



NEWSLETTER

November 2008

HOPE FOR KENYA'S KIDS

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Message from the President

This has been a very difficult year for our Kenyan friends. I'm sure most of you followed news of the violence following the December elections. It lasted for nearly two months and there was a devastating loss of lives and property. Even though the riots were attributed to the results of the Presidential election, it went much deeper than that. Tribal rivalry in Kenya dates back to the years before independence from British rule in 1963 and emotions are always close to the surface.



Unfortunately, the situation caused a delay in the opening of many schools since it was not safe for teachers or students to travel in the country. Most schools opened nearly a month late.

As a result of the political situation, I was unable to make my annual trip to visit schools this year. I am planning to visit all of our students next year, so if any of you are interested in joining me, please let me know.

Sandra Fenley
President

Our Youngest Supporter ~



I first met Ellyse through an Email asking for a pen pal connection to a student in Kenya. Her mother found our web site and contacted me with the request which we were able to fulfill.

Elly quickly became a supporter of our efforts to educate Kenyan children even though

she was only 9 years old at the time.

Since then, she has been tireless in her efforts to raise money for our cause and has involved members of her class at school as well as her church and Girl Scout troop.

Her family lives in North Dakota and I hope to meet them all on a planned visit to Disneyworld this winter. Elly has been an incredible inspiration to me. If all of us could reach out to care for each other the way she has, our world would become a very different place.

Upendo Village ~

Last year we announced our new alliance with Upendo Village. The partnership has allowed us to provide funding for many new students whose mothers are receiving nutritional assistance and medication for HIV/AIDS at the Village clinic.

Applications were submitted for thirteen students and we were able to accept all of them. We have been informed by the Child Welfare Officer that they intend to submit three more applications in 2009 and we are hopeful that we will be able to accept those as well.

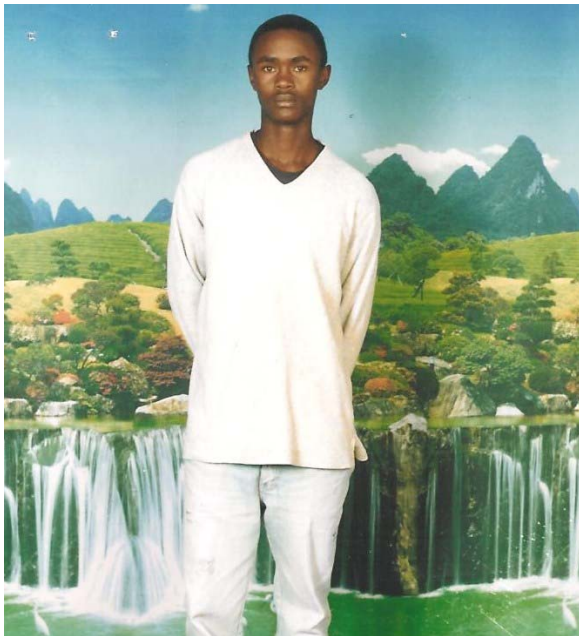
All of our new students live in or near Naivasha town so they were directly affected by the post-election violence. We were informed by the Village staff that none of the students or their families were injured, which was very welcome news. The following is an excerpt from the UV newsletter:

As most of the world rang in the New Year 2008 with celebrations and merriment, Kenya experienced an outbreak of civil unrest following the December 2007 presidential elections. What started as protests over what some perceived as irregularities in the election process and vote counting quickly turned into violent ethnic clashes. The violence reached the town of Naivasha on January 1st and worsened over subsequent weeks, leading to many deaths and injuries. Sister Florence Muia and her staff sprang into action, assisting refugees who were burned out of their homes and had sought refuge in the local police compound and the Naivasha prison. Eventually, the Red Cross arrived, bringing much needed food and water and again Sr. Florence was called upon to assist them in organizing the relief supply distribution. Just as Sr. Agnes, RN was running out of medicines in our Upendo Village pharmacy, Doctors Without

Borders arrived with medical personnel and with medicines. While Sr. Agnes helped them tend to the wounded and sick Sr. Florence assisted local officials and the Red Cross in trying to relocate people so that they would have adequate sanitation, food, water and shelter. The rainy season had already begun to turn the ground to mud, making the tent camps set up by the Red Cross all the more crucial. With the violence came a paralyzing fear that has gripped the people, robbing them of their usual welcoming smiles and gracious generosity to one another. Grief counseling and assisting families with identification of the dead have become the sad tasks occupying Sr. Florence day after day. Thankfully, the violence is now subsiding.

Student Profile ~

Josephate Kuria is one of our students from Upendo Village. Even though he scored very high on his final exam in elementary school, Josephate has been unable to complete secondary school. He and his sister live in Naivasha with their mother who is HIV positive and too ill to work.



Josephate attends Naivasha Mixed Secondary School where he is a first year student at the age of 19. He completed his elementary school exam in 2005 and has been in and out of school since then due to the lack of fees. It was Josephate's decision to enroll as a first year student in order to have a better chance of achieving good grades. In his first term, he scored a B+.

A total of seven of our sponsored students from UV attend Naivasha Mixed Secondary and they are all

performing well. Unfortunately, none of the students received a grade report for second term. There was rioting at the school in March which was instigated by some 4th year students disputing the results of the exams they take as practice for the final KCSE. As a result, the school was closed and all students sent home without taking their final exam. In Kenya, if students fail to take any exam during the term, the schools do not issue a grade for the class or classes. We have our fingers crossed that there will be no further disruptions so that we will see term reports for third term which ends in November.

Our 2008 Graduates ~

Mary is the fourth born in a family of 10 children. The father is elderly and unemployed. None of the other children have attended school past grade 8 and the three older girls are married.



Alice's father died in 1990. She lives with her mother who supports the family with subsistence farming. Mary and Alice both attend the same school. We have not received any grade reports for either of them this year which is very typical of their school.



Joseph's sponsor met him several years ago while on a birding safari. She was so impressed with his eagerness to attend school that she began sponsoring him and he joined our Hope family in 2006. There are 11 children in the family; his father is a farmer and the mother suffers from a chronic lung disease.

