

# Hearth to Hearth Ministries

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November/December 2016



## A New Direction for Hope for Children Center – Hearth to Hearth to Resume Oversight

Dear Friends of Hearth to Hearth Ministries,

As was shared in earlier newsletters, in December, 2014 Hearth to Hearth Ministries (HTHM) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with REACH International to operate Hope for Children Center. Our intent was to eventually turn the project over to them; however our agreement was nonbinding, allowing us to terminate it if we felt it was appropriate to do so.

Many good things have happened at the Center since REACH became involved. They reopened the primary school, greatly improved the grounds and started a work study program for the older children. However, when four board members visited the Center this summer it became apparent that there are some major philosophical differences between HTHM and REACH and that there are some changes that have been made that we do not believe are in the best interests of the children. Thus, we are terminating our agreement with REACH and resuming oversight of Hope Center effective November 1.

See the side panel for all the ways we are gearing up for this major transition.

We deeply appreciate your continued partnership with HTHM in caring for the very special children we serve. We can't do it without you!

Sincerely,

Cathy Robinson  
Board Member



- We have hired Marwa Simion to be the Center's administrator. We are excited to have him coming on board and think you will share our enthusiasm once you read the article about him on page 2.
- We have expanded our board of directors. Grażyna and Krzysztof Barna of Poland, Greta Buck, currently living in Munich, and Amy DeRochey of Michigan are bringing new ideas and energy.
- We are in the process of redesigning our website and increasing our presence on social media. Check out our Facebook page!
- We are developing a business plan to ensure that we can sustain both Hope for Children Center and Maranatha Children's Home.
- We are seeking your input and help. Would you take five minutes to complete the enclosed survey and return it to us?
- Board members Ruth Leckrone and Kathie Brand will be going to the Center in December and spending two weeks there to help with the transition.
- We are praying for God's direction and provision every step of the way and ask for your prayers as well.



"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

## Introducing Patrick Marwa Simion

With great pleasure, we take this opportunity to introduce to you the new administrator of Hope for Children Center, Patrick Marwa Simion. Marwa “grew up” at Hope Center coming there at the age of 15 when his mother could no longer care for him.

With the help of his sponsor, he was able to attend University and complete his Master’s Degree in Education. He has taught Kiswahili in Nairobi for 4 years and comes highly recommended by all of his references. Marwa and his beautiful wife Margaret have 3 children, Victoria, Bradley, and Emmanuel. Margaret also teaches early childhood education in primary school.

Marwa has a passion to help orphans, wanting to “give back” for the help and education he received at Hope Center. He and his family are excited about coming to Hope for Children Center. Marwa was awarded the “Teacher of the Year” award this past year at his school. He knows the hard work it takes to attain and maintain high academic standards. He will encourage our teachers and students to strive for personal excellence in all their work. He has the ability to collaborate and build strong alliances within the Kochia area for the benefit of our children and the community. Most importantly, he is a man of integrity who relies on God’s guidance in his daily interactions with others.

We welcome Marwa as the new administrator of Hope for Children Center.



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



### **Gordon Ochieng, 15 years old**

Gordon’s father was a research officer in the Kenya Forestry Research Institute. He died in 2000 and his wife had no source of income to support the children. She works in neighbors’ gardens and has only a few chickens. In 2005, Gordon’s sister, Asenath was admitted to Hope Center.

In 2013, it became obvious that Gordon’s family couldn’t continue to support him, so he was also admitted to Hope Center. Gordon is 15 and is in grade P8.

### **Quinter Akoth Obote, 10 years old**

The youngest of her siblings, Quinter strikes you as a jolly, highly self-motivated kid. She is a short and active and easily takes a leadership role among her peers – officially, she is the leader of Hope Kids Choir, comprising girls of Quinter’s age. Obviously, she is a bright girl.

Quinter has no recollection of her mother. She is in Class Four and will go places as she grows up; there is nothing about her that does not speak of success!



### **Everlyn Atieno Obote, 13 years old**

Everlyn is the second born with one brother and one sister. She is in Form 1. She is academically average, however she is a hard working and strong-willed girl. Before her admission to Hope Center, Everlyn was “mother” to her older brother, sister and incapacitated grandmother. Everlyn is a very good netball player and sings soprano in the HFCC Choir. She desires to be a nurse so she can “take care of suffering people”.

