



Hope Network for Children International

QUARTERTLY

Bringing Hope, Changing Children's Lives

JULY 2009

Dear friends of Graceworks

It is hard to believe that this year which started on such an uncertain note for most of us is already half over! We hope that you will take some time to relax and to enjoy your summer.

KENYA PROGRAM UPDATES:

Anniversary Celebration

On April 18, 2009, the community of Rwika village in Kenya came together to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Graceworks program there. According to Jane, the Kenya program director, the event drew a large crowd which included children served by the Graceworks program, their extended family members, local community leaders and government officials, clergy and representatives from several other orphan programs. As is customary, the event was celebrated with food, music, speeches, poetry recitals and dance competitions. (cont. on page 4)



Graceworks Kenya Children sing at celebration

Lost Child Found!



Bringing hope where none existed before has continued to be the role of Graceworks as illustrated by the following story.

In the month of March, we got the distressing news that one of the orphaned Graceworks Kenya children, Linda (age 14), had disappeared. She was not attending school nor was she coming to participate in the Graceworks center-based activities. Upon investigation, Jane, the program director, learned that Linda had been "given away" by her grandmother to a woman who lived in a far away part of the country to work as a house girl (cont. on page 2)

Understanding the Education System in Kenya

The current structure of education in Kenya is generally referred to as the 8-4-4 system. This is because the three main levels of education are Primary (Elementary), Secondary (High school) and University (or College), and take eight, four and four years respectively.

The normal age of entry into the Primary level of education is five or six years. The Primary level education is however often preceded by two years of pre-primary (Baby Class or preschool) education. A child graduates from Primary school at the age 13 or 14 (if they have been fortunate enough to attend school consistently and if they did not have to repeat any grades). Graduates of the Primary level are supposed to proceed to the first 4 year level of education (Secondary or High school). The Secondary school level prepares learners to join universities (the second 4 years). The four years of university education in Kenya prepare graduates for purely academic degrees. Professional courses such as architecture, medicine, engineering etc. take longer periods.

It should be noted that along this vertical line of education are found several middle colleges that take care of the low rates of transition, especially between High School and University levels. There are National Polytechnics and Post Secondary school colleges that train people for professional occupations such as teaching, nursing, office work and as technicians. Recently, there has also been a proliferation of private colleges and trade schools offering various career and professional courses.

Graceworks Kenya VBS Camp

The children in the community of Rwika Kenya are looking forward to a three day VBS camp to be held at the Graceworks Centre. The dates of the camp are August 6, 7 and 8. They are expecting between 150-200 children! Last August, a team of 16 people from the USA were able to go to the camp and had a great time with the children. The children and Graceworks' staff in Kenya are disappointed that we are unable to send representatives from USA to the camp this year, however, They are hopeful that we can help make the camp a success by financially supporting the camp expenses. At the camp children receive counseling and also participate bible study and in fun activities such as sports, dances, poetry competitions, arts and crafts. The expected cost of the camp is approximately \$4000. If you would like to contribute to the VBS camp for our orphans in Kenya, please send your donation check to Graceworks, P.O. Box 1239, Anaheim, California.

Lost Child Found! (cont. from page 1)

According to Linda's elderly grandmother who cared for Linda and her twin sister, she could no longer afford to keep the girls. The grandmother stated that she had sold all her goats to support the girls and had nothing left. She had therefore told the girls that they had to either get married or go find employment. When Linda was sent away, her twin sister ran away to a neighbor lady who agreed to keep her. We are please to announce that after much searching and with the help of the local chief and government officials, Jane was able to find and bring the child Linda back to Rwika where she was placed in the same home as her twin sister. The girls were very happy to be reunited and Linda who is in class 8 is back in school and will be taking her high school entrance examination in November.. We wish her all the best! We also wish to commend Jane on her hard work and dedication in making sure that children like Linda who would have had no one to watch out for them now do. Most of all we wish to thank you for supporting Graceworks so that children like Linda can continue to have hope for the future.



OTHER HAPPENINGS

Girl Scout Troop collects books for Kenya Library



The Girl Scouts of Troop 593 from St. John's Lutheran Church, Orange California recently completed all the requirements to earn the distinguished Bronze Award for Girl Scouting when they loaded more than 10,000 books into crates bound for Rwika, a small village in Africa in partnership with Graceworks. Troop members Emily Barth, Abby Bogh, Emily Dabrow, Makenzie Dudley, Karina Knapp and Fiona Renezeder collected new and gently used books throughout their neighborhoods and at St. John's Lutheran School to establish a new library in Kenya. These 7th graders have worked for two years to earn the award under the capable leadership of Bridget Bogh and Kendal Dudley. They have learned that even a small group of individuals can make a lasting impact in the world, but it takes hard work, sacrifice and lots of effort. The folks at Graceworks

arranged to ship the crates – eight in all – and the troop used their cookie sale profits to help with paying the shipping costs.

