Hearth to Hearth Ministries

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Hope Center Now Home to 17 New Children

Seventeen children who last year weren't sure where their next meal would come from no longer have to worry about this. They know they will have three meals each and every day. Fifteen of these children were accepted into Hope for Children Center in January with two more making Hope Center their home in February. The 12 boys and 5 girls range in ages from 4 to 13 and while their stories are different, they all have one thing in common. They are very grateful for their new home, for food, a safe place to live and the good care they are receiving.

Eleven-year-old Ann Agar can't count the number of times she went to sleep on an empty stomach and remembers with tears in her eyes the cold which bit her because of a lack of clothes to wear. Wilfred Mwita Gati, also 11, has been the "man"in the family since his parents died four years ago. This has meant that he has had to work at neighbors' farms to get food for him and his elderly grandmother and hasn't been able to attend school with any regularity. The stories of the other 15 children are similar and like Ann and Wilfred, they are thrilled to call Hope Center their home. Another thing that all but one have in common, they all need sponsors. Would you consider sponsoring one of these children or know someone who might be able to be a sponsor? Read more about four of these children inside...



"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

Hope Center Farm - Flourishing in the Midst of a Drought

By May of this year, 35 million people in Kenya and other African countries are going to be at risk due to the current drought, according to the international news sources. Fortunately, thanks to the expertise of our farm manager Martin and Marwa, our administrator, our children at Hope for Children Center are not part of that statistic. Our farm is flourishing. It is being hand watered and fertilized with the droppings from our two cows, seven goats, and forty rabbits. All vegetables eaten at the orphanage are grown on site for the first time in our history. The children are enjoying fresh tomatoes, cabbage, kale, onions, spinach, maize and sweet potatoes.





In April when the rains appear to green up the landscape, we will be adding four more milk goats, and will allow the rabbit population to increase. They have been controlled until the new expanded housing was ready. We are expecting to have 300 rabbits by October, at which time marketing of the meat on a large-scale basis will begin - one more step toward self-sustainability. In the meantime, our children are not only eating better, they are learning how to grow their own food and care for livestock, skills that will help them for the rest of their lives.

Success Story



Alex Omondi Oremo was born October 7, 2000. He came to Hope for Children Center in 2006. Alex became the best junior volleyball player in Homa Bay County and was chosen by the county's sports manager to represent the Nyanza region in games. During the National Volleyball Junior Games in Kisumu in July 2016, his team won the bronze medal, and Alex was selected among the best ten junior Kenyan volleyball players nationally.

Now as a 17 year old boy, Alex has been chosen as the top player in Homa Bay, which has a population of over 2 million. His team won the top honor as best team from all of the high schools competing (31). We are very proud of Alex, and feel his skills are going to be the key to his future. Alex and his brother Collins (attending Maseno University) are examples of what can be done by these children when they are given a chance. Congratulations, Alex! Well done!

Have you checked out our new website?

If you haven't already done so, we hope you will check out our new web site: www.hthm.org. See updated pictures and information and enjoy the video and singing by clicking on the button in the middle of the page. The video ends with the children singing, "Once I was fatherless. Now I have a family, a beautiful family." These words embody the spirit of Hearth to Hearth.

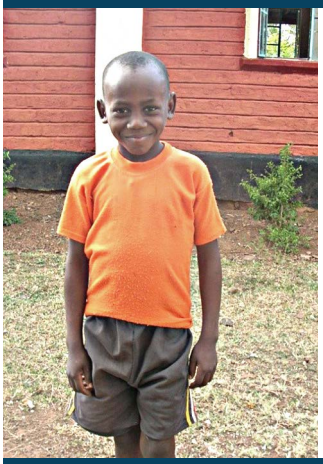
You will notice "donate" buttons on most pages of the web site. These will link you with a secure donation site called Stripe. It's very easy to use and saves us work and money over our previous system.

On the Sponsorship page you will see the 16 children that were accepted into Hope Center this year who need sponsors along with the other unsponsored children in our care. You can adopt a child right there. Deb Nickerson, our sponsorship director, will then contact you to share the child's story and ways you can contact them.

Our new web site is user friendly and allows us to update information and pictures on a regular basis. Please feel free to give us feedback and suggestions to help improve the site. Just e-mail us at info@hearthtohearth.org.

www.hthm.org

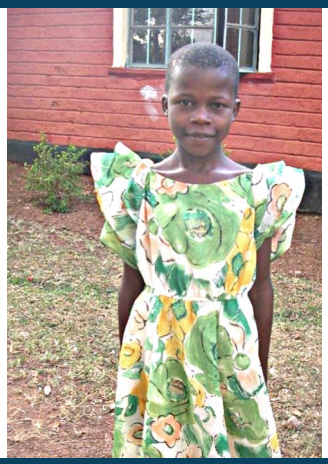
Meet four of our newest children...



