MAKINDU CHILDREN’S CENTRE EXPANDS ITS REACH

This beautiful map drawn by longtime Makindu supporter and friend, Pat Walker, shows the growing area that Makindu Children’s Centre serves. The number of orphaned and vulnerable children receiving services at the Centre has grown from 142 in 1998 to over 1,800 today. The geographical area served has grown as well, now serving children living in the outlying rural areas surrounding Makindu town. The Twando site is furthest from the Centre at 24 kilometers away, yet we serve 237 children from this area. The Nguumo site and it’s smaller satellite centers are closest to Makindu, and also the most desperate. Poverty is deeply entrenched here, as it is in much of rural Kenya, and many many children are malnourished and unhealthy, living in dire conditions. We currently serve 609 children from this neighboring area. As the map shows, Makindu Children’s Centre also serves 147 children in the Kamboo area and 312 in the Kiboko area. Thanks to our generous donors like you, Makindu continues to feed, educate and care for the most vulnerable children in the Makindu area, giving them HOPE for the future.

Proper Walk 2014

By Michael Farley

The Proper Walk is Makindu Children’s Program’s signature fundraiser, raising over $500,000 since 2002. The 7th Walk takes place this August and promises to be another challenging “adventure for a cause” in Kenya’s Northern Frontier District. The Walkers will hike through the Laikipia Plateau of Kenya’s Great Rift Valley covering 120 miles of rugged wilderness teeming with wildlife. Each walker pays his or her own way, and is also expected to raise at least $10,000 for Makindu. To donate, visit the MCP website, click on the DONATE button, and indicate the Proper Walk and/or a specific Walker you are supporting. More information on the Proper Walk may be found at www.properwalk.com or www.makindu.org/properwalk.
The Story Behind the MCP Logo:

Children hand-in-hand under the Baobob tree

The baobab is considered a magical, mystical, mysterious tree and is often called “the upside down tree”. Its branches look like roots reaching into the sky. It is an important element in the local culture.

The children of Makindu are of the Kamba Tribe in a region known as the Land of Ukambani. When a man and woman are ready to have a child together, the woman will walk, often for many days and miles, to a certain baobab tree that calls to her heart. She will sit beneath tree to hear the song of her unborn child, and stays there until she memorizes the song. She then walks home, makes love to her husband, teaching him the song. In the following 9 months, they will teach the entire village this same song. Once the child is born, village welcomes child, singing the song. Throughout their life, at every celebration/mourning/special event for child, the same song is sung.

So each child is supposed to have their own special song that helps form their identity and place in the village. With it they become part of their family and their community. It gives them roots just like the baobab.

Many of the children of Makindu have no one to teach them their song from the baobab. An important part of what you do with your support to MCP is to help these children create their own songs through the love they find at Makindu Children’s Centre. Warmly held in this community, they can all sing together as do the children of the MCP logo!

MAKINDU CHILDREN’S CENTRE
HITS WATER!

The drilling of the borehole was successful and Makindu Children’s Centre now has flowing water! WE struck water at 43 metres, kept drilling to 130 metres... and now have a great yield! THANK YOU to all who donated to this very worthy cause. It is amazing how something we Americans can take for granted is so precious and hard to come by in rural Kenya. The project will continue with the installation of a pump, piping and plumbing. The cost of the pump is quite a bit more than we had anticipated. Therefore, we are working on soliciting enough funds to cover the cost of purchasing and installing the remaining materials so that the Centre can have running water from a tap for the children and staff.

Please find us at www.makindu.org or http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/makindu-borehole/team/ if you would like to donate towards the completion of our borehole and clean water project.

Meanwhile, we will use the water for laundering, bathing and the shamba (farm). For many kids, this will be the first time they have seen flowing water and plumbing systems. Their smiles and grins prove to us that this project has been a huge success already. With your help, MCC is saving money and making a HUGE difference in these children’s lives. ASANTE SANA... THANK YOU!!

WINNIE ACADEMY EXPANSION

The walls are up on one new classroom for Makindu's Early Childhood Development program, also known as the Winnie Academy. We are now seeking funds to add a roof as well as erect a second new classroom. The waiting list for the highly popular and academically successful Winnie Academy continues to grow as our current classrooms cannot accommodate all who wish to attend. Your generous donations will allow us to continue our ever-important mission of providing Makindu’s orphaned and vulnerable children access to education.
Wamuyu
“Child of God”
2001-2014
By Winnie Barron

The death of a child is always tragic if not unfathomable, and reliably heartbreaking, despite being unavoidable at times.

We lost Wamuyu last month, who died of a brain infection at age 13 after a prolonged battle with AIDS, and her loss was deeply felt by all at MCC, as well as the local Makindu community. Wamuyu was two years old when she entered MCC, and was already in an advanced stage of AIDS at that time, with no previous access to medical care prior to her admission. She had the inevitable challenges and illnesses along the way, but generally responded well to ARV medications (anti-retrovirals), and for many years was one very happy and energetic child.

Wamuyu had an outrageous sense of humor, and was constantly smiling, giggling and finding great joy in small, everyday things... a remarkable talent these children share. She also loved school, loved her MCC buddies, and most certainly loved to laugh! Every day and every moment was cherished by this one, and she was a veritable 'pied piper' of sorts: a gentle and joyous leader, sharing her infectious laughter with the other children.

In Kenya, children with AIDS are often referred to as “watoto wa mungu”, which means “children of God”. In the early days of AIDS there was such great stigma and fear associated with the disease, as well as a sense of futility, despair, and despondency. It was common thinking then that such children were better cared for in the hands of God than here on earth, with treatment options and resources so few and far between. This has changed dramatically with the advent of medications, much more awareness and education, and the availability of local HIV/AIDS clinics at the regional hospitals making treatment now accessible.

Although we mourn her passing with profound sadness, we also have a sense of joy and gratitude for having shared in her life for these past 11 years.

We pay homage to you, sweet Wamuyu.
You are truly now... a child of god,
Makindu Children’s Centre now serves over 1,800 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 $1.00 a 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 and help us to feed, educate and care for these desperate children who otherwise might have nothing and no one.
Asante Sana (Thank You) to Our 2013 Makindu Children’s Program Donors!

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Asante Sana (Thank You) to Our 2013 Makindu Children’s Program Donors!
FEATURED SPONSORED CHILD

Sophia Grace

Sophia Grace is a lovely child who amuses all with whom she is in contact. She is playful and the constant smile on her face warms your heart. Sophia is a four year old total orphan who lives with her elderly grandmother, her sister (Miishi), two brothers (Wambua and Mutunga), and cousins. Sophia is in good health, but her brother, sister, and two of her cousins have been diagnosed HIV positive. Sophia attends the Winnie Pre-School Academy and enjoys learning. She especially enjoys group activities.

For $35 a month, you could be a sponsor for this lovely little girl. By doing so, it may put a constant smile on your face as well!!

Jan Johnson
Board Member, Sponsorship Committee
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 6 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 law.

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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 cancelled it in writing.

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