



Expanding Opportunities
www.exop.org

ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT 2016



For our Fiscal Report:

See the Annual Audit of Accounts for Kenya.
and/or
the 990 for USA

Expanding Opportunities

Highlights:

- ***Gordon Clem Academy completes another year but faces greater challenges***
 - ***Developing partnership at JWHS***
 - ***Follow Up of past JWHS children***
- ***Continued sponsorship of children in education***
 - ***Continued child support at JWHS***
 - ***Lots of wonderful visitors***
 - ***Visits to our Artists***

Pictures speak louder than words so here is a pictorial series of 2016.

JWHS, a Children's Home

2016 is reregistration for JWHS, a children's home. A renewal of policies, documents, home health inspection, employee certifications and more are all resubmitted to the government of Kenya and go through a local process, then a federal process. We had all our paperwork submitted in due time but there is still a hold up at the federal level. We will enter 2017 with pending registration.



Thanks to a wonderful volunteer in the USA, most of the donors to Expanding Opportunities have been permanently recorded in hanging quilts!. The last three were hung this year. We are very grateful. It is good for the children to see how many people it takes to make it possible for them to have food, shelter, clothing medical care, and education. These donors are forever before their eyes.

Justice is possible in Kenya! Though it took almost a full year and a lot of effort on the part of everyone involved, one of our least desired incidences has brought with justice.



time of stress and testing to see if you just crammed or studied.

During holidays visitors come and enrich the children with art projects, capoeira lessons or a bit of fun with where in the world and what do you eat?

January is back to school month in Kenya. Students enter their new classes. Uniforms are shoes are new or repaired, books and backpacks. Just as September in the USA is a bit costly and exciting, so January is in Kenya. There are three terms in schools in Kenya. January starts the first term, followed by May, and August. November is the





Once in a while we get to do a small improvement project. This year we improved the shower. But by far the best improvement is the cob oven and grill.

Cob is made by digging sand and sifting, digging clay, mixing the two with your feet and water until you have a lovely thick cake of mud and then building to specifications until it is complete.

Cob treading is hard work but gets to be almost addictive. Soon you desire to build the world of cob!

But the oven and grill were enough. On the christening day we baked pizza and zucchini bread. A huge fire is kept burning for about three hours in the oven. The coals are then moved to the grill

and the baking begins!

2017 is bringing a HUGE change to JWHS. Partnering with a GIRL's Home, they will move in, all 14 girls and staff! So we did a trial run. We all fit in the dining. The girls made life active and busy!

Keep posted as we keep you updated!



GIRL CHILD

Our first two rescued girls were together again until school began. One of the girls is sponsored by a missionary and resides in another location. It is important for them to be together and share their common back grounds. Oh how we love these girls.



One of them had not seen her mother since leaving that day so long long ago. We finally found her and brought her and a translator to JWHS for a couple days of reuniting!! Oh the tears and smiles. Though not often easy and not often inexpensive, the reunions of these children with family members is priceless.



Follow Up



2004....FLASH BACK: The first 8 boys and the first caregivers.

Each child the magistrate selected gave us another opportunity to check up on the children we have served. Some only briefly, some most of their childhood. Our children have grown to be farmers, street vendors, a member of Kenya's Special Forces, automotive body and electrical, continuing students, and even our first 4 year college graduate having attended on a full scholarship.

A new magistrate came to the county in 2016. Keen to be certain that no children in the county had been falsified or sold into slavery, she identified children and requested they come in to present themselves to her.

We were ever so glad that we do long term follow ups and keep in touch with our children as they grow.



Kamau, was one of the first five boys taken from the streets in Kericho in the year 2000. He is now grown, employed, married and a happy father of a beautiful daughter.

He visits JWHS often and speaks to the current children about understanding their good fortune to have JWHS and to be serious students and obedient children.

We tell him how blessed we were to have the opportunity to play a role in his life.



Sammy came to us as a bit of a rebellious teenager. Bright and feeling hopeless, he acted out a bit. But soon after we placed him in a boarding high school, he began to take himself seriously and studied hard, received a full bursary to college, worked on his holidays for his accommodation and personal money and graduated from college in 2016! Shortly after he and his wife became the parents of new born twins!!

We are often asked, "Is it worth it"?

A resounding YES from us and our children. Potential thieves, abusers, hopeless street children, are now working, caring, giving adults.

It is a great privilege to be part of that transformation affecting our children and the future generations.

STEMS: Success Through Education Money and Support



Jon was one of our first 8 children. He had the same sponsor for most of those years. Upon high school completion she chose to assist him through college. He is now in his last year! Each term break he comes to JWHS and works in the gardens, assists the residents with their homework and generally "Gives Back" in any way he can!

A residential placement may not be the best thing for the child or the best use of donor funds. Often there is a Grandmother or an Aunt or other relative willing to lovingly provide a home for their family's children but they do not have enough resources to pay for their education. Public education exists but it is not free and uniforms are required.

