



# makindu

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

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NEWS FROM MAKINDU CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

AUTUMN 2011

A shared vision across the globe. When people truly share a vision, they are connected — bound together by a common aspiration.

## Note from the Stateside Coordinator

In June of 2011, I visited the Makindu Children's Centre after being away for two years. During those intervening years, I spent time conducting



trainings in 12 schools in Zambia and Uganda. The focus was inclusion of children with disabilities. The majority of the

schools, both government funded and community schools, did not have access to clean running water or meals for the children during the school day. Children also did not have access to medical care. In Zambia and Uganda, I saw children with acute and untreated ear infections, eye infections, malnourished, untreated encephalitis and children with disabilities caused from untreated bouts of malaria.

Those experiences enabled me to more fully appreciate the value of the care provided to the 400+ children at the Makindu Children's Centre. Life-saving care. All the basics of healthy food, extra nutritious supplements for those with HIV, basic medical care, clean drinking water and school tuition paid.

Additionally, there are social workers at the Makindu Children's Centre who have organized committees of adults to check on the children in outlying communities and to respond to their needs such as providing shoes or school uniforms, moving an orphan to a safe guardian or noticing if a child needs to be transported to a clinic.

The basic services and safety net provided by MCC literally mean the difference between life and death or permanent disability to many of the children of MCC. Thank you for your generous contributions which enable MCC to provide these life-saving services!

Lou Enge – Stateside Executive Coordinator

## In Honor Of

We would like to express our deepest sympathies...

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### Marjorie Randolph

was a long-time donor and her contributions helped to provide a place for the children of Makindu to grow in a nurturing environment. On behalf of the staff at Makindu Children's Program, we would like to honor her memory.

The following people made donations to the Makindu Children's Program in honor of Marjorie Randolph:

- Terry Larsen, Carol & Gene Zinda,
- Leroy & Helen Hutzler,
- Barbara & Robert Pattani,
- Rachel Bristol, Michael Farley,
- George & Anita Ambrosini,
- Meg Tyree, Ellie & Gregory Smith,
- John & Joanne Eggink, Patricia McDearmon, James & Janeen Wadsworth, Leslie Sampson,
- The Oregon Food Bank, Jack & Dolores Stromberg, Winnie Barron.

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A gift was given by Lois Heinlein in memory of her aunt

**May Banninger** (1915-2009) who gave so much to her work — as a Girl Scout leader, a volunteer tax preparer for seniors and through her church.

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Ellie Smith and Greg Smith gave in memory of their mothers:

**Mildred Sivers** and **Ruth Smith.**

## Being a Sponsor

The evening news often presents situations in which we feel powerless to make change. The world-wide HIV/AIDS epidemic is one of those conditions. In Sub-Saharan Africa alone, 1.5 million are affected. Children are left homeless and without parents. Being a sponsor through MCP, however, creates a personal connection between a sponsor and child which is unlike the experience of donating money to a non-profit organization. It enables one to feel that, despite the conditions in the world, you actually can make a significant difference in one or more children's lives. The reports, letters and drawings which you receive from the children make you aware that positive changes are taking place. During the two visits that I made to Kenya and the Makindu Children's Centre, I was deeply touched by how much it meant to these children that people here in the US and other parts of the world truly cared about them. Since most of these children are orphans, they have experienced loss, insecurity and a tremendous sense of responsibility for their siblings. Their connection to the Centre and a guardian creates stability and a family-like connection. In addition, knowing that someone special somewhere across the world cares enough about them to contribute to their food, medical care, school tuition, uniforms, etc., provides them with confidence as they focus on their education as well as their future goals. They need someone to believe in them, and that special someone may be you! The cost of sponsoring a child is a little over a dollar a day. Please consider making a difference in the lives of these children.

*Jan Johnson*  
*Sponsorship Committee Chairperson*



## Featuring Naomi

Naomi is an orphan who was born in 2004 and is a special needs sponsored child. At intake at the Centre, she was liv-



ing with her mother who was bedridden with HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. Naomi's mother died a month after she was enrolled at the Centre. Naomi lives with her paternal grandmother, four siblings and five other children. She was diagnosed with AIDS as an infant and has been treated with anti-retroviral medication. She frequently has been ill and unable to participate on a consistent basis in the Winnie Pre-School Academy due to health issues. In addition to a meningitis infection, she has suffered from seizures caused by cerebral malaria. Since her health was deteriorating, she was assessed and treated at Gertrude Children's Hospital in Nairobi. Her seizure disorder has since improved, and she is regaining weight and strength. Naomi will be enrolled in the first grade next year. She has been very courageous — as she has struggled with HIV/AIDS, associated infections and a fragile medical condition — and she always greets you with her beautiful smile and affection. She loves games that do not require a lot of energy, such as playing with toys.

## Bio-Fuel at the MCC

A new bio-fuel system is being built at the Makindu Children's Centre. This means increased safety in the kitchen, a reduction in deforestation,



reduced smoke and less work for cook Ntambi (Monica), who will be getting acquainted with the new system. The MCC kitchen has served as many as 500 meals a week.

