



Kenyan Orphan Children's Foundation Newsletter

December 2022



Hello from Mama Orphans,

As we celebrate little milestones, we extend our gratitude to our many friends and supporters who continue to help Mama's orphanage grow, and empower children and families to build bright futures. Since starting in the early 2000's, the orphanage has seen over 500 children transition into adulthood, many now leading families of their own and becoming independent Kenyan citizens.

Climate change has led to unpredictable weather patterns with periods of torrential rain and subsequent flooding, resulting in overall decreases in crop production for staples such as maize, rice and beans. Coupled with the global economic crisis, this has led to skyrocketing prices.



Meal time!

Many of the rabbits and chickens that were previously being raised for sale outside the Orphanage have now become an important source of protein for the children, as the prices for meat and poultry in the shops are now too expensive. The heavy rainfall has also led to some structural damage with the perimeter wall now crumbling and in dire need of repairs (see picture above of the wall).

On a positive note, Kenya has instituted a new system of "competency-based curriculum" for public education. These changes now provide children with broader choices in education and some more practical classes, many of which are now being taught outside of traditional classrooms. One particularly useful initiative involves providing children with cooking classes. The kids from the orphanage are then able to practice what they learned by preparing different dishes at the orphanage. As well, they have also learned to make some snack foods which they can sell to clients outside the Home.



A cooking class

Mama and the staff are constantly looking for new opportunities for vocational training for the children. They have managed to arrange a few apprenticeships with some tradespeople such as welders, whereby students can learn on the job, while they are still staying at the Home.

Fortunately, the children still know how to have fun. They enjoy outdoor games creating toys from the materials they find lying around. The most popular

are making their own soccer balls using plastic grocery bags and jump ropes from sisal plants.



Daniel playing with his homemade soccer ball

The Home systematically tries to re-connect children to extended families living in some of the neighboring villages, in order to try to maintain sustainable numbers of children in the orphanage. However, often when relatives are found, their economic circumstances are insufficient to care for their own families, let alone take on additional children from a deceased relative. The Home has found some success in re-patriating children with their relatives by providing some subsidies for food and education to these families, but this continues to be very challenging.



Kagolo, one of the boys selling fruit from a cart on the street

Volunteers

With the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, visitors to Kenya are now being welcomed back. As such, the orphanage is again offering volunteer opportunities for

individuals who would like to come to work at the Home. Anyone interested in visiting Mama Orphans Home and/ or volunteering should contact Betty Oduor at mamaorphans@yahoo.com

Many of the children who have graduated from the Home have come back to visit, which has been extremely rewarding to Mama, her family and the staff in the Home and provide great role models for the children currently in the Home. Selina, one of the girls who successfully underwent vocational training through the Home has managed to open up a hair salon. As a token of appreciation, she asked Mama to hold a prayer session during the official opening and then provided a pedicure and manicure for Mama afterwards. Eric one of boys who graduated with a Bachelor of Administration worked for a local non-governmental organization, Innovation for Poverty Action, for a while. He lost his job due to COVID but has rebounded by starting a successful printing business.



Eric in his printing shop

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. Donations can be made by e-transfer to: admin@kenyanorphans.org.

**You can also send a cheque to:
Kenyan Orphan Children Foundation
84 West 38th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 2N4
THANK YOU AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!**

