



Kenyan Orphan Children's Foundation Newsletter



December 2021

Dear Friends of Mama Orphans,

Again in 2021, this past year has been very challenging year for Mama Orphans Children's Home (MOCH). The COVID-19 pandemic continued to disrupt most aspects of normal life in Kenya over the past year. Nearly all of the external activities and programs of the orphanage were paralyzed for the first half of 2021. In particular, the education system was entirely disrupted for over a year. This left children who are young energetic and active stuck in the Home for over a year as COVID rules required them to stay put. This led to a lot of stress among the children which the Home struggled to deal with.

Fortunately, later in the year, schools were allowed to re-open, restoring some sense of normalcy to life. However, in the civil strife caused by the pandemic, some schools in the district were badly damaged. The government declared an emergency two week break where all children were asked to leave schools and return home. Although students have now returned to classes, their families or guardians are required to pay additional school fees to pay for repairs.



One of the kids getting water

Similarly, much of the normal repair work and maintenance in the home has been delayed due to lack of funds or availability of materials. Important repairs are needed for the roof and walls of the kitchen and the dormitories need to replace many of the mattresses and all of the mosquito nets, both of which have now been used well beyond their expected lifetime.



Bird's eye view of the dining hall

Volunteers

As visitors to Kenya are still somewhat restricted, the orphanage has put its volunteer program on-hold for the time being. The Home has been very pleased with the enthusiasm and high quality of service provided by these volunteers, over the previous years and will like to continue this program when it is safe to do so. Anyone interested in visiting Mama Orphans Home and/ or volunteering should contact Betty Oduor at mamaorphans@yahoo.com

Dealing with Trauma

Many of the children arrive in the Home having experienced both physical and psychological trauma in their past. The Home organizes activities to try to restore these children's' faith in humanity by visiting homes of other families with similar experiences who have recovered from their traumas and are now leading fulfilling lives. The Home also works with government social workers to address the emotional, spiritual and social needs of these children.



Despite the challenges of the past year, the children still find ways to have fun

Throughout the pandemic, however, the children keep busy helping out with the chores that keep the Home running. These include washing their own dishes and laundry helping out in the garden, helping with meal preparation, as well as keeping each other entertained. They are remarkably creative in inventing games and toys that keeps them engaged. In the midst of all the problems that we go through, giving up has never been in our vocabulary. Children are resilient and even in the face of adversity they still afford to keep a smile. We learn from the children and hope for a better day. Through your generous contributions we are able to care for the children and change their lives.

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**

THANK YOU AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!