MAKINDU CHILDREN’S CENTRE: GIVING CHILDREN HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Every child's wish is to have a good life. Makindu Children’s Centre has become a ‘second home’ for over 1500 orphaned and vulnerable children. Imagine a once hopeless child being given hope for a better future. Most of the beneficiaries who were once hopeless children in the society - have since been transformed, are outspoken and have improved self esteem. MCC provides an avenue where kids are fed and provided with education on day-care basis. One aim of MCC is to ensure that all supported children in the program are retained in school throughout. This is done through paying for their school levies to enable them to be in school always.

During an average day in Makindu for a normal family, life is dependent on hope as most families live from hand to mouth, HIV prevalence being high caregivers are sickly and not able to provide: all these translate to the child being prone and vulnerable. Hopefully with the help of Makindu Children’s Centre, children in the program are able to get away from the daily worries of life and are provided for food, school fees and medical services and taken care of in terms of clothing and shelter. Coordination is also done with stakeholders who provide second hand clothes for the neediest children.

Much has been achieved over the years. From the multitude of orphaned and vulnerable children we serve, shines a young lady who beat the odds of a harsh life to be the Children’s Governor Makueni County! Ndile, who is a total orphan, has built her capabilities and campaigned to win over all the contestants. She is one child who has proven that one’s dream is valid no matter where you come from. Growing up from a shy girl, a loner who couldn’t express herself in public, Ndile campaigned and won over other worthy competitors, many from well-to-do households.

On behalf of the children, I wish to thank the donors and Makindu Children’s Program as a whole for all the support they offer to the children and all the beneficiaries as a whole.

Carolyne Waeni, MCC Program Officer, Makindu, Kenya

BAY AREA FUNDRAISER RAISES OVER $1200

An MCP fundraiser and donor thank you was held Sunday November, 2 in Jack London Square at Rosenblum Cellars tasting room, an award winning zinfandel wine producer in Oakland, CA. Hosting the event were MCP Board Members Lou Enge and Dennis Wininger.

Twenty supporters of the Cause were in attendance. They enjoyed fine Peruvian food catered by La Furia Chalaca and learned about the latest developments at the Makindu Children’s Centre. Over $1,200 was raised in addition to the raising of glasses of fine wine.

The event was such fun another wine tasting is being planned in the spring at Rosenblum Cellars Healdsburg location. Watch for more details in the coming months.
The number of orphans in Kenya equals the # of babies born in Oregon in the last 22 years

1.1 Million
IT TAKES A VILLAGE
MAKINDU VILLAGE CIRCLE

$0.50/day feeds a child
$0.25/day educates a child
$0.25/day provides basic healthcare

Makindu Children’s Centre now serves hundreds of AIDS orphans and destitute children. These children come to us literally starving and sick. Many have had to abandon school to care for their dying parents or beg on the streets. You can change this. For just $1/day, you have the power to give these children hope. You can give them nutrition, education, health and happiness. For the cost of just one latte a week, you can SAVE A CHILD’S LIFE.

Please consider joining our Village Circle with monthly donations and help us to feed, educate and care for these desperate children who otherwise might have nothing and no one.

IN MEMORIAM

On this World AIDS Day, 12/1/2014, we honor all our children who have graced us with their presence... for too short a time:

Emma Rose, November 11, 1998, died age 1 1/2
Mwasya Musyoka, December 2000, age 6 1/2
Kibibi Salim, February 2, 2002, age 16 1/2
Nduge Mutua, October 17, 2004, age 8
Mutindi Ngwasi, September 2009, age 12
Faith Mueni, May 2010, age 12
Museng’a Makundi, March 2014, age 15
Sila Tom, 2004, age 17
Phoebe Mutuku, May 2013, age 12
Musyoka Matheka, March 2014, age 11
Wamuyu Rafia Musyoka, August 2014, age 13
A PROPER WALK: AN ADVENTURE WITH A CAUSE

By Karl Werwath

Drinking from the fountain of humanity

As I departed for Kenya a few weeks ago, I referred to my trip as “A Proper Walk: An adventure with a cause”. Little did I know that I was embarking on a profoundly spiritual journey that would alter my view of the world, humanity and the kind of person I want to become.

Well, we did it!

