NEWS FROM MAKINDU

CHILDREN HIGHLIGHTS

Sofia & Wambua Grace

Sofia is a 4 year old girl and the youngest in her family. Her brother, Wambua is 7 years old. They live with their grandmother and two other siblings.

They both attend Salama Primary school. Sofia loves her Teacher Lilian because she teaches her well. She is now able to draw neat pictures of things and name them orally. It is a big step! Next year she will be in the same class to perfect her art before she proceeds to the next class. Wambua says he so loves his new school since he joined earlier in the year. This term he was position 9 in his class. He is so happy because next year he will be going to a new class.

During winter break, Sofia and Wambua came to the Centre daily for a hot meal. Sofia played with tins by filling them with sand, then pouring them. She loves it! Wambua played marbles with his friends. He is a people person and every child in the Centre knows him. Like many other boys, he is mischievous at times. Sofia also gets along well with her peers and has a contagious smile.

The family lives in Makindu town, walking distance from the Centre. The grandmother is very hard working and responsible for their basic needs. To cater to these needs, she sells cereals and fruits. Wambua helps with house chores, especially fetching water.

They are all relatively healthy, though Wambua is HIV positive. He has been adhering well to his antiretroviral medication. His mother ensures he gets a balanced diet to boost his immunity and so he is doing well. Sofia has a nice smile and is a very focused boy.

Shida

Shida is in the 5th grade and attends school at Makindu A Primary School. He is so happy! He was position 26 in his class out of 72. He works hard in school and scored 70% in mathematics this past term. This was a great achievement for him. He received congratulations from his teacher and hopes to do even better in his next class. Shida lives with his mother and brother. His mother is the bread winner of the house. She runs a small vegetable business to meet the family needs. Despite being HIV+, Shida is very healthy and adheres well to his antiretroviral medication. His mother ensures he gets a balanced diet to boost his immunity and so he is doing well. Shida has a nice smile and is a very focused boy.
I was fortunate enough to visit the Makindu Children’s Centre this past November. I am the newest board member and wanted to see the operation for myself. I have been fortunate in the past to volunteer at orphanages in Guatemala, Belarus and Mexico. I was very surprised at what I found. These kids in Makindu have nothing, yet the joy in their eyes is amazing. How could kids with nothing still be happy? I couldn’t help but be amazed!

The Centre is open six days a week and provides breakfast and lunch to the kids. Interacting was a bit difficult for me because of the language barrier, but we managed. The staff was wonderful, helping me to communicate. The girls taught me a game which I failed at epically! They were shy at first but most came around quickly. I broke the ice by using my phone to video them and then show them what I had done. They were amazed. I am guessing that this is the first time many of them have seen their reflection before. They would stand in a line and sing and dance for me while I videoed them.

The playground consisted of a metal swingset with three swings, a slide and several tires. I was shocked how much fun they could have with an old tire! I brought candy and balloons for the kids. The balloons were a big hit. I couldn’t help but look at how happy there were with a single balloon. I went to market one day and bought several balls for them to play with. They didn’t have any jump ropes so we made some out of rope. It was wonderful to see them all playing. I was surprised that within two days the balls all popped. The quality of items from there is very sub-standard.

Continued next page
The Stallings family began supporting Makindu Children’s Program when their youngest child, Brooke, was in middle school.

"My connection to Makindu began in 2002, when I was a 7th-grader at St. Michael’s Episcopal School. One of our big assignments that year was a project in which we explored possible careers by interviewing people who were involved in our areas of interest.

During my research on charitable organizations, one of the people I met with was Michael Farley. He was very enthusiastic about sharing the story of his time in the Peace Corps and his commitment to MCP, and, during the next few years, my parents and I attended local showings of his slideshows from the Proper Walks.

Even after I went off to college and then graduate school, my mother continued to follow and support the work of Makindu."

The Stallings read a Makindu article about a girl with electrical engineering dreams and contacted Makindu to see how they could help. Now that girl, Juliet, is headed to university with her tuition paid for by the Stallings.

"Since my father is an electrical engineer, they wanted to give Juliet the opportunity to pursue her dream - like they’ve done for me and my older brother.

I was happy to see some photos of Juliet recently, and I wish her all the best in her upcoming studies!"

Brooke Stallings

I went on a couple of home visits with the Centre Director and a social worker. These are places too far for the kids to come to the Centre. One place in particular I will never forget. It was a mud and stick shelter made on top of lava-type ground with two beds made of sticks. This home was about 8x10 feet. An elderly grandfather houses his three grandkids here. There was nothing there...nothing! I saw three bags that probably contained a change of clothes and that was it. There was a hole in the ground with sheet metal around it for a bathroom. No electricity, plumbing or running water. I asked myself how do these people take this day in and day out? The only answer I could find is that this is all they know.

