Dear Friends of Makindu,

We are pleased to report that 2019 was another successful year. Thanks to 580 donors, Makindu Children’s Program funded access to food, education, health and mental care, advocacy, shelter in guardian homes, and psycho-social support for 565 desperately needy children. This year, we will continue to support all these children with the full range of services offered in this comprehensive, quality care program. Another 2,000 or more children received and will continue to receive ancillary services, mainly in the form of bulk food for the households and school supplies. Makindu Children’s Program will also continue its support of the 310 Guardians to ensure they can continue to care for the children and their households. Keep on reading for details on what you helped us to accomplish last year and what lies ahead for us in 2020.

**NUTRITION**

Up to 100 children and guardians eat a healthy meal daily at the center on weekdays, and Saturdays that number doubles. All children were screened for malnutrition, and those identified at risk received emergent intervention. One boy was found to be severely malnourished, so staff designed and implemented an appropriate feeding regimen for him. Through your donations, three rounds of bulk food baskets were distributed to all 301 households over the year. The newly upgraded solar powered borehole provides plenty of water for cooking, cleaning and irrigating the shamba. Even with extreme drought in 2019, the crops in the shamba grew well and provided the kids with much needed fresh produce. The cows continue to produce more than enough milk for the children and their households, with some children able to carry milk home at the end of the day.

**HEALTHCARE**

USAID determined the HIV prevalence in Kenya last year at 6.3%, and the percentage of MCC children and guardians is higher (9.6 and 27% respectively), reflecting the program’s goal to serve those most in need. MCC helps ensure that these children and guardians access monthly HIV clinics and are adhering to anti-retroviral medications, which helps them lead active and healthy lives. They also receive regular home visits from our social workers and Community Health Volunteers. Additionally, two goats were provided to each of the infected families, as their nutrition needs are much more extreme. We provided supplementary food baskets on a regular basis to these households so that they can maintain crucial proper nutrition. While HIV and AIDS is still prevalent in the Makindu region, the infection rate is trending downward and the social stigma is less extreme. All the children and guardians with injuries or acute and chronic ailments needs accessed care at the local clinic. The children were screened quarterly and many dewormed as needed, and one boy with a club foot and one girl with a leg deformity both received successful surgical corrections.

**EDUCATION**

561 children were enrolled and started school in January and all those in need were provided with mandatory school uniforms, and many children also received new shoes. The children will have a week-long school break in April and August. The Kenyan school year now ends in October and the children will be home on break for all of November and December.

**PROTECTION**

MCC serves the most needy of children, those with no other resources or options. All of the children face harsh daily circumstances and challenges, including those who have suffered neglect, physical or sexual abuse. In 2019 there were some critical
Makindu Children’s Program 2019 Annual Report Card

RESULTS THAT MATTER

WITH HELP FROM YOU...

565 orphaned and vulnerable children in Makindu have HOPE for their future. Here are some of our accomplishments in 2019. All services will continue in 2020.

NUTRITION

286 children ate meals regularly at the Children’s Center

EDUCATION

561 attended school

512 received mandatory school uniform

HEALTH

492 children were screened and dewormed

SOCIAL SUPPORT

519 kids participated in relationship building & child’s rights workshops

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Solar power has been installed benefitting all who visit, work or utilize the Center

Borehole was drilled deeper and converted to solar power providing unlimited free water

Goats have been distributed to all households providing daily milk and income opportunity

ADVOCACY

25 children were registered with the government and issued a legal birth certificate

SHELTER SUPPORT

60 houses repaired

GUARDIAN SUPPORT

261 guardians received solar lanterns

2,000+ kids benefitted from support like bulk food, mosquito nets & solar lantern

PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT

2,000+ kids benefitted from support like bulk food, mosquito nets & solar lantern

FOOD BASKETS

301 households received multiple bulk food baskets with maize, beans and cooking oil

GUARDIAN SUPPORT

261 guardians received goat and husbandry education in 2019. We plan to provide all households with a second goat in 2020. About 7.5% of the guardians have no reliable source of income. Guardians participate in Guardian Support Groups in 18 separate groups. These groups are each assigned to one of the 3 social workers and a community health volunteer (CHV). Groups meet monthly, with their CHV in attendance. Concerns are discussed and reported to the CHV, who then reports to the designated social worker. This communication ensures that someone is checking in with each child and/or guardian on a regular basis. Last year, all 18 groups were registered with the governmental agency that grants and distributes loans for micro-projects, enabling them to apply for local assistance. Staff will assist with local grant applications. This will greatly empower the guardians to supplement household income and provisions. The guardians also participate in “merry go round”, pooling their meager resources to provide something for the neediest families each month. Finally, funds were provided to repair 60 homes, purchase 281 solar lanterns, and distribute 17 bedrolls and treated mosquito nets. We wish to thank you all for another incredible year.

