



Kenyan Orphan Children's Foundation

Newsletter December 2016



Dear Friends of Mama Orphans,

Merry Christmas 2016 from the Kenyan Orphan Children's Foundation, and our friends at Mama Orphans Children's Home (MOCH) in Busia, Kenya.

As the year comes to an end, the Home would like to appreciate both local and international supporters. The Home continues to thrive through the overwhelming generosity of donors. We also acknowledge those who have helped sponsor individual children high school and college as well as vocational training.

Primary School

This has been a very successful year for the Home, academically. All of the children who attend primary school on site did well on their entrance exams for Secondary School. They clearly benefit from having lower teacher to student ratios than in the public schools outside the Home and save a lot of time and effort by not needing to walk to school each day.

High school/ Vocational training/ University

The Home continues to support over 20 children in high school. However, not all graduates of the primary school were able to gain admission to secondary school. Hence the need for ongoing support for vocational training.



Jordan (in gown) and Eric

One former resident of the Home who graduated from university with a Bachelor's degree in Law last year, Jordan, is now undertaking an internship at Kabarak University in the Office of the Dean. He has gained admission to the Kenya School of Law beginning in January 2017. Another former resident, Eric, who completed his degree in Business, last year, has found a job with a local non-governmental organization, Innovation for Poverty Action.

Ongoing issues

Requests from the local police and Department of Child Services to house, educate and feed children found in the streets in Busia continue on a regular rate. Just this past month Trevor, was found in the street and brought to the Home. He so thin that he looked more like a skeleton than a child. However, after a few weeks of proper care and nutrition, his condition improved dramatically. He is now a healthy looking toddler (see picture below).



Re-integration

Mama Orphans has been actively engaged in trying to create more capacity within the Home. In the past year the Home has been more successful in terms of reconnecting orphans into their extended families and villages outside of Busia Town and developing clear exit plans for the children once they have completed their education.

Message from Betty Oduor

Betty Oduor has been the full-time administrator of the Home since 2009. She has a Master's degree in Social Work from Nairobi University. She is also Monica's oldest daughter. The following is a Christmas message from her:

"As we celebrate this far we have come, it is a good time for me to reflect and confirm what our friends and well-wishers mean to us although it's really hard to express how special all are to us.

Over the years, we have grown together and as one grows, and slowly advances to maturity we discover ourselves and become more conscious of the gradual and constant changes in our lives inevitably falling into new experiences. Noble acts of special individuals are such experiences. I appreciate their great contribution.

Working with Orphans and Vulnerable Children for more than 10 years, I have come to appreciate the fact that every child and person under the sun is unique. God created everyone for a purpose. Consequently, I recognize that one never stops learning. As part of my job, I interact with all kinds of people which mean understanding and accepting a wide array of personality types and points of view.

Also I feel that it is important to establish and maintain an image of Mama Orphans Children's Home which accurately reflects the dignity, as well as the challenges which these children face. I ensure that we are accurately informing the government representatives and the public about our activities.

Children need a sense of belonging and therefore it is our duty to help re-affirm it with a view that the world is a safe place.

To all our supporters. Thank you! And God bless you. Merry Christmas and a happy new year!"



Betty with the kids at Mama Orphans



A Christmas Treat for Lunch!

Volunteers

On the 22nd of December a teacher and ten of her students from Turkey will be visiting the orphanage to spend time with the children over Christmas. Anyone interested in visiting Mama Orphans Home and/ or volunteering should contact Betty Oduor at mamaorphans@yahoo.com

Income generating activities

Poultry farming continues to be an ongoing small source of income for Mama Orphans. It is also a great opportunity for the children to be involved in managing a business. The children are actively involved in identifying potential clients, negotiating prices and transporting the birds to customers. They also help out with plucking and butchering the chickens if requested by the customer. There are very few other places in Busia town which sell broiler chickens and therefore this business has great potential.

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!!!