To create bio-fuel, a mixture of cow dung and urine (ammonia)

is shoveled into a large, underground brick-lined processor where gases move into a holding tank. The gases then travel through pipes to the kitchen where they fuel the oven flame for cooking.

Overflow waste is rich in nitrogen and will be used to fertilize the farm, which currently grows mango and banana trees and soon will grow produce and grasses to feed the chicken and cows.

Food production and income generation are crucial in Kenya where hyper-inflation is causing food shortages, especially maize (corn meal). Food prices reportedly jumped 50% between April and June 2011 and have been pushed even higher due to the influx of refugees caused by the famine in Somalia.



The bio-fuel system came about when Program Manager Michael Omondi approached the Kenya National Domestic Bio-Gas program, which is sponsored by The Netherlands and a matching grant was provided by a private U.S.-based donor.

Small donations can go a long way in Makindu.

*Lou Enge*

## Drought Affecting Makindu

The famine and drought in the Horn of Africa (countries directly within the Horn of Africa are Ethiopia, Somalia, Djibouti, Eritrea and parts of Sudan) affect Kenya mainly because of the absolutely staggering numbers of refugees streaming into the Kenyan border to escape the drought. Food, gasoline and most daily necessity prices have drastically risen in Makindu and throughout Kenya in the past six months. This is clearly the worst drought in the Horn of Africa in the past 60 years.

Although previous annual influx of refugees into Kenya has been fairly stable in the past ten years (137,000 in the year 2010), this number is estimated to exceed 500,000 refugees in 2011. The largest refugee camp is already at four times its normal capacity (with an additional 80,000 outside the camp trying to get in). It is estimated that 1,400 refugees are entering Kenya daily to escape the drought.

Food and medical supplies are not nearly enough for the onslaught of refugees, and many people (particularly the elderly and children) are reaching the refugee camps dying, or have died enroute. And, sadly, more within the camps continue to die daily.

Although it is easy to become overwhelmed by the enormity of this situation and feel helpless, Winnie suggests looking at it on a more individual basis: **one child/one individual at a time**. She says that "...our efforts do make a difference in the lives and within the hearts of those we reach. This is no wasted effort, and I can think of no better investment."

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## Madonna

Madonna was the first child I met in Makindu back in 1997 while volunteering my medical services at the Makindu Hospital. He was a lanky and shy 10-year-old orphan with a delicate confidence and clear dedication to the many needy children with whom he shared the streets. He was the original Robin Hood: conniving, gentle and sweet, and always finding ways to help those who needed it most. Daily, he would assemble orphaned and street children for me that needed medical care.

...Madonna had captured me, and captivated my heart.

He was not alone in his quest for these children. He had the guidance and support of a local Kenyan teacher who had a dream for the children and understood their desperate needs, and he had two others: Mr. Kampona was an elderly and frail gentleman who earned his daily bread by begging outside of the Sikh Temple. His home was a tree that he would slowly climb into each night and perch amidst his scant belongings. At the end of the day, he would take a few shillings for his own bread and then give any remaining shillings to Madonna to buy food for the children. The third angel was old Mama Ngesa, whose children had all died and left her with many grandchildren to care for. She had befriended Madonna and the many other orphans and joined him in his mission. She would prepare the food he brought and feed all those children in the village with no other source of food that day.

This was Madonna's family. His own home was a one-room, mud-thatched hut he shared with his grandmother, a woman embittered by a harsh life and with little love left to give. Many of these children



were not in school as they were either neglected or harassed by the school officials. They maintained that orphaned children weren't worth the effort because they had "no hope" to succeed. Public education in Kenya is not free, and children are often chased from school unless they can raise their own school fees.

When I returned to Makindu in 1998 to help establish the Centre, I found Madonna saddened and detached. He was still giving gentle guidance and help to the children, but he was also a bit lost — torn between food for the day and sustenance for his heart. Despite this burden, he continued to bring little ones to me at the hospital and slowly began to appear more and more along my daily journeys. Soon, he was at the Centre more regularly, pouring over books for hours and regaining a dreamy look, once again, in those sparkling eyes. The youngsters he used to feed and care for in his village now come to our Centre for their needs.

On those days that we prepared too much food, any leftovers were distributed to the community, with Mr. Kampona first on that list.

Madonna returned to school and earned a vocational diploma in driving and mechanics. His goal was to start a "boda-boda" taxi service, carrying passengers and cargo on a motorbike. Through a loan contract established with a group of five donors last year, he purchased his own motorbike and now supports his own family — and he still continues to help the needy children of Makindu. The cost of the motorbike, helmets, all licensing fees and insurance was only a little more than \$1,000!

Mama Ngesa and Mr. Kampona are both gone now, but I know they would be smiling broadly at any mention of Madonna. He represents both the heart of promise and of hope for all of these precious children.

Your donations can transform such hope and promise into reality! Please consider making a donation today.

**Madonna and I both thank you!**

*Winnie Barron*



## Children, Community Service & Collaboration

For 12 NYUAD students, spring break brought not just revelry but a chance to offer their time and talents to the Makindu Children's Centre (MCC) in rural Kenya. The Centre, which provides education, health and nutrition for more than 400 vulnerable children and places HIV orphans with guardians in local families, served as gracious host to the visiting NYUAD students during their trip, introducing them to both the social issues and immense spirit of the Kenyan people.

