

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM

Graceworks

Hope Network for Children International



Dear friend of Graceworks,

Another holiday season is upon us and I pray you and yours are well. In this very special time of the year I wish to say thank you to all of you who support Graceworks in fulfilling its mission of bringing hope to orphans and vulnerable children, both in Rwika Kenya and right here in Orange County. This has been a remarkable year for Graceworks Kenya, which in April celebrated 20 years of helping hundreds of orphans and vulnerable children in and around the village of Rwika. The program continues to transform lives there with over 100 children actively enrolled, the largest number ever. These children have been able to attend school with all their school fees and supplies provided.

The Graceworks feeding program has ensured the children and families in the program receive a monthly take home food package to provide at least one meal a day, which they would otherwise not have. Furthermore, ongoing mentoring, counseling and advocacy services ensure that the emotional and spiritual needs of the children are addressed, providing a holistic approach to the care of the children.

I marvel at the milestones and impact Graceworks has achieved in its 20 years in Kenya, with your support, and I am convinced the program's future is bright. Over the years the community in Rwika has embraced the program and is invested in its continuity. The staff, volunteers, and alumni are also extremely committed to the program.



We hope your Christmas season is filled with joy & love.

One exciting example of this I wish to share is of a young man who was a beneficiary of the program. As an orphan he was supported through primary, secondary and college education by Graceworks, and is now here in Orange County, attending graduate school at Concordia University in Irvine. He is thriving here in the United States, embracing his education. He is very thankful to the program and his sponsors for these opportunities. Once he completes graduate school his goal is to return to Kenya and help run the program there. I am grateful to you, and to God, for making this possible. His story demonstrates how the program can provide hope and a future to children who otherwise would have none.

On behalf of myself and the entire Graceworks board, thank you for your continued love and partnership. Please consider Graceworks in your holiday season and end of year giving and know that you are making a difference!

As always, I leave you with my favorite quote:

"A hundred years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove. But the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child." -Forest Whitcraft

Blessings,
Dr. Susan Njemanze, Ed.D.
Graceworks Founder & President



GRACEWORKS IN ORANGE COUNTY



LOCAL OUTREACH

Locally in Orange County, Graceworks will be providing funding for food for kinship and foster care families this Christmas. Providing support to this often underserved community of children and caregivers during the holidays is a blessing!

17TH ANNUAL GALA & FUNDRAISER

We wish to thank all who attended or donated to the annual fundraiser gala in September. We raised over \$60,000 for Graceworks Kenya, which will go toward building a sports and recreation field and meeting other program needs.



News from Rwika

It's been a year full of blessings. The Graceworks staff in Rwika report gratitude for the ability to care for the orphans and vulnerable children of the community, and are pleased to report excellent cohesion and collaboration as a team.



Enrollment

As of late fall, Graceworks has 104 actively enrolled children.

- 38 preschool and primary children
- 20 junior secondary school (middle school) students
- 38 secondary school (high school) students
- 8 students in tertiary institutions (colleges and technical schools)

Food Program

Monthly, children attend meetings where they are fed breakfast and lunch, and each child is given a take home package (to ensure each child receives at least one full meal a day). This month's package included: maize harvested from the Graceworks farm, 20 "One Meal" rice sachets, sugar, and cooking oil. They also received hygiene items including soap and toothpaste.

School Visits

This fall, Graceworks staff were able to complete 29 different school site visits and 15 private home visits to children enrolled in the program. Sit downs with the guardians, teachers, administrators, and students allows project staff to directly check in on students' progress and provide encouragement, guidance, and follow up in areas needed.

Continued Care

Counseling, mentoring, and advocacy continue as the project's two social workers are able to work in tandem with a professional counselor who volunteers her time with the Graceworks community. At the fall monthly meetings, staff worked with children in small groups on health and hygiene lessons: how to properly wash their clothes, bodies, brush teeth, and clean their shoes. Guardians received mentoring on the "5-C's" of parenting: self-control, compassion, collaboration, consistency, and celebration.

Milestones

Thirteen Graceworks students have completed their high school graduation exams this fall! Students currently in college and technical schools are pursuing degrees and certificates in various fields, including: artisan food and beverage services, project management, communications technology, nursing, counseling, and electrical engineering.

Many of these students have been with Graceworks since they were small children. Your support has allowed them to pursue these careers and given them hope for a better future!





SPONSORSHIP CORNER

This fall, one of our students, Sheila, graduated from University of Embu with her Bachelor's degree in English and Literature! Now, she is gainfully employed as a high school English teacher in Kenya.

Sheila was enrolled in the program as a preteen in 2008, almost 17 years ago. Because of the Sponsorship Program, she is now a educated woman, herself inspiring young minds to learn and grow. Sheila's story is a beautiful testimony to the impact of Graceworks!



Give to the General Fund
Donations will be used to meet increased food costs, medical attention, clothing, hygiene needs, & project facilities upgrades and repairs.



Inquire about Sponsorship
Current and new Graceworks beneficiaries need your support! Inquire with Graceworks about supporting these children directly.



Volunteer with Graceworks Locally
Provide much needed help in the Graceworks office or volunteer with Graceworks in Orange County outreach work! Contact us for more information.

www.graceworkshopenet.org

GRACEWORKS
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In 2024, 81 sponsors contributed to Gracework's critical mission and sponsored over 100 children. Without those sponsorships and other donations, Graceworks simply would not be able to accomplish it's mission: provide hope and change the lives of children just like Sheila.

As the Kenyan school year comes in a close in January 2025, and matriculation information is shared with us from Rwika, we look forward to updating sponsors on the students' progress.

Thank you sponsors for your dedication and commitment.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas, and Prosperous New Year!

With Sincere Gratitude,

Alison Conard, Dr. Darrell Dudley,
& Theresa Hines
Sponsorship Committee

**HELP GRACEWORKS
BRING HOPE &
CHANGE LIVES**

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