We walked 120.5 miles across the Laikipia Plateau in Kenya, averaging about 6,000 feet in altitude. At times we needed machetes to clear paths through thick and thorny Acacia trees, had to dig one of our camels out of an aardvark hole he slipped into, and were confronted by a few military assault rifles. We battled blisters, intestinal aberrations, and dehydration, at one point having to administer Intravenous Saline to one of our team mates in the middle of a cow pasture. But we battled through it and achieved our goal. We were graced by incredible wildlife, having seen hundreds of elephants, thousands of zebras, giraffes, wart hogs, hyrax (both rock and tree varieties), gazelles, incredible birds of all varieties and a spitting cobra thrown in for good measure…..all presented to us in the wild. Unfortunately, we also saw the carcass of a poached elephant whose entire front skull had been removed in order to harvest its tusks; I will never forget the long line of elephant tracks around the body, as the rest of its herd marched ceremoniously, mourning their friend for days.

Woman with the strength of ten thousand men

Peter Himmelman has a song by the name of “woman with the strength of ten thousand men”; the lyrics streamed in my mind immediately when I met Winnie Barron for the first time. She has dedicated a large portion of her life doing work for the people of Kenya, and looking out for the well-being of others. She volunteered in African Hospitals and founded the Makindu Children’s Program in 1998. Her strong will and dedication was clear to me as we walked together across the terrain together. Her courage was mirrored by Michael Farley, who contributed two and a half years of his life to the people of Kenya while working in the Peace Corps, has had a 37 year relationship with Makindu since then, and was the founder of the Proper Walk (now in its 7th edition) as a way of raising funds for the Makindu Children’s Program. I was honored and humbled to be walking with these giants of heart and soul.

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My purpose, my passion, my pilgrimage

While seeing large portions of Kenya and its culture by foot was a spectacular experience, the real purpose of the trip was meeting the incredible children of Makindu. As we approached the gates of the facility, waves of kids came out to greet us...singing, dancing and holding our hands. I saw sunny faces, broad smiles and sheer joy at every turn; the most beautiful children in the world. I also saw a community of elders and care givers that created a place where 1800 children could come and receive food, water, education and medical care. As we toured the facility, I saw signs of progress and sustainability all around me. They had just made operational their new bore hole, a well supplying much needed water that had become prohibitively expensive over the last few years. They had received special permission to sell their excess water to help generate revenue to fund their program. A donation enabled an irrigation system that helped supply several donated acres of farmland, providing food for the kids. They are waiting for further donations to extend the irrigation system to plant another few acres, allowing them to sell the excess food for more revenue. During our visit, we had the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new pre-school building, large enough to house 40 additional students for their program, recognized as the best in the area.

The fountain of humanity

While walking with Winnie one day, she shared with me the story of what inspired her to start the Makindu Children's Program. She told me about an 8 year-old child she met by the name of Madonna, who she saw one night providing food to fellow street children. As he explained it to Winnie, there was an elderly Muslim man by the name of Khumali that lived in a tree outside of the gates of the Makindu Sikh Temple (yes...climbed up a tree at night to sleep safely). Khumali would beg outside of the Temple, take a very small amount to buy some bread and tea for himself to survive, and then give the rest to Madonna. Madonna would then go to the street market as it was closing at night and buy as much passed over food as he could afford. He then went to his grandmother with the food and would ask her to cook it up ....helping him to provide the only meal of the day for over 100 street children. Think about it ...an 8 year-old child, his grandmother and an old man living in a tree helping to keep 100 children alive ....with absolutely no resources except their own good will, their own humanity. After hearing Madonna's story, Winnie understood that she had to do something to help the countless children in need. After hearing Winnie's story, I realized that I needed to commit myself fully to the Makindu Children's Program.

So much more goodness left to do

Kenya has 40 million citizens, and 2 million of them are orphaned children. The need is vast and Makindu has done a miraculous job in saving lives and providing the environment for children to grow. The Proper Walk is the main source of volunteer dollars, conducted every other year. Our goal was to raise over $100,000, and we currently stand at just over $92,000. If you have the ability to give, I encourage you to do so.....pound for pound, the Makindu Children's Program is delivering more goodness per dollar than any organization I know.

Thank you for your kind consideration. Feel free to learn more and view more pictures of the walk on: www.properwalk.com or www.makindu.org.