THANK YOU DONORS.
You truly are making a

HUGE DIFFERENCE in the lives of hundreds!

DIRECTORS REPORT, Continued from Page 1

interventions on the part of the center, when these kids received crucial advocacy and support for any needed medical as well as psychosocial counseling and care. They were also assisted throughout their police or court cases to ensure they had adequate representation and treatment. Because many of the children live far from governmental offices, they have never been officially registered. Also, children without legal birth certificates when enrolled with MCC were registered and then obtained legal documents.

PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT (PSS)

Staff at the Makindu Children’s Center take great care in providing the children and households with a sense of belonging to a family and community. Three times a year, the Center holds a huge event where all children and guardians are invited to attend and participate in workshops, benefit from community bonding and engagement, and share in a large communal meal, fun and recreation. 519 children along with their guardians attended last year. These gatherings also offer opportunity to facilitate discussion on teen relationship building, advocacy and child rights and many other important topics. It provides a great opportunity to check-in with the kids and families to identify and address any concerns or issues. The staff also distribute vitamins, check weight, deworm, delouse, and offer guidance and counseling as needed.
Life in Africa holds many challenges. Sadly, child neglect and abuse are problems which MCC must deal with at times. While the vast majority of the children we serve are doing well despite their numerous obstacles, there are a few who require special attention and need extra support. MCC works hard to not only intervene for these children, but also remain their fierce advocates throughout any police and court procedures and provide essential counseling and moral support throughout these tragic circumstances.

*LUCIA* comes from one of our most impoverished sites. She is an orphan and lives with her grandparents and other siblings. Lucia is a bright and courageous girl in primary school, and routinely follows up with teachers for clarity in case she is unable to understand any concept taught. The school had employed a PTA teacher (Parent Teacher Associate) to support the school learning. Lucia would always follow up with the teacher for consultations as the teacher was their neighbor. Tragically, the teacher then took advantage of the naive girl and began a relationship with her. With her innocence, the girl agreed to the teachers requests as he had promised to always support her even after she finished school. The teacher was found red-handed defiling the child by a passer-by. He then ran away and disappeared from the area. Efforts with the local administration to trace the man and arrest him have been futile. He has therefore not been charged, though the matter was reported to the police.

Sad, Lucia was impregnated, but she was able to continue school until she sat for her Kenya Certificate of Primary Education in November 2019. Despite all the stigmatization and ridicule she faced at school, Lucia managed to score 299 marks out of possible 500 marks. However, attaining a score of 300 minimum is required in order for a child to be sponsored for secondary school. She has opted to repeat class eight in 2020 to improve her marks, as she wants to attain her goal of becoming a lawyer. Such a courageous girl!

*BARASA* is an orphan and living with his grandmother. Like most orphaned children who lose their parents at tender ages, Barasa missed out on crucial parental guidance and thus developed many irresponsible behaviors. His grandmother was unable to provide the proper guidance he needed, and as a result, Barasa began skipping school and stealing from neighbors. Last year, he was arrested and taken to a court of law. Makindu Children’s Center offered much needed support and guidance to him. Together with the assigned County Child Officer, MCC convinced the court that rehabilitation for behavior correction would be best for Barasa, since his problems most likely stem from being orphaned and lacking parental guidance. Barasa was thus enrolled in a rehabilitation center for a three year term to counsel him and allow him to continue his educational studies. The County Child Officer, Makindu Children’s Center staff, and Barasa’s grandmother have visited him regularly. The most recent report indicated that he had reformed and he was able to sit for his final Kenya primary examinations last November.

Barasa has done so well that the rehabilitation center’s management team has now discharged him and reduced his 3-year term to one year due to his commendable behavioral improvement. What a wonderful gift, on so many levels! Repeated home visits by the County Children’s Officer and Makindu staff has helped counsel the grandmother and prepare for a safe and appropriate environment for Barasa to return home and celebrate his new beginning, and a new chance for a better life.

It is such a great joy to have these organizations to partner with in support of such desolate cases like Barasa. They guide children towards productive and positive living, molding them to become responsible people in society, with HOPE for a better future. If Barasa had not received crucial counseling and enrollment in this rehabilitation program, he would likely continue to engage in criminal activity and become a threat to his family, his neighborhood, the greater Makindu community, and most importantly, to himself.

*ASANTE SANA* for helping us save Barasa from a life of crime and jail and for helping us to provide HOPE for so many children and their families!