The girls hope to incorporate additional assistance for Kenya as they work toward earning the prestigious Silver and Gold Awards, the Girl Scouting equivalent to the Eagle Scout. The Troop was inspired to adopt this project in pursuit of the Girl Scout Bronze Award when they learned what life is really like for children their age in the small Kenyan village of Rwika from Dr. Susan Njemanze, the founder and president of Graceworks. They were struck by the difference in the many opportunities and things they have available here in the United States and how few opportunities and things the villagers have. They were particularly struck by the fact that the children in the village wanted to read, but had no books. The girls also had the opportunity to learn more about the village including the culture, the schools, and the needs of the people. The more they learned, the more they wanted to help.

Asante Sana!!!!!!----Thank you!!!!!! Girl scouts Troop 593. You are true heroes!



Graceworks also wishes to say thank you.....

To all those who gave of their time and goods for the very successful Garage Sale on May 16th to benefit Graceworks.

To St. John's Lutheran Church Children's Ministries and VBS for their continued support of Graceworks.

To 8 year old Jack Forte and his classmates from Ms. Julie Smith's Third Grade at College Park Elementary school in Costa Mesa. Jack and his friends created, donated and sold their art to support Graceworks at Jack's dad's 20 year celebration of his business - Dano Kustom Surf boards in the city of Costa Mesa.

Graceworks Child Sponsorship news update

Graceworks will be launching its child sponsorship program at the upcoming Graceworks Annual Fundraiser/dinner event on September 13, 2009! As a sponsor, you will be matched with a child in Kenya based on your wishes (gender- boy/girl; age- elementary/high school). Once matched, you will be able to build a relationship with that child and to correspond with them or even go to visit them on one of our planned Mission trips to Kenya! Sponsored children will receive food, school fees and supplies, medical care and counseling, as well as regular visitation by a social worker to oversee their wellbeing. For more information on Child Sponsorships, please contact Susan Njemanze at (714) 932-5425 or snjemanze@yahoo.com.

Anniversary Celebration

(cont. from page 1)

The highlight of the day was the distribution of the "Operation Christmas Child" gift boxes. The boxes were provided to Graceworks as a result of networking by Pastor Chris Singer from St. John's Lutheran Church, Orange, with the Samaritan's Purse's California Office. Through their contacts in Kenya, they were able to get some of the gift boxes to the Graceworks Kenya program. Thank you pastor Chris!

"A Little Bit of Africa II"

Our 2nd Annual Fundraiser – "A Little Bit of Africa II" is on Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. at the Phoenix Club in Anaheim. Guests will enjoy a delicious sit-down dinner and a silent and live auction. PLUS - We are excited to announce that the world renowned brother duo "Nuttin' but Stringz" will headline the evening. At the respective ages of 8 and 7, the pair began to study the violin and became not only great musicians but learned to transcend their classical training to incorporate pop, rock, and hip-hop, creating their own unique sound. They have been seen on *America's Got Talent*, *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*, *The Tonight Show*, *The Today Show*, in the movie *Step Up*, and playing at the *Presidential Inauguration*. It will be an evening to remember for families and friends – an act appealing to all ages.



Can we count on you for a donation for the silent or live auction?

Your donation can be made in the form of a coupon, discount, gift certificate, product, promotional item, or even by helping to underwrite a critical element of this event. I promise you that your donation will be appreciated and your business name will be displayed in the event program and on our website www.graceworksproject.org. Thank you in advance for your generosity and compassion for our organization. Please see the enclosed donor form if you wish to donate to this event. If you would like to speak to me more about this event or other opportunities to help, please contact me at my cell phone number, email or the address shown above. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to hearing from you.



Remember Save the Date!!!

Our goal this year, in addition to ensuring the continual support of our 88 current children, is to generate enough funding to build an emergency shelter on our Graceworks plot. This shelter will provide a bed, clothing, linens and restroom facilities for orphaned children during transition in their care. We are hoping to raise \$20,000 to make this goal a reality!

Please return the form below for an evening you will always remember.



**September 13, 2009
5:00 P.M.
Phoenix Club**



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

ZIP _____

Phone _____ FAX _____

Email _____

- ◇ Table of Ten - \$600.00
- ◇ Individual Seats - \$65.00
- ◇ Children 12 and under - \$50.00

- ◇ ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK.
Please make checks payable to: Graceworks
- ◇ CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD
(Visa or Master Card)
Credit Card Number _____

Expiration Date/ 3 digit code on back

Signature _____

- ◇ INVOICE ME. Mail Completed Form to:
GRACEWORKS,
P.O. BOX 1239, ANAHEIM, CA 92815

Please list the names of the people to be seated at your table.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Fax your form to (714) 633-3310
email to rlyall@socal.rr.com.
Questions??? (714) 633-3099