THANK YOU

We would like to give a very special note of thanks (especially since we neglected to do this in previous newsletters --- please accept our apologies!!) to Eleanor May, who has been a faithful and generous supporter of Makindu for years.

Thank you for loving our children!
MY VISIT TO THE MAKINDU CHILDREN’S CENTRE
By Lily A. Virden

Makindu Children’s Program (MCP) is a place and organization that has been part of my life since 2006. My dad, Phillip Virden, first turned our family on to MCP when he committed to the 2006 Proper Walk. As he first embarked on his journey, we learned a lot about MCP and, over the years, our knowledge and care for the program has stayed close to our hearts.

In April, 2014 I was fortunate enough to visit Kenya with my dad. Coming from Colorado in the United States, my vision of Makindu was developed from my dad’s stories and photos over the last eight years. However, to actually see and experience Makindu first hand was amazing. As we entered Makindu Children’s Centre, the trees and children set a sudden mood of welcoming peace. The trees provided much needed shade from the intense afternoon Kenyan sun allowing the kids a place to play. As we arrived, the younger children shouted and laughed as they played on some playground equipment just a short distance from the MCC compound.

As we were greeted by MCC staff, I felt immediate assurance in seeing the well run, clean, efficient, and safe haven for the children. The joy on the children’s faces was heartwarming.

Thomas Mwanzia, MCC administrator, met with us and gave us a full tour of the MCC premises. My good feeling of care grew as I saw the outstanding facility and program. We were able to see how they created

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garden-fresh meals for the kids directly from the MCC field of crops and draw the fresh milk from the cows on the property.

We were also able to meet the well trained and intelligent staff who provides the invaluable services and attention to all the children. In strolling through MCC, we were able to sense and comprehend a safe, caring, and comfortable place for 1500+ kids.

Since my dad discovered MCP, my parents started sponsoring a little girl named Naomi (sponsorship started when she was 4 years old; she is now 8). I’ve always seen photos of her and heard about her (my dad got to see her on another visit to MCC in 2012). While at Makindu, a MCC counselor took us to meet Naomi’s grandmother and see Naomi’s home. Naomi’s grandmother is 89 years old and still goes out daily to tend and plow the fields.

After meeting Naomi’s family in Makindu, we traveled three hours north to Nairobi to see Naomi. We were fortunate enough to spend an entire day with Naomi. I saw the kindness and sweetness in this little girl. I knew that she was a true reflection of the comfort and security that came from the people and program at the Makindu Children’s Centre.

I had always appreciated the work that MCP strives to fulfill. After being able to visit there, meet the dedicated MCC staff, and looking into the eyes of the children that are being saved through love and support, I know those eyes show us hope for their well-being and future. I wish for the word about MCP to spread and grow so that they continue providing a safe haven and resources to the orphans at Makindu.
We need your financial support to continue Makindu Children’s Centre operations. MCC provides food, education, medical care and love for the Makindu orphans and their guardian families. Your donations help sustain a grassroots organization that improves the lives of these children every day. Here are some ways your donations help:

$15 provides food for one child for one month.

$30 provides a mattress, blanket and treated mosquito net for one child.

$60 provides one child with a mandatory school uniform.

$100 provides a year’s supply of milk for one child.

$250 provides bulk food (maize, beans, oil, etc.) for a guardian family of 5 for three months.

$450 provides a high school education (tuition, boarding, books and supplies) for one student for one year.

Please consider becoming a monthly 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 $________________

☐ Please send additional information about sponsorship.

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

DONATION BY AUTOMATIC FUNDS TRANSFER

*No fees to MCP. Withdrawals made 1st of each month

Name__________________________

Address _________________________

City, State & Zip _________________

Email __________________________

Phone __________________________

Financial Institution ____________

Account Number ________________

☐ Checking ☐ Savings

Routing Number __________________

Signature _________________________

I acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my account must comply with the provisions of US law. This authority will remain in effect until I have canceled it in writing.

DONATION BY CREDIT CARD

Name on Card_____________________

Billing Address ___________________

City & State_______________________

Zip _______ Phone________________

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard Exp. Date _______

Card #___________________________CSC_________

Signature________________________

DONATION BY CHECK

Please make checks payable to:

MAKINDU CHILDREN’S PROGRAM

P. O. BOX 51556, EUGENE, OR 97405