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makindu@peak.org



makindu
CHILDREN'S PROGRAM



We need your help to keep the Makindu Children's Centre in operation. MCC provides food, education, medical care and a place in the community for the Makindu orphans and their guardian families. Your donations help sustain a grassroots organization that is making a positive impact every day. Here are some ways your donations help:

\$35 provides food, elementary schooling and medical care for one child for one month.

\$50 provides school uniforms and shoes for 10 children.

\$100 provides milk for 100 children for one month.

\$200 provides bulk food (maize, beans, oil, etc.) for 59 families for four months.

\$350 provides a high school education (tuition, boarding, books and supplies) for one student for one year.

Remember, all donations to the Makindu Children's Centre are tax deductible. Please consider becoming a sustaining donor.

I care and I want to share!

I am making a one-time donation of: \$ _____

I am making a monthly pledge of:

\$ _____ for _____ months.

Please send additional information about sponsorship.

FOR DONATION BY CREDIT CARD:

Name on Card _____

Billing Address _____

City & State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Visa MasterCard Exp. Date _____

Card # _____

Signature _____

FOR DONATION BY CHECK:

Please make checks payable to the order of:

MAKINDU CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Mail to:

MAKINDU CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

P. O. BOX 51556, EUGENE, OR 97405

Makindu Children's Program is a 501 (c)(3) organization tax ID#93-1153131 and your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



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AUGUST 2009

NEWS FROM MAKINDU CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

VOL. 9 NO. 2

A shared vision across the globe. When people truly share a vision, they are connected — bound together by a common aspiration.

MCP is thrilled to announce its NEW Sponsorship Program!

MCP has made a difference in the lives of over 400 children in Kenya. Our programs have proven to be successful in providing aids-affected children with loving stability and consistency. We invite you now to get to know these special children personally through our new sponsorship program.

Sponsored children receiving services at Makindu Children's Center are orphans and other vulnerable children. MCC provides direct aid to children in the form of health care, payment of school fees and associated costs, nutrition, social services, HIV education, medical treatment and medication. In addition, children live with guardian families who care for the children and assist with the provision of their basic needs. Monitoring as well as advocacy is also provided. Please join our community of support. They need your help.

Sponsors have various options related to the selection of the age and gender of the child whom they want to sponsor. In addition, a single child or sibling group may be selected. Sponsorship most frequently involves monthly contributions, however it can be arranged on a quarterly or semi-annual basis. A child may have more than one sponsor due to her/his special needs such as HIV, mental/educational delay, physical disability, or a chronic medical condition. You will receive updates on your child/children's status three times a year. A recent photo will also be included in the correspondence. Checks or money orders are accepted. Sponsors can also set up automatic withdrawals from their bank accounts or automatic payments from their credit/debit cards. Monthly support of the child will continue until the sponsor notifies the program manager that he/she wishes to discontinue support.

For the cost of one dinner out per month, you can change the life of a child who is in need. Sponsorships are \$35 per month per child, or \$50 per month for a sibling group or child with special needs.



From Babu

The following story is written by a recent MCC graduate, who is a remarkable young man and a great mentor to all of the younger children at the center. We have known him since the inception of MCC, and have watched him transform from a wheeling and dealing street child scrambling for his daily survival, to a successful scholar with plans and dreams for his future. His high school scores were impressive enough to gain him entry into the university, and he completed his first year in Uganda last year. He has definitely not lost any of his charm (he can still charm the socks off of you!), but often utilizes this energy and passion to support and advocate for others both at the center and within his village. w. barron

babu juma, written feb 2009

My name is Babu Juma Saidi and I have been a member of the Makindu Children Centre since 1998. Then I was just 11 years old and a primary school drop-out. I had lost hope because (of) having no parents, and being taken care of by an old grand mother made me feel like an outcast. My cousin Madonna and I had taken to a local market auctioning, where we would scream for customers to buy with the hope that the seller would sympathize and give us at least 10 kshs (Kenyan shilling) to supplement our grand mother. On her side she tried hard to feed the more than ten orphans she (was) left to take care of. The details are better kept history.

The coming of sympathizers and the subsequent establishment of MCC could not have been more timely. MCC and its well wishers transformed me from a street boy, to (one) who holds life dear and sees the meaning to it. If it were not for MCC I have no clue where I would be — probably dead. My sincere gratitude therefore goes to everyone who wishes MCC to remain operative and help many more like me, to the founders and runners of the programme. Only God knows what is your reward; there is no fortune that can compare to your love and support.