Following a flight into Nairobi, the NYUAD group was transported in safari vans to Makindu, located about five hours down Kenya's only major highway. Dozens of giraffes and several monkeys were sighted during the drive, the first of many exotic encounters to occur in the coming days.

Throughout the roughly two days spent working in Makindu and its surrounding area, the group was encouraged by the spirit of collaboration and positive change within the local communities. The Centre, founded in part by Cathy DeLong, NYUAD's CFO and Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance, Budget and IT, invited the students to visit several worksites with the MCC staff to participate in food distribution, conduct home visits with the guardians, and report on the families' statuses. "I was surprised by how far the communities had come in starting projects and improving their opportunities," noted Alyazia Al-Shaibani (NYUAD '14). "It made me rethink my preconceptions about aid and the complexity of challenges facing African communities."

The most enduring memories were made with the children. "Trying to help the children somehow was the best spring break of my life," said Besik Turazashvili (NYUAD '14). "One of the girls became like a daughter to me. I plan to contact the MCC several times a year just to see how she is doing." The last day of the visit was spent digging holes for an orchard, one of the Centre's income-generating projects, and evaluating the possibilities for future collaboration.

The University's visit to Makindu was just the beginning of what both institutions hope will become a long-term partnership. Since returning to Abu Dhabi, collaboration has already begun on projects, including the development of a database for tracking children's progress, the establishment of an endowment fund for the Centre, and the planning of internship and research opportunities for NYUAD students.

*Leah Reynolds, NYUAD Class of 2014*

## Sadie's Visit to Makindu

My feet had never been so dirty in my life, yet I have come to appreciate the feeling of that dust. The pottery studio at the University of Puget Sound is completely caked in a similar reddish layer of dust. The feeling of it on my fingertips and palms conjures up

memories of my trip to Kenya with my mom (Lisa Adams) and Jan and Marty when I was 16 years old. At first I was terrified. To try to keep my mom and me from going, my sister had been telling us horror stories about ants that eat humans. Upon arriving



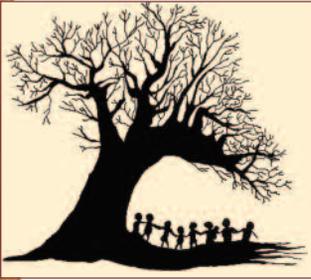
in Kenya, I experienced culture shock. In Nairobi, armed men roamed the airport, and our taxi was searched for bombs before entering our hotel. Exploring and finally leaving Nairobi helped me to calm down and gain some appreciation for what I was about to experience.

When we arrived at Makindu Children's Centre, the first thing I noticed was how happy all of the children looked. At 16, my vision of Africa consisted of immense poverty, which I had assumed to be accompanied by sorrow, fear and anger. I was given the opportunity to interact with these children through games, dance and song. We played with bubbles, passed soccer balls around and practiced hand jives we had taught them. Even with the language barrier that separated us all, we could still play. Learning new games together was the simplest way to bond. My favorite activity was drawing. Mostly, the kids would draw pictures of their homes, their friends or their favorite animals. Everyone would share his or her completed drawings with each other. I exchanged a drawing of one of the trees near the Centre for a picture of mountains with Babu.

Babu was one of the most influential people I met on the trip. (Babu is a "graduate" of Makindu Children's Centre and is currently studying law in Nairobi.) It was easy to bond with him due to a small age gap and our ability to communicate. He openly shared his stories of loss with us all. He is passionate about law and, more specifically, helping women and children. For me, Babu has become a constant reminder to not allow my own losses to get in the way of my personal goals. This reminder has been helpful throughout my first year of college. My goal after I finish college is to raise enough money to participate in the 2014 Proper Walk.

*Sadie Adams*

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**makindu**  
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We need your help to keep the Makindu Children's Centre in operation. MCC provides food, education, medical care and a place in the community for the Makindu orphans and their guardian families. Your donations help sustain a grassroots organization that is making a positive impact every day. Here are some ways your donations help:

**\$35** provides food, elementary schooling and medical care for one child for one month.

**\$50** provides school uniforms and shoes for 10 children.

**\$100** provides milk for 100 children for one month.

**\$200** provides bulk food (maize, beans, oil, etc.) for 59 families for four months.

**\$350** provides a high school education (tuition, boarding, books and supplies) for one student for one year.

Remember, all donations to the Makindu Children's Program are tax deductible. Please consider becoming a sustaining donor or child sponsor.

## I care and I want to share!

I am making a one-time donation of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am making a monthly pledge of:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ months.

Please send additional information about sponsorship.

### FOR DONATION BY CREDIT CARD:

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Visa  MasterCard Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ CSC \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### FOR DONATION BY CHECK:

Please make checks payable to the order of:

MAKINDU CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Mail to:

MAKINDU CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

P. O. BOX 51556, EUGENE, OR 97405

Makindu Children's Program is a 501 (c)(3) organization tax ID#93-1153131 and your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.