

# Hearth to Hearth Ministries

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Spring 2017



## A New Year Begins at Hope Center: January 2017 Visit and Update

We arrived in Kenya on New Year's Eve, excited to witness and be part of the changes happening at Hope Center.

On our first morning there, we were thrilled to see the new kitchen. The ventilation is greatly improved and the new cooking grates are much safer for the cooks. It is always fun to hear the early morning sounds from the kitchen as preparation for breakfast begins at dawn, with music playing, and older youth and the cooks working together.

The first of the year is the beginning of the new school year. With all new teachers at the Hope Center Primary School and our new administrator, Marwa Simion, in place, we were eager to get started! We spent one day with teaching staff engaged in team building exercises. Completing these activities in a different culture and with a language barrier added to the fun! The end result: they worked hard together to solve a problem that required everyone's participation and patience, with much laughter.

Another highlight of the trip was meeting with the new Local Advisory Board and discovering that they are committed to organizing a fund raiser for a new building to house the preschool. The dining room is currently being used as a space for the pre-primary children as the old building is no longer safe. We are very thankful for the work of board member Jane Konditi and Marwa Simion in gathering an experienced, helpful, and wise group of people from the community to help steer and lead Hope Center.

At the high school level we have moved all of our students to one local high school that could accommodate both our boys and girls. It is close enough that Marwa and Associate Administrator, Peter Sam, have been visiting the students once or twice a week. We also have a tutor working with all of our students to help them get up to their grade level as the academic standards at the schools they attended last year were not as strong as the school they are now attending.



Hope Center's new kitchen -  
improved ventilation & safety



Morning assembly & flag raising -  
the kids are ready to learn



Eager & energetic - the children  
gather in the dining room



"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

## January 2017 Trip (continued)

The garden project is moving along very nicely. We have hired a gentleman, Martin, who is working as the gardener, boys' dorm monitor, and the storeroom supervisor. He has a great deal of experience farming and is happy to do what he can to be helpful. We are looking to provide vegetables for the children, and long term to grow enough to sell to the community. Our goal is to utilize our assets as much as possible to better grow the Center.

We returned from Kenya heartened and inspired by our time with the children and staff. We also spent a day with our Widow's Group which is always a delight, humbling and full of sisterly love. God has blessed and graced us greatly in this work of His. Raising up these children to be responsible, God loving citizens of Kenya is our privilege, our responsibility, and a great gift that God has given to us as a Ministry. We cannot thank you enough for the part that you play in this work. Lives are being changed!

Ruth Leckrone and Kathie Brand



Kale plants ready to be transplanted

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



### Dennis Okari

Dennis' mother died while he was still a toddler, and his father followed four years later. He was taken in by an Aunt who had seven other children to take care of. She eventually asked for help from Hope Center. Despite his older age, Dennis is in grade 4, one of the results of the difficulties he went through back at home. He is very happy to have been admitted to Hope. Dennis is grateful for the positive environment, timely and balanced meals, and teachers and workers to take care of him. He would also greatly appreciate getting a sponsor

### Violet Atieno & Gloria Awuor

Violet and Gloria are siblings, left in the care of their mother after the death of their father. Their mother is ill and often in the hospital, so the two stayed with their elderly grandma as it was too difficult to see their mother in constant pain. The grandma has other four children to take care of with no proper means of getting money; life at the grandma's place is extremely arduous.

Both girls are glad to be at Hope Center, where, unlike home, food and other supplies are always available and they can attend school daily. They would love sponsors to enable them to work towards their dreams of being medical nurses.



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 web page, [www.hthm.org](http://www.hthm.org).





## Kids supporting kids

The Kids on a Mission did not waste a moment of their holiday vacations. Instead of sleeping in and hanging out with their friends, they organized two fundraising events to include lots of other teens in having fun for a cause.

The first was a Thanksgiving Fun Run, organized by Clarksfield High School students in Maryland, with proceeds going to repair and equip our “baby” school. Unfortunately, the contractors found the building to be unsafe, even with repairs, so after much discussion, it was decided to purchase new school books and educational materials for all our students from baby school on up. This is a blessing as recent government changes to curriculum meant all the books we had were no longer acceptable. Thank you Aakriti, Urvi, Arunima, Ashwittha, and Pulkit. Get used to hearing these names because these same students are working on a project to set up a computer lab at Hope Center!

A second group, from Rachel Carson Middle School Touching Heart Club, held an ice skating party over Christmas vacation. Imagine explaining to our orphans that the kids attached blades to their shoes to slide around on ice, raising money in the process. The kids netted almost \$2,500 to purchase livestock for both Maranatha and Hope Center! Some of the money is going for a cow and chickens in Uganda. The rest will be used to plant a new field for grazing for Bessie and Taylor, with a new cow plus goats and chickens coming soon.

The dedication of the young missionaries from Touching Heart is indeed touching. Their continued dedication to endangered and orphaned children is an inspiration to us, and a life changer for our kids. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts!!

## Introducing Peter Sam Odera

Peter Sam Odera, the Associate Administrator of Hope Center, has been on the staff at Hope for nine years. His road to Hope was not an easy one, yet probably contributed to his having such a heart for the welfare of our children.

Peter Sam was the second of six children born into a very loving family; however, when his father, the family’s sole bread winner, died when he was 11, life became very difficult for the family. His mother had no way of supporting her children and they were forced to move from their home, first into a slum area of the city and then back to the rural town from which they had originally come. There were countless times when all of them went hungry and without other basic necessities. Peter Sam was able to go to high school because an uncle paid his tuition. Once he graduated, he began working in a quarry pit loading stones into lorries since he could not afford to continue his education. The three youngest siblings were eventually accepted into Hope Center where they stayed until his older sister graduated from college. By this time their mother had also died.

After three years in the quarry, Peter Sam began working at Hope Center on the construction of the school and clerical work. The center administrator saw his potential and located a sponsor for a two-year course in business management. Upon graduating in 2009, he became Hope Center’s finance manager. Since then, his role at the center has gradually expanded leading to his promotion last fall to the position of Associate Administrator.

We’re very pleased that Peter Sam is part of our leadership team at Hope Center. He is a dedicated worker, is very committed to what’s best for the children and serves as a good role model for them. In describing his work at Hope, Peter Sam shared “For the nine years I have been here it is a great blessing seeing children come to Hope Center with little hope and leaving Hope Center hopeful and full of big dreams...” He is very enthusiastic about his expanded role and the good things he sees happening at the center.



**Peter Sam & his wife Vivan with daughters Grace Noel and Nadieness Bright**

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

**education, safety, home & love**

Participate in our latest fund raiser by going to [globalgiving.org](http://globalgiving.org) and search for Hearth to Hearth Ministries! Or, even easier, send a donation in the included envelope. Every donation makes a difference in lives of endangered orphans.

**\$10**



a school uniform

**\$30**



a pair of leather shoes

**\$50**



a mattress, blanket & pillow

**\$120**



teacher's salary for one month

**\$25**



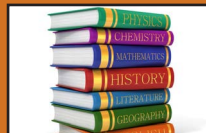
food for a week

**\$40**



sponsor a child for one month

**\$75**



3 sets of textbooks

**\$300**



highschool costs

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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