

SPECIAL
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Graceworks News

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 2009

“Please let all our American friends and supporters know that we are very aware of the tough economic situation there and that we pray for them every day.”

This was the message given to me by 17 year old Kelvin, one of the children in the village of Rwika, Kenya (East Africa) that are currently being helped through the Graceworks program. When I heard these words of encouragement and concern, I was greatly moved. I can imagine the fear that these orphaned children in the program are experiencing right now. Having lost their parents due to HIV/AIDS and being in desperate situations before Graceworks came along, they are now afraid that they will be abandoned yet again, this time by their American benefactors. Graceworks is their only hope.

The current economic situation in America is indeed unsettling.

However, as I reflect on it, I am once again reminded of just how truly blessed we still are compared to many others around the world. We have so



A home in Rwika, Kenya - where Graceworks operates.

many things to be thankful for including food on our tables, a roof over our heads, safety, freedom, and a government that provides us with a safety net when we need one. We must

therefore not lose sight of what is truly important even in these daunting economic times, especially our willingness to help those less fortunate by supporting programs such as Graceworks that serve the needy. Now more than ever, we must stand in the gap for the most vulnerable in our world who tend to get hit the hardest in times of economic turmoil.

I wish to thank each and every one of you for your continued support of Graceworks. You make a real difference in the lives of the children.

May you be blessed.

Susan Njemanze

(Graceworks Founder/President)

Kenya Program Updates

Thanks to you our faithful supporters and to our gracious God, our work in Kenya has continued to go on even in these tough times. In the past year, the Kenya orphan program was able to help 88 children with food, school fees and supplies, medical care and counseling. The program had 79 children in local primary schools, 2 children in a primary boarding school, one child in a special needs boarding facility,

four children in boarding secondary schools, one child in a technical school and one non-school aged child.

In August 2008, a team of 16 people from the USA visited Kenya to volunteer at a week long Vacation Bible School camp at the Graceworks Kenya program located at Rwika Village in the eastern Province of Kenya. Over 150 children from Rwika as

well as neighboring communities attended the camp. Camp activities included sports, arts and crafts, counseling, singing, dancing and of course a campfire on the last night of the camp. Both the children and the camp volunteers had a wonderful time. If you are interested in participating in future mission trips to Kenya or in providing support for a mission trip, please let us know.

Remembering Grace



Grace Wangai Amasa and family, 2007.

As many of you know, Mrs. Grace Wangai Amasa, mother of Susan Njemanze (founder/president of Graceworks)

passed away suddenly in Kenya in November 2008 at the age of 76 years. Grace was the inspiration behind the founding of the Graceworks program in Rwika Village. For many years, Grace had served that community faithfully, particularly caring for orphans and widows there. Her funeral service drew close to two thousand people to the tiny village of Rwika, a true testament to a life well lived. Grace loved the Graceworks Kenya program in Rwika and spent

many hours counseling and mentoring the children served by the program who considered her their collective grandmother and referred to her as “cucu Grace”. May her legacy of caring continue to bring hope to the children of Rwika, Kenya. Rest in peace, *cucu* Grace.

A hundred years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in or the kind of car I drove. But the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child.
- Forest Witcraft

Graceworks Kids are Achievers

This February, three new children helped through Graceworks in Kenya joined secondary schools (high school) bringing the total number of children in secondary schools to 7. In order to qualify to enter secondary school, children have to pass a grueling exam at the end of their 8th year of primary school. I am happy to report that one of the children supported by Graceworks, Evans Mwenda, had some of the highest scores in the entire country and was accepted into a very prestigious government secondary school. We are so very proud of Evans and hope that he will continue to excel in his studies. Congratulations Evans!



Evans Mwenda 14 Years

High School Students- A Better Chance of Success

Secondary schools in Kenya are usually boarding institutions and are often located far away from the children’s homes. The cost of tuition for secondary schools is quite high (it costs approximately \$1200 a year) which is out of reach for many families, especially those affected by HIV/AIDS and by poverty. Children that are being helped through Graceworks are fortunate

to be afforded the opportunity to continue their education by having their secondary school tuition costs covered. Unfortunately, due to other program demands, we are not always able to help all the deserving children that need help in this area. Children who complete a secondary school education stand a better chance of succeeding in life. This is particularly true of teenage girls in that it delays marriage and offers them more opportunities in life. If you would like to help with high school tuition costs, please contact us.

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She will have more opportunities in her lifetime than her mother and grandmother.



Graceworks: Hope Network for Children International

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SAVE THE DATE! Graceworks 2nd Annual Fundraiser Dinner and Auction

You are cordially invited to join us for our second fundraising dinner on Sunday, September 13, 2009 at the Phoenix Club in the city of Anaheim, California. Those of you who attended last year's event will remember how fun it was. The food, the music, the stories! This year's event promises to be even better. This early Sunday evening event will feature entertainment, delicious food, and a silent and live auction with some exciting items for bid. Spread the news - come, enjoy and bring your friends!

Child Sponsorship Program Update



The feeding program is a vital part of the services offered to Graceworks children.

Consider Making an Annual Commitment...

Our child sponsorship program is almost here. We are currently finalizing our sponsorship forms and setting up our database for tracking the child sponsorships. It costs only \$35 per month for a basic child sponsorship (food, healthcare and counseling). \$50 per month provides a primary school child with food, clothing, medical care and school fees/supplies. \$100 per month provides a secondary school child with boarding school fees/supplies and food. If you are interested in sponsoring a child or need more information on child sponsorship, please contact Susan at (714) 932-5425. In the meantime, we pray that you will continue to send us your support for the ongoing program needs. Remember, gifts to Graceworks are tax-deductable.



\$50 per month would provide her with food, healthcare, counseling, school fees and supplies.