Ibrahim

Ibrahim Mwita Gati is 9 years old and is in grade 1. After his father died, his mother, who was sick and had no job, couldn't take care of Ibrahim and his siblings. The family relied on charity from people in the village. However when times became tough for the community it was even harder for the family to survive. Ibrahim cannot count the number of times he went without food.

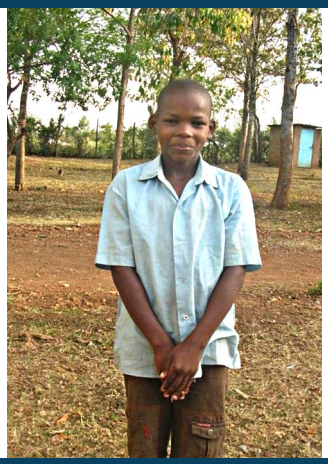
He is grateful for the chance to be admitted to Hope Center - for food, a safe place to sleep, new friends, and caring teachers and workers. He'd be so grateful for a sponsor, too!



Roseline

Roseline Adhiambo Ogweno is 9 years old and is in grade 3. Her father died when she was an infant, so she doesn't remember him at all. Her mother has struggled for nine years to take care of her and her three siblings, but is often ill and couldn't get a job.

She is very calm and does well in her school work. She likes mathematics and English and wants to be a nurse when she finishes her schooling. Perhaps you can help Roseline reach her dream by becoming her sponsor?



John

John Maroa Barante is 13 years old and in grade 2. John's father died three years ago, and since then things have been very difficult for him and his sister Joyce (on right). He had to drop out of school to earn money for the family and worked doing farm labor – sometimes getting paid a little money, but sometimes getting cheated out of his wages. Often the work was just too much for him.

John is grateful that he can live at Hope Center and focus on going to school. By becoming his sponsor, you can help this young man reach his goal of finishing school



Joyce

Joyce Gendia Barante is 4 years old and is in the preschool program. She and her brother John (on left) are very polite and respectful. Joyce barely knew her father, as he died when she was just 1 year old. Her mother couldn't care for them, so her brother had to try and earn money doing farm labor work. Often they had to rely on the assistance from people in the community for basic daily needs.

Joyce now has a safe place to sleep, healthy food and a chance to attend school. Her future is now looking much brighter – she just needs a sponsor!

And meet Deb Nickerson who can help you sponsor them!



Hello. My name is Deb Nickerson and I work with sponsorship at Hearth to Hearth Ministries. I have a wonderful husband of 37 years, John, and a great 26 year old son. We live in beautiful northern Michigan where it is very cold right now. I am a retired special education teacher, a job I loved for over 30 years. I also love my life as a retiree-baking, knitting, getting outdoors and spending time with friends and family. I have been a part of Hearth to Hearth Ministries since about 2009. I first learned about the ministry in an article in the Traverse City Record Eagle written by the wonderful Edna Schaffer, Mom to our own Vicki Kritzell (Hearth to Hearth Board member and Fundraising Director). I contacted Edna and grew to love and respect her. She helped me sponsor my first child through Hearth to Hearth. Now I have the privilege of helping others sponsor our children. Sometimes it seems like life is too busy to continue with this volunteer job, but I have learned that it's a good thing to join God where He is working and I believe He is working through Hearth to Hearth. We have seen many prayers answered. Many children have food, shelter, education, clothing and the love of a big family because of this ministry and widows are receiving help so they can help themselves. I love that!

Preschoolers need a room of their own

Our youngest students at Hope Academy are our preschoolers. We have 10 enthusiastic learners and two great teachers who are giving our children a good foundation to prepare them for success in grade school. They begin their half day of school at 8:30 a.m. If you were to visit their "classroom" you might see them learning a poem or song as part of their language activity, writing their numbers or doing number puzzles for their math activity, doing a creative, music or life skill activity, or learning about the greatness and goodness of God. There is also time for outdoor activities whether it's for a nature walk or play time.



We are very pleased with what is being offered our youngest pupils. However, we are lacking one important ingredient that would greatly enhance our preschool program - a designated classroom. Right now, our preschool classes are conducted in the dining hall, making it hard to do such things as display the students' work or leave projects started one day to finish another. It also makes a lot of extra work for the teachers since they must "set up" and "pack up" every day. One of our goals for 2018 is to build a small building in which to house our preschool program. It would be a three-room building that would include two preschool classrooms and a room for our future computer lab. We estimate the cost of this building will be $10,000. We are looking for a group or individuals that would like to invest in the future of our children in this way. Would you like to participate in this project and help our youngest children get off to the best educational start possible?

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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