

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!

1 Chronicles 16 v8

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that we are already at the end of the year, it has gone so fast! This year has seen a big increase in activities and the number of families benefitting from The Potter's House CBO. With the increase in work came the need to increase staff, so in total, we now have Beatrice full-time, Alice counselling two days a week and Beth four days.

Our community activities now include weekly meetings for parents, elderly, disability support and a bible study and prayer meeting. We have been able to run a daily bible club for children every school holiday, we run a community food bank scheme and we have started the Cycle with Dignity project. As well as these, we have continued to work closely with individual families, kickstarted small businesses, assisted with school fees and uniforms, skills training, and any other individual needs.

With every increase and challenge, God has been faithful and provided everything we have needed and more! We give Him the glory.

Rescue

Sometimes we come across extremely upsetting cases that need immediate intervention. The focus is always the safety and wellbeing of the child. This was the case in October when Beatrice found a 13yr old boy lying in a corridor outside a shop. He was extremely distressed and after talking to the boy it became clear that he'd run away from home because of the abuse he was facing every day. He also told Beatrice that his brother was in the same home suffering too.

The boys have now been placed in the care of The Potter's House CBO by the Children's Office and Beatrice is trying to trace other family members, as well as look for a suitable long term foster family in case no relatives are found. There is no formal process for fostering in Njoro, so we are working closely with the Children's Officer to ensure wherever they are placed, is a safe and loving home. For now, the boys have settled well with Beatrice and are attending a new school. The youngest brother is extremely traumatised by his experience and both brothers are having weekly counselling with Alice, our child counsellor. Please continue to remember them in your prayers.

Bible Club

In October we held a holiday bible club for children. Between 25 -35 children attended and we are thankful to the team from Covenant Baptist Church for leading the club. The children enjoyed bible lessons, games and snacks with a meal on the last day.

As you can see from the picture the club is held outdoors in an open area because we do not have a building. This does cause problems when it rains. Rains are becoming less predictable and when it rains in Kenya, it REALLY rains! We are praying that next year we can buy a marquee which could be erected in one of the school grounds for the duration of the club. This will mean that the club can continue whatever the weather and it can be used for other meetings as well.



Wheelchairs

Many months ago, we came across a young boy at one of our Disability Support Groups who was born without legs and without one hand. This 7yr old boy is an extremely bright boy and his biggest desire was to go to the same school as his sister. Unfortunately, due to having no wheelchair and his granny believing that children with this type of disability cannot go to school, he was stuck at home every day.

It has taken a long time to be able to secure a wheelchair for him, but we are absolutely thrilled to have finally got him a wheelchair, and that has meant he has been able to start school and fulfil his dream. We had a local welder make a tray that attached to the chair for him to do his work on and we had a special toilet chair made to suit his needs. His initial progress is really encouraging, and the teachers report that he has made many new friends. We thank God for the easy transition for him and the way the teachers have welcomed him.



Christmas Food Packages

Food insecurity is a reality for many families we work with, so to make sure that every family we are involved with has a Christmas dinner and enough food for the few days after, we are once again providing families with a food package. Each family will get some ugali flour, rice, fruit and vegetables. We also will include a long bar of soap. If you would like to give towards feeding families for Christmas, please use the bank details at the bottom of the newsletter and put FOOD as a reference.

Back to School

Between Christmas and the start of the new school term is always a busy time for Beatrice as she works with parents to prepare the children to go back to school and makes sure they have everything they need. Many of the children will need items of school uniform and most will need new school shoes. Without the uniform children are not allowed to go to school. If you would like to give towards the cost of school uniforms, please use the bank details at the bottom of the newsletter and put UNIFORM as a reference.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- *Please pray for the boys in our care and for us to find a safe and loving family home for them.*
- *Pray for resources to continue the community activities and our work with families.*
- *Pray for the Covenant Baptist Church and the Christian outreach in Njoro.*

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