*Names changed for identity protection*
THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 DONORS FOR MAKING MAKINDU CHILDREN’S PROGRAM NOT ONLY POSSIBLE, BUT EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL. YOU ARE MAKING A HUGE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF HUNDREDS!

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HOW CAN I HELP?

There are many ways you can help the kids with Makindu Children’s Program, some of which are listed below. Check out our website or email HelpTheKids@Makindu.org for more details.

EVENTS

We have multiple events throughout the year, offering a fun experience to raise funds for our programs.

- **PROPER AMAZING RACE** is a scavenger hunt in Eugene, Oregon to be held this year on Saturday, April 25.

- **PROPER SAFARI** includes a walking safari through the Kenyan bush, game drives (one with top academic Makindu children), a service project at the Children’s Center, and a memorable Welcome Celebration. Proper Safari will be held August 6-17. Currently there are only 6 openings left.

- **SAFARIS & MOORE** has three trips this year. Two October trips are full. June still has openings. Safaris & Moore includes the memorable Welcome Celebration, a home visit, game drive safaris at the Kenyan Royal Mara, and either an excursion to Zanzibar, or a yoga retreat. Openings for Safaris & Moore available June 6-19.

- **SCAVENGER HUNT** is another scavenger hunt, held in Fort Collins, Colorado. 2020 date TBD.

- **ANNUAL DINNER & AUCTION** is an evening of camaraderie, food, auctions, dessert dash, and a keynote address by Co-Founder Winnie Barron in Eugene, Oregon to be held this year on Saturday, September 26.

CASH & STOCK DONATIONS

- **CREDIT CARD** donations can be made on our website: makindu.org , Facebook page: www.facebook.com/makinduchildrensprogram , or any of our Global Giving campaigns: www.globalgiving.org/donate/14442/makindu-childrens-program.

- **STOCKS** can be donated and processed through Key Investments Services.

- **CASH AND CHECKS** can be mailed to MCP, P.O. Box 51556, Eugene, OR 97405

PLANNED GIVING

- **RECURRING MONTHLY DONATIONS** by either check or credit card allows our donors to spread the financial impact of their giving across the entire year, lessening the acute financial impact. Further, recurring monthly donations helps us improve our long-range planning and decision-making due to the predictable revenue.

- **BEQUESTS** are an excellent way to support Makindu Children’s Program mission. You designate our organization as the beneficiary of your asset by will, trust or beneficiary designation form. This can be a specific asset such as real estate or designated dollar amount, or a percentage of your estate. Bequests are exempt from federal estate taxes. If you have a taxable estate, the estate tax charitable deduction may offset or eliminate estate taxes, resulting in a larger inheritance for your heirs. Please consult with your tax attorney.

- **IRA QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION** rule allows IRA owners age 70½ or older who are subject to the required minimum distribution rules to use the untaxed money in an IRA to donate to Makindu Children’s Program tax-free.
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Continued on Page 7
THANK YOU FROM MAKINDU STAFF!!!

2019 has been a great year for Makindu Children’s Program and its support of 565 children.

We are a small staff, but with your help and that of many others, we delivered care and support to the neediest orphaned and vulnerable children in Makindu, Kenya. Makindu Children’s Program is the primary funder of Makindu Children’s Center, a safe place where the children come to receive services and counseling, eat a good meal, bathe, rest and play with others. We provide Makindu Children’s Center with the resources to fully support 565 children, including those with HIV, and partially support their 301 guardians and households.

Stateside, 4 part-time staff, 2 part-time contracted staff, and a growing number of volunteers work to fundraise for program services and operate the organization. Twelve staff in Kenya coordinate and operate the program and care for the kids. They include 3 social workers, administrative staff, cooks, grounds keepers and maintenance staff. Volunteers also come to the Children’s Centre and help with food preparation and other tasks.

As a result of your support in 2019, we plan to do, at a minimum, the following extra projects:

* Replace the roof of the Children’s Center
* Increase amount bulk food provided to households
* Upgrade and expand toilets and handwashing station
* Provide all households with a second goat to ensure constant milk supply and income opportunity

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@makindu.org
“Sometimes the problems of Africa seem overwhelming and insoluble... The magnitude and multiplicity of miseries in that plagued continent are not subject to any wholesale fix. Sometimes it seems as if the only reasonable response is utter despair. Or a person could choose a charity or program and work on one small aspect in one small place where it is possible to see tangible evidence of problems solved. That was what was happening in Makindu: the orphans had been taken off the streets, lived in the community and were both well nourished and well educated. The Makindu Childrens Center was an example of selfless people doing what they could for others.”

Tim Cahill, National Geographic Adventure Magazine, September 2005