowding which developed. This resulted in very large medical bills for the Home and suffering for the children. Fortunately, the rest of the children were able to make full recoveries.

Thank you for all your support throughout the year. 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**

Currently, the Home is raising funds specifically to pay for a new water pump.

THANK YOU AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!