MAKINDU CHILDREN’S PROGRAM

Helping to feed, educate and care for orphaned and vulnerable children in Makindu, Kenya since 1998.

This year marks our 20th Anniversary of helping children. True to our mission, we continue to provide access to food, education, health and mental care, advocacy, shelter in a guardian home, and psycho-social support. We estimate that since 1998, some 13,000 children have benefitted from our support and program. This year, we are providing full range of services to 523 extremely needy children. Another 2,000 or more receive ancillary services, mainly in the form of bulk food for the households and school supplies for the children. Makindu Children’s Program also offers support to the Guardians - the true glue of our program – to ensure they remain able to care for the children. Keep on reading for details on what we have accomplished so far this year.

LIFE ESSENTIALS

Donations go a LONG way in Kenya and help many, many lives. In the first four months of the year, Makindu Children’s Program provided these life essentials:

48 children received medical care for minor illness and injury.
21 guardians received medical care for minor illness and injury.
80 children received health assessments upon entry into MCC.
1 child had surgery to correct her deformed foot.
417 children received brand new school uniforms.
21 children received full support to attend high school.
7 children received full support to attend vocational school.
1 child received a full ride scholarship from Equity Bank.
3 children received full support to primary boarding school.
80 households received bulk supplementary food baskets.
150 children ate meals daily at the Centre.
250 children ate meals at the Centre on Saturdays.
114 guardians received nutritional training.
445 children attended a Psycho-Social Service day and received training on reproductive health, behavior change, planning for their lives, and importance of building friendships.
250 girls received reusable sanitary napkin kits.
45 households received a new mattress, solar lantern and mosquito net.
COMPUTER LAB

MCC staff recently recognized the need for building basic and advanced computer literacy skills among the children, to better prepare them for emerging opportunities in and out of school. With an initial seed grant from Maureen Rover, World of Children 2018 Education Honoree and Director of the Reading Team in New York City, we have begun the construction of a media lab in the main administrative building on the campus of the Children’s Centre, to hold tailored computer literacy classes and supervised “open lab” time for the children attending MCC. Recycle Boise donated 10 new laptops to the project and NextStep Recycling in Eugene, Oregon donated and installed hard drives and operating systems. Others have donated mice, surge protectors and adapters. Further funds from supporter Thomas Campbell will be used to purchase tables, chairs, upgraded router, software and a secure locking cabinet to store the laptops when not in use. In addition to the laptops, four Samsung tablets have been sent to Winnie Academy. These were loaded with educational links and software appropriate for preschool children and will also be available to the younger MCC children during their designated “open lab” time. Special thanks to MCP Board Member Kathie O’Brien for spearheading this effort and to all who helped make this possible!

HOUSEHOLD NECESSITIES FOR 45 HOMES

Of the 83 children newly supported by MCC with the World of Children Humanitarian Award, 45 of them received mattresses, mosquito nets and solar lanterns. They no doubt will share their beds with other children in the household, but will no longer have to sleep on the mud floors of their huts without mosquito protection. The solar lanterns will enable the kids to study after dark, freeing up more daylight hours to help with chores or play. The smiles on the guardians faces says it all!

YOUNG GIRL UNDERGOES DEFORMED FOOT SURGERY

Faith is a 13 year old girl who was born with a deformed foot. Safarier James Gallant, M.D., took note of her situation while visiting Makindu on the Safari & Moore last October and raised the funds necessary to start the Marcia Moore Surgical Fund. This fund was able to pay to surgically correct Faith’s deformity. With reassurance from Daniella, the little MCC girl who had her club foot surgically corrected a few months ago, Faith had the surgery on May 30 and is recovering well. Other children will benefit from the fund in the future as funds remain for other children who may need surgery. Thank you Dr. Jim and fellow safariers for giving Faith and others this remarkable opportunity.
20TH CELEBRATION PLANS

Makindu Children’s Program is thrilled to bring Babu Juma to the USA in September to help celebrate our 20th anniversary. Babu is one of the first orphans enrolled in our program, and has since graduated from high school, college and law school, has married an educated woman and fathered 3 delightful boys. He is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and we could not be more proud.

Babu is scheduled to attend a number of fundraising and promotional events in support of Makindu, meet donors and friends of Makindu and share his success and Makindu stories. He will be our lead fundraising ambassador at events in New York City, Washington DC, Charlottesville VA and Eugene OR.

The following events have been scheduled with Babu:
September 9 — **Makindu Children’s Centre in Kenya** will host a community-wide celebration
September 23— **Shebeen Braai & Pub**, Charlottesville, VA, Proper Walker Reunion & Donor Appreciation Party
September 29 – **Top of the Hilton**, Eugene, OR, Annual Benefit Auction, seating limited
September 30— **Brownsville BBQ**, Brownsville, OR
Check the website regularly for updates on event and celebration details.

SHELTER REPAIR

Many guardian homes are in desperate need of repair or replacement. The recent rains added to the devastation and destruction. So far this season, MCC has rebuilt two guardian homes (one pictured right) and repaired five others. Two families remain homeless however as we seek additional funds to rebuild their house, though repairs are underway for one of the households. For years the family of 9 lived in a two-room hut, with only two mattresses. The new home has 3 rooms with mattresses now: one room for the grandmother, one for the girls and one for the boys. The grandmother of this home is raising eight children. She is delighted with her new safe home.