Expanding Opportunities assists many

children with their school fees, uniforms, books etc. so they may remain in the love and nurture of their relatives while we assist with one of the greatest expenses in raising children in Kenya.

The government of Kenya does not allow students to continue in a children's home after the age of 18. Some sponsors wish to continue the support of the child through high

school and some on to college. Boarding school becomes the common solution to this problem. They no longer live at the children's home but receive support assistance through their education. They come home to visit on their holidays and catch us all up on boarding school life.

Expanding Opportunities has been assisting a young orphan in primary school for several years. He lives with his aunt who is a small farmer. Most of his primary years he was Number One in his class. This year, 2016, he completed his Kenya Certificate of Primary Education and excelled in his examination. WE have now assisted him to an excellent boarding secondary school where we expect his excellent performance to continue and trust he will receive a scholarship for college.

We serve many children and would enjoy telling you about all of them but the book would be quite large.



Primary school girls in their uniforms on the first day of school

Special Projects

Visiting the police station in our village to obtain a document, it was obvious that the station was in dire need of a facelift. As that is not usually in the budget, an inquiry was made,- If paint was donated could they purchase the brushes and provide the labor. With a positive response, Expanding Opportunities sought funds for that purpose and a generous donor responded.

The paint was purchased and donated to the police station. A few months later, a return visit to see how it looked!! Well not only did it encourage them to spruce up the outside but at their own expense they went to work on the inside. What a great morale booster and a wonderful way for us to give back to the community.



BEFORE



AFTER

Photos taken with the permission of the Officer in Charge

Gordon Clem Academy



Gordon Clem Academy

A much needed school has been beleaguered with challenges. As Expanding Opportunities did not have enough funding to operate the school, and the families could not pay the necessary school fees, Gordon Clem Academy was facing closure. The head teacher offered to operate the school at no cost and we gave permission.

She and the community managed the Academy while Expanding Opportunities was seeking government acceptance as a public school.

The school year was successful!



Morning Meeting



Unfortunately, the government of Kenya has put a moratorium on the construction and registration of new public schools for an undetermined length of time. As the school was not registered it cannot reopen in 2017 unless as a private school.

While the school sleeps, Expanding Opportunities is assisting some students with school fees in other schools and exploring a variety of options to reopen Gordon Clem Academy.

A student of GCA continuing her education elsewhere.

Books for Kenya



Expanding Opportunities plays a small role in purchasing and delivering text books to students.

In addition to purchasing textbooks, Expanding Opportunities distributes small devotional books donated by churches in the USA and reading and texts books carried from the USA.

This year we were given a donation to purchase text books. The shop we went to not only gave us a wonderful discount but also donated cash to be sure we could transport them! Thank you!

Friends Across the Ocean

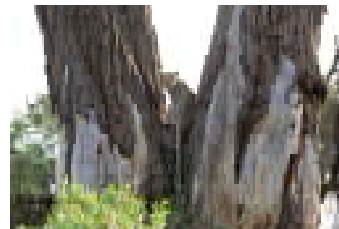


2016 brought several visitors to Kenya.

Starting the year off was a group journey visiting artists from Machakos to Isiolo and Nakuru; follow up

with some children we support in education; donating medical supplies to a rural clinic; visiting a

coffee farm and of course touring a National Park.



A regular annual visitor brings her wonderful projects for the children to exercise their creative side. Tee Shirts, art work, and lots of other fun was brought by Maggie!



A lover of Kenya and his new wife came for a holiday. Well, he spent most of it under the organization's car. They were



introduced to this world in the same year, 1985. So though not their best idea of a vacation the G wagon got some much needed TLC.

Artisan Support



Blacksmiths in Isiolo work under a shade roof to create jewelry, knives, bells, and more

Pascal Chuma is the founder and teacher at [Bobea Art Centre Kenya](#), which he founded to nurture young artists and empower them to earn an income through their creativity, and express themselves. Aina Moja had made an agreement with Pascal to list his works. Tragically, just recently, he had his work stolen from a gallery showing! Needless to say he is heartbroken. You can contact Pascal at his facebook of the same name.



This year we continued our visits with and purchases from many of our regular artisans.

Several new artisans were added as well.

Our artwork is purchased at Fair Market value, or a listing arrangement made, shipped and sold through ecommerce, fairs and festivals and a brick and mortar shop in Belfast, Maine.



Visit www.ainamoja.com and www.1stafricancloting.com to see more.



Volunteers of all ages sell our items to raise funds for the other projects of Expanding Opportunities. If you are interested in volunteering in this way, contact shop@ainamoja.com

Camp Forest USA



Camp Forest is a wilderness Day and expedition camp teaching a love of nature and preserving indigenous skills from three continents.

It is a place to be active: A place to be quiet: a place to work alone: place to work as a team.

The skills and character building that happens here lasts a life time and beyond.



Camp Forest Kenya:

Expanding Opportunities continues to seek funding to begin Camp Forest Kenya with the vision to create peace and understanding through positive ethnic pride while honoring native tribal skills in an alternative rite of passage program.

Expanding Opportunities looks forward to a NEW 2017!

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