When I had no idea where to start you gave me a beginning. When I was sick you took me to the hospital expecting nothing in return. When I thought I would die of cold in the night you provided a blanket. I can't put down all the things MCC has done for me (since) I would be ungrateful, because I will definitely leave some out. Maybe I (will) finish putting down the memoirs of MCC in my short story "ABOUT BABU" (for those) willing to read it; not to worry, I will avail it in time (in the future).

Many graduates are willing to write about their experience and in no time you will be hearing fascinating stories from Madonna, Wendy, Musingila, Kilonzo, Kivanga to mention but a few. I am currently waiting to go to law school courtesy of (friends) and the MCP fraternity. I love you all.

Babu

(Update: Babu has been accepted at Moi University in Nairobi and in July of this year began his pre-law studies there.)



Life happenings . . . MCC . . . Makindu, Kenya

"There is no man who cannot become an orphan"

The following was submitted by Paula Dorney, MCC's very own Peace Corps volunteer who has been assisting at MCC since early in 2009. We feel very lucky to have her, and are looking forward to having a second PC volunteer coming late 2009/early 2010. Paula's main focus is to work with the guardian families on IGA's (income generating activities), to help train them in ways to earn ongoing income to sustain them in the future, and in general capacity development.

We were blessed at least twice last month by the generous Sikhs who visit their temple here in Makindu. These travelers have come to MCC bearing fruits, milk, biscuits, juice, sweets (packaged candies), toothbrushes and paste for the children. Treats and sweets are rarely, if ever, available at home, my guess. All was welcomed and appreciated. With little encouragement, the Sikhs also participated in the Day of the African Child, June 16th. Hundreds of children received juice and biscuits and baked goods as they "paraded" from one venue to another that morning. The small ones (nursery school age) from MCC performed a poem later in the day for the local dignitaries and others attending the festivities. It was a wonderful event and, quite typical of Kenya, it started 2 hours late and ended very late in the day. The children were very tired but very well behaved and looking "smart," as they say, in their MCC provided uniforms.

We had a big success for a couple of the MCC children recently. Winnie will tell you Nyamai's life-changing story. Another MCC child, Minoo, a recent addition to our nursery school, had been experiencing hearing difficulties for years. After attending the medical clinic (because of MCC support) and receiving the care and medication she needed, the serious ear infection is clearing and she can hear again, and is now interacting and responding when spoken to by others.

We also have three (at least) MCC children excelling at Kiambani Primary School: Juliet Ndunge Mutiya, Class 8; Fidel Muisyo, Class 7; and Ingina Mulwa, Class 8. Juliet has participated since 2005 in individual and group Kiswahili poetry competitions, and each year she has excelled. This year I was lucky to see their competition at the District Level here in Makindu. As of this

writing, they have now qualified through the Provincial Level and are going to the National Competition in Mombasa August 1-7, 2009. Juliet will participate in four group poems and one poem as an individual. Ingina is competing in the choir and qualified with three songs. Fidel is an academic star: in his class of 210 students, he is always ranked in the top 3, most often #1. Kiambani teachers recognized the potential in Fidel, and the school assists MCC in sponsorship by providing his boarding free of charge. This removed Fidel from an undesirable home environment and allows him to focus on his studies in a disciplined, supportive and healthy environment.

MCC guardians have recently received several trainings in income generating activities including goat keeping improvement, weaving, soap-making, food preservation and value addition (making snack foods from various types of local flour, seeds and other foods), water catchment, sorghum growing, and small farm management. All this is an effort to help and encourage them to generate additional income, which will in turn better their ability to care for their children and the MCC children in their care. They have been receiving a monthly food basket because of the famine conditions here, but they need to feed independent of this generosity afforded by MCC donors, as this "gift" will not last forever. So I will continue to look for other ideas, training and resources, but it is totally up to them to do something with the information. I am hopeful.

We are still hot (most days) and DRY, and the DRY is the worst part. We are hopeful for late October/November rains since the April rains failed us. Our MCC shamba (small farm) is VERY thirsty.

Please continue to support this wonderful cause . . . there are hundreds of deserving and thankful children counting on you. Makindu Children's Center is a wonderful project truly making a difference in Kenya and I am proud and fortunate to be associated with the program. I hope you are having a great and fruitful summer in the US or wherever you are.