The demolished hut pictured here used to house this grandmother, two HIV+ mothers, and 10 grandchildren, some of whom are pictured here. Thanks to donations from our May Appeal, renovation efforts are underway for this household.
SPONSORSHIP

We have 12 sponsored children at MCC representing all 523 children fully served. Three times a year, these twelve children come to the Centre to have their photo taken, write a letter to their sponsors, draw a picture for their sponsors, and report to the social worker on general news of their life the past few months. A recent study* by Ross, Glewwe, Prudencio & Wydick confirms the benefits of sponsorship and reports that a sponsored child will have higher self esteem, optimism, and aspirations. A sponsored child will also have higher self-expectations of success in education and employment. The sponsors, though, get even more out of sponsorship program. For $35-$50 a month, a sponsor will receive the above mentioned photos, letters, drawings and reports and over time watch the child grow and mature. Sponsors who stay with the program through graduation feel tremendous pride and joy at witnessing the transformation from a disadvantaged vulnerable child to a successful graduate full of hope for a bright future. For more information on our sponsorship program visit makindu.org/sponsor-a-child.

*see full report at makindu.org/sponsor-a-child
2018 will see 3 fundraising safaris. All are full. Safari & Moore, led by board member Marcia Moore, with 12 lucky participants, just completed a two week visit to Makindu Children’s Centre, Masaai Mara Nature Conservancy, and a Zanzibar Gorilla trek. Glenn Smith was so moved by the experience, especially at the Children’s Centre, he wrote the following poem:

To Kalewa, the child in the angelic white dress who stood alone and stared into my soul through my lens. Her images will eat at you as they do me.

Vacant eyes that see all, yet nothing.
Smiling faces that have nothing to smile about.
Grasping hands that seek only human warmth.
Hopeful souls, hopeless spirits, yet still hopeful.
Shoeless, soiled feet that walk lonely paths of dust, yet
Dancing feet that fill their hearts and feed their dreams.
Meager meals that sustain their day to day lives.
These are the children of Makindu.

• Marcia will lead another Safari & Moore in February 2019. Spots open.
• Michael Farley, also a board member, will lead another Proper Safari in Summer 2019. Spots open.
• Please email HelpTheKids@makindu.org if you’d like more information on upcoming safaris.
• All safaris include an unforgettable welcome celebration with the kids, guardians and staff of Makindu Children’s Centre.
• To date safaris have raised $114,500 for the kids. Join one soon!
CHILDREN’S CENTRE GETS NEW DAIRY COW

Donors stepped in quickly to help replace our beloved dairy cow, Lucky, who died unexpectedly in March. The sudden loss saddened the staff, children and the calf she left behind, and disrupted the supply of unlimited nutritious milk for the children and families of Makindu Children’s Centre. Randy McMunn had the highest donation and was thus granted the privilege of naming the new cow. To honor his mother who loved farm animals and children, Randy chose her name Thelma Mae. The fundraising campaign was successful enough to allow purchase of a pregnant lactating cow. The staff and children are now thrilled that their new Thelma Mae recently gave birth to a healthy calf. The kids named the new calf Kavisi, a Kamba name meaning “young boy”. All cows are doing well and the critical flow of nutritious milk to the kids has resumed.

MENSTRUAL KITS DELIVERED

In March, 250 reusable menstrual kits were delivered to the girls of Makindu. Menstruation still carries a stigma in rural Kenya and girls usually miss a week of school every month while they menstruate. Makindu Children’s Program partnered with Days4Girls, the organization that made the kits, to help keep these girls in school.
MCC KITCHEN TO GET NEW STOVES

Two new stoves have been purchased to replace the aging stoves at the Centre kitchen. They will be manufactured by InStove.org and will use a scant 2 kg of wood to cook rice and beans for 100+ people. The Proper Safariers will install the stoves during their Service Project Day in August.

CHILDREN RECEIVE NEW SWEATERS

A big thank you to World of Children for donating 90 nice warm sweaters to the kids, just in time for winter.

OTHER CURRENT ISSUES AND WISH LIST

Computer Lab: funded
Kitchen stoves: funded
Menstrual Kits: funded
Shelter Repair: ongoing
Life Essentials: ongoing

Borehole: A borehole was sunk in 2014 to provide the Centre with an unlimited supply of water. This went well for a few years. Unfortunately, other boreholes were also sunk in the nearby community, negatively affecting the flow. The local hospital, a school and a temple have all dug boreholes much deeper than ours and so our flow will never be sufficient again. To remedy this situation, our borehole needs to be drilled another 130 meters to match the depth of the other 3 deep boreholes and provide adequate flow for handwashing, bathing, laundry and irrigation. This project will cost an estimated $8,000.

Water tanks: March and April brought heavy rains to the Makindu area, filling the rivers, breathing life into agriculture, and destroying homes and facilities. The floods brought to light the fact that our water storage tanks that were installed years ago, are now in great disrepair, posing possible hazard to the Centre and the children in another rainy season or flood. Two new 10,000 litre tanks will cost $1,800

Dressmaking venture: One soon to be MCP graduate is looking to start her own dressmaking business to help feed her 3 cousins (also orphaned and supported by MCP), for whom she will soon be responsible. $1,000 will buy her a sewing machine, table, chair, fabric, iron, other necessary items to start a business and 3 months rent for a shop. She is quite talented and capable and should succeed, given the chance, and with support and guidance from MCC.
makindu
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Thank you D. Pennell Brooks for many of these great photos.