

Dear Friends,

We have so much to write about, including some exciting news!

Education

We've always been grateful for the classrooms that we've had at Soi N'gwono School in the village. They were functional and practical and exactly what was needed to conduct a class. Were they beautiful? No. But in the village appearance comes second to function and no one had reason to complain.



Well, take a look at our six bright, beautiful, new classrooms! It took much longer than expected but all government stamps and approvals were acquired, the job was done well, and they are now filled with eager students! The enthusiasm, joy, and pride amongst students and teachers is palpable.



Our next phase of construction will include three more classrooms and an administration block to serve as a staff room, supply storage, and library. In the meantime, your funding provided several hefty and colorful crates for keeping the school's library books in active use. Once the administration block is completed and bookshelves are installed, all the storybooks, reference books, and teaching

resources will be easier to access and use. For the time being, the crates allow each class to have a collection of books accessible every day.



Because of your giving, we have been able to start and finish this construction project, we've been able to pay and keep our core group of teachers through these last two challenging years, and students have received the quality education and spiritual motivation they need. We can't say how thankful we are for all the giving towards this cause! We're not done yet, so please join us and give the preschoolers a new space to learn as well!



Health

Last year we told you about the Maisha Mema Project in which our staff trains and equips rural health workers to screen for the four most prevalent cancers in Kenya. At that time, 340 community health workers (they are the information distributors) and 22 nurses (ranging in training from LPN to nurse practitioner) at five clinics/hospitals were working hard to put their training into practice.

The results of this initiative are picking up well and the teams are almost running the project on their own. Typically, around 40 at-risk individuals are being screened each month. By mid-year we expect to have screened 400 patients and assisted with the treatment of around 22. Imagine the implications of this; 22 parents living longer and healthier lives, ensuring more stability within their family and decreasing the likelihood of orphaning their children. Or, 22 healthy, working adults, able to provide for their own needs and the needs of their family, providing an education for their kids, younger siblings, or extended family members. And let's not forget the 400 who have the peace of mind needed to carry on with life. However ever you want to look at it, the health of any individual has implications on those around them and we do this work for the benefit of the individual, knowing that their improved condition will be of help to many. This is how development works and it motivates us.

Unfortunately, overall funding during the past year has fallen and we have had to cut back on staff and activities for this program. It is important to continue this impactful and fruitful work, it is what we want to do. We rely entirely on donations and your giving will enable us to get back to screening, and referring....you'll be giving peace of mind to men and women.

The Okalls

We are in the US for the summer and beyond! We love our work in Kenya and the impact it has on the community, but it has been intensely demanding and we are visiting the US to rest and reflect. We are primarily in the St. Louis area during the summer months with a planned trip to Bloomington at the end of July. We will be doing lots of much needed fundraising and intend on taking several road trips to visit family and friends in every direction. We want to see you, and if you'd like to see us, please let us know and we'll try our best to make it happen!



Your generosity is a reflection of God's great work. Our overhead expenses are almost nonexistent so your donations are really helping people who need it. You won't find a non-profit with a better bang for the donated buck and we work hard to keep it that way. Thank you for being a part of it. Please keep it up!

Prayer Items

- Our organization has experienced a drop in funding over the past several months. This has led to staff reductions in the health programs and a cutback in our ability to help those in need. We also have three more classrooms and an administration block to build for our school. Pray for God's provision and favor as we fundraise.
- Donations need to increase, are you able to refer us to other individuals/organizations/companies who may be interested in what we're doing?
- We need help marketing our story to increase fundraising but we do not have the skill set, nor the money to hire someone. A capable volunteer willing to work pro-bono would be an absolute blessing.
- Back in November we informed you of one of our health workers, Beatrice's, cancer diagnosis. Despite a strong fight, she lost her battle in March. A widowed mother of four, she will be greatly missed. Please pray for her family and our fight against this awful and indiscriminate disease.

With Love and Appreciation,
The Okalls and the Dala Development Team.

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