Respectfully and sincerely submitted,
Paula Dorney, Peace Corps Volunteer, 2008-2011



*"If you
can find
your footing
between
two cultures,
sometimes
you can have
the best of
both worlds."*

Quote from
Randy Pausch
"The Last Lecture"

Nyamai

Nyamai (pronounced "Nya-my") joined the program a year ago, and his father reported a speech impediment severe enough that only a few guttural sounds could be produced. Because Nyamai is an incredibly happy, energetic and social little guy,



he has managed to communicate largely by his own unique form of sign language. He can be pretty persuasive (a bit of an understatement!), and often grabs you by the arm and hangs on tight until his needs are met. His entry medical exam revealed that he was severely "tongue tied", with the base of his tongue attached too tightly to the floor of his mouth.

Besides his speech impairment, he experienced constantly drooling, and has also had enough trouble chewing and swallowing certain foods to cause a modest malnutrition and poor weight gain. MCC has been supplementing his diet at home to accommodate his difficulty eating, but have also been trying for some time to obtain surgical intervention to repair

the tongue deficit. "Flying Doctors" comes to Makindu Hospital usually once-twice annually, but he has twice been "bumped" off of their surgical schedule because of patients with more urgent concerns.

MCC has always had a good relationship with the Makindu Hospital over the years; we bring donations of medical supplies and/or medications whenever we can to try and assist their overwhelming needs (the Makindu Hospital is the nearest in-patient facility within about a 2 ½ hour drive in any direction, so patient numbers are high, and the supplies always marginal and never enough). With much footwork and persistence on the part of MCC's Peace Corps volunteer Paula Dorney, the head physician at the hospital agreed to perform the surgery himself and at no charge. The surgery went well though more difficult because of his age. Reports back from Paula: "Now we are practicing with him daily and his speech is improving "slowly by slowly". He will soon be able to progress to primary school; before the surgery, that probably would not have been an option for him." We expect to see an improvement in his developmental goals and weight as well.

...A rewarding result with a relatively simple intervention, which should prove to be so valuable for this little fellow: speech, nutrition, education and socialization will all be impacted. Services in Africa can be tough to find, but one thing that MCC does is to act as a conduit to connect the people to those resources, as well as help them learn to advocate for themselves. It is hard not to be inspired when you see Nyamai smiling and running around like the happy little demon he is! It's just plain fun...

wbarron

Portland Marathon fundraiser

Since the next Proper Walk (the challenging biannual 10-day trek through the wilds of northern Kenya) isn't until next summer, an urban challenge has been chosen as a good alternate pursuit but sans camels. Board member Steve Randolph and others on Team Makindu will be taking on the Portland Marathon on October 4th – a city walk of just over 26 miles. We are soliciting pledges and donations in support of the Makindu Children's Program. Unlike the Greek soldier, Pheidippides, we won't be running to declare a military over the Persians. We will be walking to celebrate the accomplishments of the Makindu Children's Center and the many children served these past ten years.



You can make a Marathon donation on-line at www.makindu.org by selecting Proper Walk on the donation page. (A longtime donor has offered to match donations over \$50.)

You can also help the children of Makindu by asking friends to visit our website, organizing your own event, or using another run/walk event as a vehicle to tell the MCP story and gather new friends for the children. Salaam.

Makindu.org

If you haven't checked out www.makindu.org lately, you're in for a surprise. We redesigned our site for a clean, fresh look to enhance and update our Internet presence. A blog has been added to instantly inform our donors and others interested in all things new and exciting at MCP. Our web site and blog connects visitors to information and updates about the children, guardians, and graduates from Makindu Children's Centre. We also have regular



postings by Cindy Ingram, our Stateside Executive Coordinator, as well as the MCP Board and local Peace Corps Volunteer in Makindu.

Most notably, the web site is our primary vehicle for sharing pictures, feature articles, and success stories. By linking the MCP story to the Internet community, we increase our exposure and relevance to potential donors, volunteers, and communities all over the world, which only furthers our goal of fulfilling the needs of the deserving children that we serve at the Makindu Children's Centre.

We are always happy to hear from our readers, so if you have any ideas or suggestions for blog or web content, as well as web sites we can link to, please let Cindy know by emailing Makindu@peak.org.

Email Us!

So we can communicate with you inexpensively and quickly please send your e-mail address to Cindy at makindu@peak.org.