



NEWSLETTER

Abundant Love for Kenyan Children

Volume 2 Issue 1

Letter from the President and CEO

We just found out earlier this week that our IRS application for tax-exempt status has been expedited and should be reviewed soon! We hope to have our 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status by the end of the year. Reaching this milestone makes me think back upon our humble beginning. In August 2011, I gathered my Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church (RBCPC) small group and told them about my vision to care for Kenyan orphans. Because of my deep passion for the Elma Barnett Children's Centre, it wasn't hard for the group to rally alongside me. Within six months this unique group of talented women developed an organization with a business structure, mission statement, and goals, then petitioned the IRS for non-profit status to make this vision a reality. What transpired is the *Walindwa Charitable Corporation*. The *mission statement* indicates the level of compassion this organization is committed to. Walindwa is dedicated to improving the quality of life of, and bringing hope to, the children of Kenya and their families by showing God's abundant love and compassion through education, food and shelter, healthy living, and the spreading of Christian values. These essentials will empower children and youth to become adults with integrity who are self-sufficient and responsible members of Kenyan society. We chose the name Walindwa because it means to "guard or protect" in Swahili.

Asante sana for your continued support.

Grace and Peace,

Jill I. Weller



Jill Weller, President and CEO

In This Issue:

- Letter from the President
- Mammograms for Mamas
- Upcoming Trip
- Recent Trip Report
- Update from Roy Stover
- Annual Report
- Child Sponsorship Event

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

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www.walindwa.org*



Some of the women who received mammograms

Mammograms for Mamas - Success!

By Jill Weller

In April 2013, Walindwa partnered with Moms in Prayer, a women's church group in Eldama Ravine, Kenya (headed by Judy Birir, an EBCCK board member), to create the Mammograms for Mamas program. Most Kenyan women do not get mammograms because it is too expensive for them at the cost of \$35. Walindwa solicited donations to provide mammograms for these women and with great excitement we are happy to announce that 31 women were able to receive an *ultrasound* exam. Although they are not as aware of how important this screening is, they are extremely gratified to know that so many people cared about them.

Over two days, we transported 31 women to Nakuru for appointments at the Ranolo Medical Imaging Centre. Getting 31 women to Nakuru (an hour away) by 8:00 A.M. was like herding cats, but I found patience in the Bible, verse "Matthew 19:26 - All things are possible in Christ." Some of the women were nervous for their first procedure, but all came through fine and were relieved when it was over. Only one test came back with something suspicious and Dr. Ogutta recommended a follow up exam in six months.

It was an honor to bond with my Kenyan sisters in Christ. I look forward to the next project with the Moms in Prayer women.

Upcoming Trip

A group from The Village Church in Rancho Santa Fe, California, will be traveling to Kenya this summer to visit EBCCK. Seven members of the congregation (four teens and their parents) along with Pastor Jan Farley will be leaving the U.S. July 27 for the two week trip, which will also feature a short visit to Amboseli Game Reserve. The focus of the trip will be on establishing relationships with the children and demonstrating Christ's love and care to them. Among other activities, the team will put on Vacation Bible School and build a soccer field. "I can't wait to get back to the Centre to reconnect with the kids to see how they've grown and changed," said Griffin Edwards, 18, who visited with his family in 2010. "It was amazing to see the joy in these kids who have had such difficult lives. I want them to know there are people who care about them, and that God is their perfect parent."

Recent Trip Report

(April/May 2013)

By Jill Weller

While in Kenya, my friend Pam and I made a visit to the Basecamp Maasai Brand (BMB) ladies and interviewed them on how the solar lanterns, which were distributed in October 2012, were working. I found out that only two lanterns have broken. One cracked falling off of a mud roof and the on/off switch came off another, but they all still work. They are using the lanterns at night for cooking, to do extra beadwork for large orders, and for the kids to study. They are saving approximately \$44 per month per household in kerosene! They said if the lanterns are in the sun all day charging they get almost a whole night's charge. Walindwa would like to continue to foster this special relationship with the BMB ladies and do a future mammogram, talking Bible, men's health or anti-alcohol project. Please stay tuned.

On a personal note, at the urging of Roy Stover, I decided to sell my Land Cruiser. The car was a money pit and we decided to sell it for a more economical car. We are praying we can raise another \$5,000 for a used vehicle. Please add this request to your prayer list. Please also pray for a girl named Rispa. She has recently left secondary school and the care of EBCCK to live with Pastor William Kotut, former headmaster of Cheppema Children's home. We've informed the District Children's Officer of Nakuru, but still don't have resolution to the issue.



Walls of new high school being built at EBCCK

Update from Roy Stover, Missionary in Kenya

We've had a peaceful election in Kenya and on April 9 Uhuru Kenyatta was sworn into office as the fourth President of Kenya. We are thankful for a peaceful outcome and are relieved that there was no post-election violence as in 2008.

Some time ago, folks in the U.S. helped to raise funds so that the Elma Barnett Children's Centre could buy the property next door. The purpose of purchasing this land was to be able to plant crops to become more self-sustaining and to start a high school for the community. About 8 acres of the property has been plowed and planted with corn, sorghum and millet. These crops will help to feed the children and some will be used as cash crops.

The children have already taken the initiative to put in a football (soccer) field and construction of the high school has begun. So far the walls of two classrooms, offices, and storerooms have been started. We hope to have this finished by January 2014.

Please continue to pray that we will raise the funds needed to finish the building and that we may recruit a good principal that will in turn help us find good teachers.

Annual Report

The 2012 Annual Report for Walindwa has been published and is available for viewing on our website at walindwa.org/org-info/ . The inaugural report includes a summary of the two major programs conducted in 2012, Solar Lanterns and Child Sponsorship, plus the standard statements of Financial Position and Income & Expense. Take a look; we think you'll like what you see! Also posted on the web, with more pages and fewer pictures, is the Walindwa Form 990, an IRS document required of all organizations exempt from income tax. If you want all the details, it's the way to go. If you would like a printed copy of either document mailed to you, please contact Beth Nidzieko at 858-487-5637 or bnidzieko@walindwa.org .

Child Sponsorship Event at RBCPC

One of the major goals of Walindwa is to educate the children of Elma Barnett Children's Centre Kamonong (EBCCK), which is home to 60 children and youth who come from non-functioning or deceased parents.

School fees, books, school supplies, and uniforms are on-going needs for these children. Therefore Walindwa joined the Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church in the Child Sponsorship Day event to solicit funds to assist these children. The event held on Mother's Day, May 12, 2013 at RBCPC wrapped up the service series of Growing Relationships with the concept of caring for others as mothers do. The church courtyard displayed information about the sponsorship program. Representatives from the organization shared their experiences with the Children's Centre and the loving nature of the children there. Four children were blessed with a sponsor and two donations toward general funds were received at this event. If you would like more information about the Child Sponsorship program please visit www.walindwa.org. Supporting a child can be as simple as a one time gift for clothing or an on-going donation for a child to complete a school year.



Child Sponsorship at EBCCK in Kenya

Here's my donation in the amount of \$ _____
to support all of the kids at Elma Barnett Children's Centre Kamonong.
Name: _____
Address: _____

Tell me more about sponsoring a student at EBCCK!
_____ Please mail an information packet to the address above.
_____ Please call me at _____
_____ Please email me at _____

Return this card to:
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