

a message from Winnie...

Co-Founder and President of MCP

Hello! This is a quick update following my recent visit to Makindu and a report on what your support means for the children there. Thank you so very much.



Now into our 10th year in Kenya, we have the great honor of seeing many of our children graduated and grown. Listening to their stories, often told with quiet pride, is so very gratifying – these stories are a testimony to their tenacity and courage. Recognizing the challenges and traumas these young adults have endured and overcome is truly impressive and very humbling. It is always amazing to go back to Makindu

where I am surrounded by MCC children I've known for years and the many children new to the program. I find myself overwhelmed with my memories and hopes for them.

From a medical perspective, the majority of these kids look great. Perhaps even more striking and rewarding for me is to see the expressions in their eyes, which are joyous and celebratory. Previously malnourished, weak and despairing, the children have become strong and energetic. They are back in school, accessing medical and social resources, and helping to support their elderly guardians. They have now become a viable part of both their families and their community. The guardians, as well, are involved and hopeful. They are learning to advocate for themselves and for their children as they work together to effect change within their villages.

Beyond our center in Makindu where the bulk of the children live, we now have three outlying regions offering essential services to even more children. Kamboo is one such rural collage of villages, about 15 km from Makindu town, where about 100 MCC children live. In the past year since expanding to this area (which is particularly desolate), the guardians and children have made incredible strides. The story of young Mutenthya featured in our January mailing, initially dying of malnutrition and now a raving little maniac of joy, is only one such example.



One ongoing project in this region, The Guardian Support Group, is organized primarily by the families themselves. Each month they choose a family with a compelling set of needs and, with our assistance, combine efforts to meet those needs.

The most recent project was to help replace one family's house which had partially collapsed and was no longer safe to house the eight children staying there. Men, women and a handful of older children gathered together with some of our staff at the homestead to help construct the new home.



Each of these efforts represents a new beginning for the families. This is what MCC does. We offer a chance for these folks to hope and to fulfill those hopes, to create new and better futures for themselves. Witnessing their newfound sense of self-respect, pride and fulfillment of potential is remarkable.

None of this would be possible without your donations, and I remain most grateful for all of your support, for joining along with us, and for sharing your hearts with these kids. Your ongoing contributions are greatly appreciated!

Asante sana!!

PROPER WALK

My Journey To Help The Children of Makindu

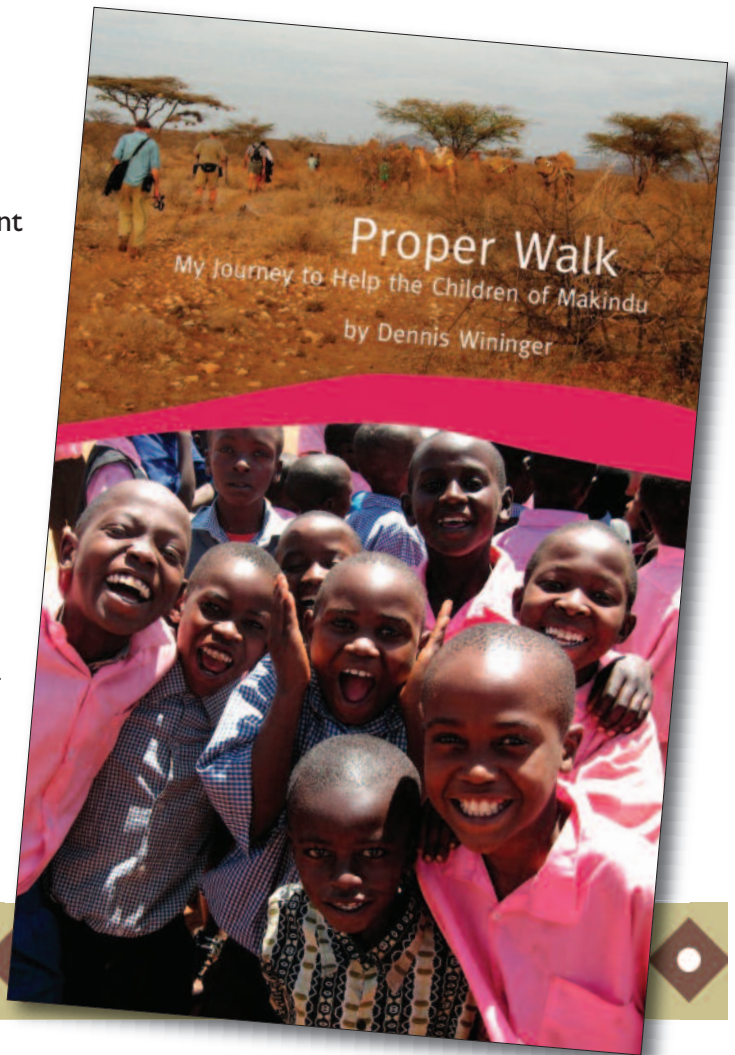
By Dennis Winger

The Proper Walk was founded by MCP board member Michael Farley, and it has become the largest fundraising event for the centre that cares for the vulnerable children of Makindu. Dennis writes a lively and exciting account of his experience related to the 2006 Adventure for a Cause where Michael and he – along with fellow MCP board members Steve Randolph and Cathy De Long plus walkers Phillip Virden and Tommy Allen – hiked through the land of the lion and hyena in Kenya's Samburu country. Tim Cahill, Proper Walk veteran and acclaimed adventure writer, pens the foreword about this remarkable quest.

You may purchase a copy of "Proper Walk" at www.properwalkthebook.com or by calling 415-749-0112 – the first 25 orders mentioning MCP will receive a signed copy.

A portion of each book's proceeds is donated to the Makindu Children's Program.

Dennis Winger (MCP Board member)



makindu

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

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Mail to: MAKINDU CHILDREN'S PROGRAM, P.O. BOX 51 556, 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.

HELP US SAVE MONEY ON POSTAGE!

Join our e-mailing list for information on upcoming events and quarterly newsletters.

MCP STATS

Total Children	408
Total Families:.....	255
Pre-primary.....	26
Primary.....	289
Secondary.....	50
Vocational.....	14
2008 Graduates.....	9