

OKOA TOTO

A Children's Home in Lumakanda, Kenya

Inspired by Compassion. Rooted in Community.

JULY 2020

www.okoatoto.org



OUR HOME IS BURSTING WITH SMILES

The children enjoyed their birthday celebration...

The Kenyan staff and Advisory Council, in conjunction with the USA Board of Directors, arranged for a BIRTHDAY PARTY that honored all the children's birthdays on this special day. Gifts of tennis shoes were provided by each of the children's sponsors. With school currently cancelled and the children having to remain isolated in their OKOA TOTO home, special celebrations generate smiles!



HOME MANAGER, KEVINA'S
GREETING AND UPDATE

During COVID-19 we are concentrating on teaching our children LIFE SKILLS. These include basic house keeping skills as well as hygiene, how to cook, sew and keep the garden. We are also teaching them about COVID-19, how it spreads, signs and symptoms. We have purchased more soap and sanitizers in the home.

We have purchased revision books and with the help of Edith and Christine who join me, we help the children do their assignments. We have a story telling session in the evenings.

For play time, our boys like to play football (soccer) and our girls like to jump rope!

As you can see by the pictures, our children are loved and nurtured by our staff and accept each other like family!

Thanks for your support!



JOY CONTINUES HER STUDYING



ABIGAIL AND HER SMILE



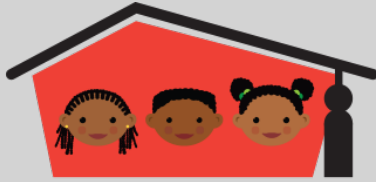
RAMSEY LOVES STUDYING



Pictured left to right: Our children showing off; Brightson gardening; Jian enjoying birthday treats; Girls modeling; a quilt made by Marsha McKinnon of Whitewater, Wisconsin (Marsha made a quilt for each child and we are preparing to send them over soon). Finally, Mary eating, came into the home “shy and most of the time would just sit back and watch others play,” according to Kevina. “Right now, you can’t believe the changes; she is the most playful girl and understands basic etiquette.” MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONE CHILD AT A TIME...

WE NEED YOU

FUNDRAISING has been a challenge during these days of COVID-19. We have had to cancel or postpone several events. That said, our expenses remain. Still, ours is an amazing mission and twelve children will have a chance to break the cycle of poverty because the OKOA TOTO home exists. Five local Kenyans also have employment (part or full time) because we are here. We so appreciate the outpouring of generosity that has gotten us to this point! We hope we can continue to count on your support! Donations can be sent to: Okoa Toto c/o Treasurer, Ann Shurte @ 1228 Summit Avenue, Waukesha, WI. 53188 or www.okoatoto.org. Also, please like us on Facebook - and make us a recipient of your Amazon Smile purchases! The website has ways to support some of our individual and specific needs!



OKOA TOTO

CHILDREN'S HOME

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LUMAKANDA, KENYA

"YOUR MISSION IS A GODSEND FOR THE LONG FORGOTTEN NEEDY CHILDREN OF LUMAKANDA. YOU MAY START SMALL BUT I BELIEVE THE SEED YOU PLANT WILL GROW AND FLOURISH."

-Dr. Morrison Muleri, World Bank (who grew up in Lumakanda)



Our Okoa Toto building dedication took place on December 7, 2019. So much prior work had gone into the project. Over 200 local Lumakanda Kenyan's turned up for the ceremony. This was heartwarming as an integral part of our mission is to be "ROOTED IN COMMUNITY!" Then President, Doug Pierce was on hand to cut the ribbon. It was a festive time as Kenyans know how to celebrate!



BOARD PRESIDENT TERRI MAY GOING OVER PLANS WITH KEVINA, DURING HER FALL TRIP.



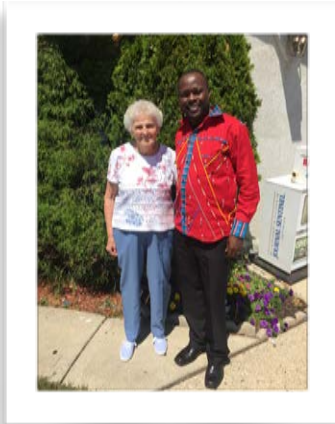
BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT, KATHY SCHMITZ PLANTED A TREE DURING HER FALL VISIT.



MESHACK WAS OUR GENERAL CONTRACTOR AND OVERSAW THE ENTIRE BUILDING OPERATIONS.



PICTURED ABOVE: the hard working crew of builders, who constructed the entire home using only hand tools under the able guidance of Meshack. They were all local residents. Co-Founder, Advisory Council Facilitator and major consultant for this entire project, Mark Odendo Okello. The staff of Okoa Toto includes a Night Watchman, Cook/Social Worker, Matron and Gardener. A beautiful Lumakanda, Kenya Sunset.



Okoa Toto thanks one of our founding Board members, Lois Schmitz for her countless hours of dedicated service since our project was conceived. Lois, (whose sister was a missionary nurse in Kenya, and had visited her there), has been relentless in her fundraising efforts and encouraging all our efforts. Her support early on made a huge difference to us. She has recently resigned from our Board but remains with us in spirit and as a sponsor of Brightson. Lois is pictured here with fellow Board member Ann Shurte at a pre-COVID fund-raising event and with Mark Okello. THANKS LOIS!