**To find out more about how to sponsor these and other children, email us at [sponsorship@hearttoheart.org](mailto:sponsorship@hearttoheart.org) or visit our webpage, [www.hthm.org](http://www.hthm.org).**



## Clean Water Well

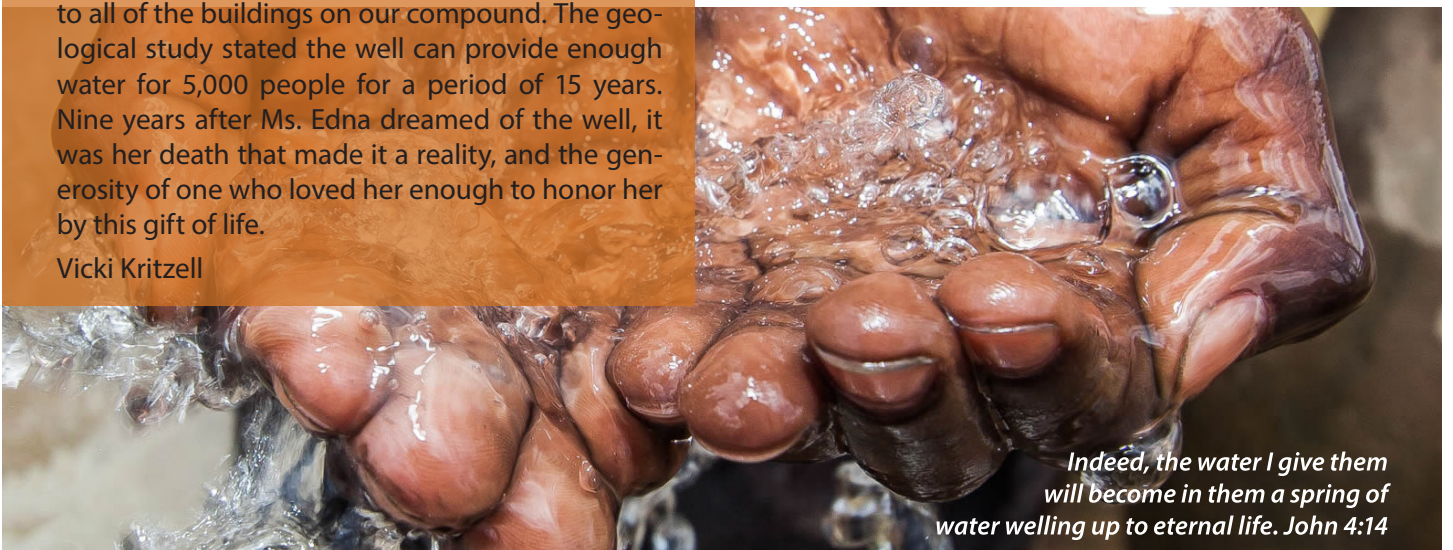
Nearly 40% of Kenyans are without clean water. Women and girls are the primary purveyors, walking miles to get enough for just one day, resulting in girls missing school. Rural Africans are often forced to drink water we would not even bathe in, with water borne disease being the number one cause of illness in children.

When we bought the land the current Hope for Children Center rests on in 2004, one of our primary goals was to drill a well. Although a river runs along the back of the property, the water is unfit to drink without first boiling and purifying. For years, our children struggled hauling water up the hill to the center, where not a drop was wasted. Imagine trying to care for over 150 children and boiling all of their water over a wood fire.

In 2007, my mother Edna Shaffer started working as a volunteer for Hearth to Hearth. Having a well was her passion, but the cost of this dream put it out of reach. You see, the center is built on land that is very rocky, and a drilled well would have to go through several hundred feet of solid rock. Two hand dug wells were soon contaminated by mud during the heavy rains as the sides collapsed. Many times we collected estimates, but the prices were so high we could not proceed.

Edna died in January, 2015. Soon after, a wonderful anonymous donor stepped forth and offered to fund a drilled well as a memorial to our mom. One cannot imagine the emotion of seeing that well for the first time this past July. It has so much pressure that it literally blew the pump out. At 365' deep through solid rock, the fresh, clean water is brought to the surface by a solar pump, with a back-up generator. As soon as we can raise funds, our plan is to irrigate our farm, and pipe the water to all of the buildings on our compound. The geological study stated the well can provide enough water for 5,000 people for a period of 15 years. Nine years after Ms. Edna dreamed of the well, it was her death that made it a reality, and the generosity of one who loved her enough to honor her by this gift of life.

Vicki Kritzell



*Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life. John 4:14*



## 90+ Children Need Sponsors!

In an effort to recruit sponsors for the 90+ children currently without, we are featuring a child of the week on the "Hearth to Hearth Ministries" Facebook Page. Our goal is to find a sponsor for the featured child within a week and if the sponsor agrees, post a thank you to them on the page. If you are on Facebook, would you help us promote this by sharing the child of the week on your Facebook page?

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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