Makindu Children’s Program is helping so many kids and guardians. I couldn’t help but think how amazing founder Winnie Barron is. Here is a person that saw a need and did something about it. She has dedicated her life to this and she is my personal hero! Your donations go so far. If you skipped one latte a week you could feed a child for that week. I encourage all of you to help these kids. I feel blessed to have been able to visit Makindu and will be back in July to participate in our fundraiser Proper Safari. I encourage you to join us—it will change your life!

Deb Bean
Makindu Board of Directors
We are thrilled to announce that our next ReJEWEL show will be a Special Event on the First Friday ArtWalk in Eugene on June 3, and open as well during Saturday Market, June 4, 2016. Makindu Children’s Program has begun collecting jewelry again to clean, repair and resell at the ReJEWEL show. This year we plan on collecting and reselling scarves as well so clean out your closets and boxes, and bring or send your accessories to us at 1216 Lincoln Street, Eugene, Oregon. Makindu Children’s Program has begun collecting jewelry again to clean, repair and resell at the ReJEWEL show. This year we plan on collecting and reselling scarves as well so clean out your closets and boxes, and bring or send your accessories to us at 1216 Lincoln Street, Eugene, Oregon.
THANK YOU TO OUR 2015 DONORS

We want to make sure we get it right. If we have inadvertently omitted your name or have an incorrect detail, please contact us at HelpTheKids@mkindu.org
JOIN US ON OUR FIRST PROPER SAFARI!

Start the adventure flying into Nairobi and driving to Kiboko Springs. Walk up Mt. Mielu for view of Mt. Kilimanjaro. Visit Makindu Children’s Centre and be greeted with a festive welcome ceremony. Engage in a work/service project like building school desks, painting, or farm work at the Centre. Travel to Tsavo West Game Park for a game drive. Travel to Laikipia for a 3-day camel safari. Upon completion, return to Nairobi.

We ask you to cover all your expenses as well as contribute $2,000 to Makindu Children’s Program for the privilege of participating in such an intimate experience. Contact HelpTheKids@Makindu.org for more details.

PROPER WALK 2016
August 10—24, 2016

Makindu’s signature fundraiser and Adventure for a Cause. We are currently accepting applications for this 10-day hike Through the Laikipia Plateau of Kenya’s Great Rift Valley to benefit the hundreds of orphaned and vulnerable children served at Makindu Children’s Centre. This will be our 8th Proper Walk. Each Proper Walker is expected to raise at least $10,000 as well as pay all travel expenses. Proper Walkers have raised over $600,000 to benefit Makindu. www.ProperWalk.com or HelptheKids@makindu.org for details.
Any case of child abuse is not pleasing at all. A case of child abuse in Makindu is not a new thing. Many cases are handled day in day out in the local Makindu law courts. As an advocate for children, MCC is at the forefront in reporting child abuse cases, advocating for children rights, and counseling the affected children. Cases range from sexual abuse (defilement) to physical abuse and neglect. The culprits are usually people very close and well known to the child victims, and are far too often family members.

Makindu Sub County has high cases of child sexual abuse. This is partly due to ignorance, illiteracy and idleness. MCC, in collaboration with the Children’s Department, is key in spearheading Child Rights education to caregivers and forming area advisory councils at location level to address child abuse cases. This is because most cases go unmentioned and some are solved in local kangaroo courts where the local administrators are bribed, and the children’s rights and best interest are not served.

A number of challenges are faced when speaking out for the rights of the victims. In most cases the culprits are related to the victim so most times they want to silence the children to avoid humiliating their families. Despite all these obstacles, all reported cases do face full force of the law. The MCC staff go against all odds to ensure the children get their rights. To date, 2 cases have been successfully prosecuted at the law courts with the culprits facing life imprisonments. Two other cases are ongoing, both of defilement. At the location level, the area advisory councils address child protection issues and over 5 cases are handled monthly.

Guidance and counseling is continuously given to the victim of child abuse. The cases cannot be eliminated completely, but with the intervention of MCC in being THE VOICE TO THE VOICELESS, there has been a positive change in addressing the child abuse cases. Your donations are crucial to ensuring that these child victims get the counseling and support they need to recover from such a scary, confusing and traumatic crime.

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LOVELY DAY FOR A PROPER STROLL

Makindu supporters in the Eugene/Springfield area of Oregon gathered on a crisp clear fall day to enjoy a stroll through one of the area’s finest filbert orchards, Dorris Ranch.

The Proper Stroll was held to raise awareness of World AIDS Day on December 1, and remind the community that the AIDS pandemic continues to wreak havoc and create orphans in Kenya every day. Thank you to everyone who participated!
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.

$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 by joining our Village Circle or Sponsorship Program.

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
Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.