



NEWSLETTER

Abundant Love for Kenyan Children

Volume 2 Issue 3

Letter from the President and CEO

Merry Christmas from Walindwa! It's that special time of year when we come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior! It's also a time of reflection looking back at the past year and seeing all the blessings God has bestowed upon Walindwa. Receiving our 501c3 determination letter would probably be at the top of that list! We thank God for paving the way for that door to open. Programs such as Sponsorship have also grown exponentially this past year, starting with the Mother's Day sponsorship drive at Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church. We now have 30 of our children sponsored and our goal is to have all the children and higher education youth sponsored by the end of 2014.

I've also taken this time to reflect on the past mission trips of 2013, especially the spring mission trip. I was accompanied by a close friend of mine who once battled breast cancer and we did our first "Mammograms for Mamas" project. It was a special honor to be able to spend time with the ladies and get to know them better during that special project. My prayer is that we can continue that project (one among many!) into 2014.

It was a dream come true for me when we dedicated the new Elma Barnett High School on August 3, 2013. Just a few years ago, in 2008, we purchased the original children's home property and built the boy's dorm first in 2009, the girl's dorm in 2010, and the dining/kitchen and children's resource center in 2011. God blessed us once again by purchasing the adjoining property to build a high school in 2012. It's an exciting time when we look forward to the first freshman class to commence in January 2014! And we are of course looking forward to growing more relationships with the Walindwa donors and sponsors in 2014.

Merry Christmas,

Jill Weller

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Jill Weller, President and CEO

Alternative Christmas Markets

RBCPC

Unique and extraordinary gifts were selected for friends and family at the Alternative Christmas Market at the Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church December 8. The particular gifts Walindwa offered participants to purchase for their loved ones were Mammograms for Mamas, shoes, school supplies, and desks for the high school. Recipients will treasure the thought of a gift given in their name and that it will foster goodwill in the world. To date, Walindwa has received gifts totaling over \$1000 from this charitable market. If you would like to participate, please visit <http://www.rbcpc.org/resources/articles/alternative-christmas-market-2013/>. Your gift will be cherished not once but twice.

The Village Church

The ACM has become a Christmas tradition at the Village Church in Rancho Santa Fe, California. In existence for nearly two decades, it has come to symbolize the ringing in of the Christmas season as up to 20 of the church's missions set up their tables in the Fellowship Center and sell gifts that serve as an "alternative" to shopping mall fare. This year's event was held on November 17 and The Elma Barnett Centre was proud to be represented. Gifts available for purchase included outfitting a classroom in the new secondary school, supplying Christian Education materials for the lower school students, and money for general support of the children. As of December 10, over \$3000 has been raised to benefit the Children's Centre, with two more weeks left before Christmas.

New High School Update

On November 23, 2013 the Board of Directors of EBCCK held a local community fundraiser on the campus of the new high school being built on the grounds of the Children's Centre. It was attended by many of the local Kenyan people and several invited dignitaries, including the local MP (Member of Parliament).

Total funds raised were 458,865 KS (approximately \$5300 USD) -- not including pledges or promises that have yet to be received. There was also a matching gift promise from the US of up to \$5000, which has been received.

The fundraiser was also a success because it legitimized the new high school project for the local people and the leaders. The MP suggested that we apply for community development funds from the government and committed to trying to expedite the application.

The first class is scheduled to begin this January and, God willing, will be a blessing for the children at the Centre as well as the surrounding community.



Walindwa Tea Time



A special event was held on November 10 to honor and thank our sponsors for their tremendous love and generosity to sponsor a child in a seemingly other world. Guests enjoyed tea and mandazi, a Kenyan dessert, and felt a bit more connected as we put names with faces and shared stories of our relationship to this tremendously caring organization. It was specifically a time to thank the sponsors of the children at EBCK. Though the children are far away in distance, they are near to our hearts. The children feel connected in spirit from the many ways Walindwa helps sponsors connect with their adopted children. While we realize communication is slower than we are accustomed to, the Sponsorship Committee is looking into how sponsors can communicate more often and how the program can be enriched. Therefore, sponsors were asked to share with us how this experience is working in its inaugural year and how that experience can be enhanced. There was a tremendous reply of satisfaction in being able to care for a child and many wanted more opportunities. We appreciate the feedback on the holes in the sponsorship system because without it we cannot make it a program you want to be a part of.

On behalf of the Board and Officers, we gratefully appreciated the opportunity to share the ways in which your generous heart is fulfilling the mission statement of Walindwa. We have many ways in which we do this and those ideas were shared so that our sponsors could fully understand the intention of this organization and their importance as a sponsor. Their support is what drives the program and their input is what improves it. If you were unable to attend the first annual sponsorship Tea, please contact ledwards@walindwa.org with your comment on what can be done to improve your experience with Walindwa and your sponsored child.



By the Numbers

This current, almost-over year is Walindwa's first full year of service on behalf of the kids in Kenya. Little did we know last December that we would find ourselves here:

2013
48 kids
22 sponsors
315 supporters
250 solar lanterns
30 sponsored students
31 mammogram'd mamas
\$24,000 in generous donations
and
it's all due
to you !



Please remember Walindwa in your year-end giving.

Walindwa Charitable Corporation
P.O. Box 270024
San Diego, CA 92198-2024
(619) 203-8715

To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, please e-mail walindwa@walindwa.org or click 'unsubscribe from this list' at the end of this e-mail.

Check out our
website for the latest
updates:
www.walindwa.org



Loving Kids in Kenya

Here's my donation in the amount of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address and/or email: _____

Please use my gift for :

_____ EBCKK children

_____ EBCKK high school

_____ Mammograms for Mamas

_____ Walindwa administration

_____ Solar lanterns

_____ Greatest need

_____ Please send me information about sponsoring a child at EBCKK

Return this card to:

Walindwa

P.O. Box 270024

San Diego, CA 92198-2024

619-203-8715

walindwa@walindwa.org



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