

Hearth to Hearth Ministries

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Introducing Martin Boke Nyamohanga

Martin Boke Nyamohanga, also known as Uncle Sweetie to the children, joined the Hope for Children Center staff in January of this year. A pastor and a farmer, Martin was hired to oversee our garden and supply store. Martin's background, training and work history have prepared him well for this role. He grew up on a farm and later attended a three year agriculture and livestock extension program funded by USAID. Upon finishing the program, he became a regional farmer representative and taught farmers new agricultural practices.

During our recent visit to the Center we were amazed at how much Martin has already accomplished. He has greatly expanded the garden which now furnishes the Center with all its vegetables. Martin's vision is to further expand the farming, planting fruit trees and more vegetables to not only provide food for the children but to also sell and earn money to help support the Center. Martin's passion for farming is contagious and the children are now enthusiastically helping him in the garden rather than dreading their time there. When we received funds to purchase rabbits, Martin built rabbit hutches and has since been taking care of a growing rabbit population. The rabbits will eventually provide meat for the children and perhaps additional income for the Center. Martin will soon be building more hutches for the burgeoning rabbit population.

Martin lives in the boys' dorm, providing oversight and mentoring. He uses his pastoral gifts by leading a Sunday service on site and teaching a class to the boys on life skills. He also makes himself available to the teachers and support staff.

In addition to his work at the Center, Martin oversees four churches for Awaken the Nations Ministry, one in Homa Bay and three in his hometown of Ispana.

We are very blessed to have Martin on staff. His humility, servant's heart, passion for gardening and desire to help those most vulnerable make him a wonderful addition to the Hope Center team.



"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

Hope for Children Center Visit

What a wonderful visit the five of us – Ruth Leckrone, Cathy Robinson, Jaylee Brown, Jimmy Alpers, and myself (Kathie Brand) – experienced at Hope Center. Upon our arrival we were treated to presentations of Class “Poems” by each grade in the school beginning with the Baby Class of 3 and 4 year olds. The theme throughout was “Education is the Key to Success!”. It is easy to see that the children and teachers believe this in their hearts.

The teachers, staff, administration and children all appeared happy, healthy, and excited about their work and the future of Hope Center. The farm is producing enough vegetables –kale, onions, and tomatoes - to feed the children and will continue to expand. The school is performing well and our students are becoming the top students in the area. The teachers are capable, motivated, and excellent role models for the students. The staff is working well with our Administrator, Marwa, and a positive work ethic is developing among them. Our Local Advisory Board is supportive of Marwa and the Center and is proving to be a real asset. During our meeting with this Board, we discussed our vision of the future for Hope for Children Center.

Each of us has high hopes and excitement about the possibilities presenting themselves. We all agree that a future like the one described below is feasible.

- In one year the farm will be producing enough to sell vegetables to the community in addition to providing for the children. More land will be cleared for fruit trees and pineapples. The rabbits and goats will become a source of meat and milk for the children, as well as another possible source of income.
- In five years, the Hope Center Academy will have established a reputation for excellence in the community attracting new students from the surrounding area who will pay tuition, providing another income stream to help support the Center.
- In ten years, the Center will have an income producing business such as a water bottling facility (our well produces enough water to handle this), or a canning operation that would produce fruit jams/jellies with fruit our own trees. Further, the Good Samaritan facility will be converted into a Vocational Training Center both for our students and for the community.

Much work needs to be done to accomplish these goals! With God leading us, with hard work and commitment, I firmly believe that Hope for Children Center can become self-sustaining in ten years. The chief area of concern at this point is producing a Master Plan for the land and buildings at Hope Center and Good Samaritan. Our Local Board is working on this under the direction of Marwa. Once this is completed, we will be looking for bids to build a pre-primary building for the 3 pre-school classes, and for the construction of a new home for the associate Administrator and his family. Down the road, we will need a library, a barn for the animals, possible teacher housing, upgraded facilities at Good Samaritan, and the list goes on. Working hand in hand with God and the people of the surrounding community, Hope for Children Center can become a place of hope for all the people of the community. Catch the vision!

A Few of the Children who Need Sponsors: Can you help?



Joshua Muhoni

9 year-old Joshua is currently in preschool. He was orphaned at a young age and left in the care of his mentally-disabled aunt who often beat him and chased him out to the street even at night. He slept on a tiny mat and scrambled for food which was not readily available. Joshua would like to be an athlete and run for the nation when he grows up. He loves science and creative education.

Felix Ochieng Nyawina

Felix is in grade 6. He is 14 years old and has no memories of his parents who died while he was still young. He was left in the hands of an old grandmother who could not do much to help him. Most of the time he walked into neighbors houses to beg for something to eat and could not regularly attend school.



Painting, Making Music and Much More



The nine days we spent at Hope Center were busy and productive. Here are some of the highlights:

- Team member Jay Lee Brown taught a number of our teens how to paint and then oversaw the painting of both the boys and girls dorms. We left paint supplies for them to paint the dining hall and school after we left.
- Jimmy Alpers, another member of our team, first had to build a ladder before he could repair the ceiling in our administrator's house that had fallen because of water damage. He addressed the problems with the water system and then installed new ceiling tiles. Even more importantly, he taught the staff to use the tools we took with us to do simple repairs.
- Jimmy and Board member Ruth Leckrone, both trumpet players, gave interested children an opportunity to play one of the two trumpets they brought to leave at the Center. They selected a few of the children who showed an aptitude who will be able to use the trumpets and hopefully take lessons.
- Each child received a lovely, one-of-a-kind quilt made for them by the Lake Ann United Methodist women. The children were thrilled and the colorful quilts, along with the new paint, really brighten up the dorms.
- We were able to purchase mattresses and mattress covers that needed to be replaced, purchase 50 sets of sheets and buy bathing basins for those lacking them.
- Shelves were built in the kitchen with the children also learning how to construct them to be solid and sturdy. A fan was purchased for the kitchen to reduce smoke from the open fire cook area.
- Septic systems were cleaned and repaired.
- All of the facilities were inspected and future repairs and needs to be made noted.

Visit our web page to sponsor these or another child, www.hthm.org.

Manuel Otieno

Manuel and his sister, Esther, were brought to Hope Center by the area chief after the guardian who took them in after the death of their parents abandoned them. The two have no memories of their parents, who died when Manuel was just a few months old. They have an elderly grandmother who can do very little to help them. Esther has been sponsored, but Manuel still needs a sponsor. Can you help?



Brenda Stady Mwai

Brenda is an orphan left in the care of a church elder. At the age of 7 she was helping neighbors in harvesting and doing home chores in exchange for school levies, food and clothes. Brenda is one of the brilliant girls we have in grade 7. She likes Mathematics and English and one day wishes to be a doctor. She also leads prayer and songs in the children's hall.

New Website goes live!

Check out our brand-new website at www.hthm.org. Highlights include:

- Updated photos and information, including a beautiful new video.
- Photos of children who still need sponsors with the ability to sponsor them right then and there.
- Gift ideas in honor of family and friends, from \$10 for a school uniform to \$300 for a trimester of secondary education.
- A secure way to donate to HTHM.

The video on the homepage ends with the children singing, "Once I was fatherless, now I have a family, a beautiful family." These words embody the spirit of Hearth to Hearth Ministries. With your help, we can create a family that spans the globe and provides the children with safety, food, shelter, education and most importantly surrounds them with the love of family and God.



Our mission is to provide a loving Christian environment to orphans and at-risk children that gives them the foundation to become strong, educated and responsible adults.



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