The year 2020 may have been the most challenging year for Makindu Children’s Program, and for the world! COVID-19 has forced all of us to shift our lives, learn new skills, and draw upon our resilience.

When social distancing requirements were implemented last March, the Children’s Center was prohibited from serving meals to the hundreds of children that visited regularly before the pandemic. Schools, too, were shut down in March, forcing the children to stay home for the remainder of 2020, with no online learning opportunities. Because of the pandemic, the local economy collapsed and erased the menial tasks and manual labor jobs held by the guardians. Those jobs have not yet returned. With too much idle time, some youth strayed off the positive path into disruptive, and sometimes destructive, behavior. Teen pregnancies are up across Kenya. Children are bored and scared. Reports of minor illnesses have risen, requiring more children to visit the local clinic. However, in spite of the many challenges presented in 2020, Makindu Children’s Program continues to fulfill our commitment to the children and alleviate some of the uncertainties they experience in addressing the COVID-19 and AIDS pandemics simultaneously. Keep on reading for details on some of the services we provided in 2020.

NUTRITION

In the face of this unexpected crisis, our focus of services shifted necessarily to feeding the children. Daily access to proper nutrition remains instrumental in helping the kids remain uninfected or healthy enough to fight the virus if they do become infected.

Therefore, EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF was distributed to all 310 households every month since the pandemic hit, feeding the 575 children enrolled in our program, the 1,500 or more children who live with them, and their 310 guardians. This provided them a lifeline of healthy food to get them through this crisis, and due to these efforts, no child went malnourished. Schools reopened January 4, but children are expected to pack their lunch. No school lunches will be available until June at the earliest, and so the monthly food relief will continue for the foreseeable future.

With the lifting of restrictions, the Children’s Center has also reopened. Currently, 20-30 kids visit daily for a hot nutritious meal, and appointments are no longer necessary. On Saturdays, up to 100 kids visit for a meal, to do laundry, bathe, and see friends. Playground games are discouraged, but small group gatherings, while staying socially distant, are allowed and popular in the shade of the many trees on the Children’s Center campus.

EDUCATION

Tuition, school fees and uniforms have been provided and the kids are thrilled to be back in school. However, COVID-19 remains a huge threat as the Kenyan government is providing no wash stations, no water, no soap, no social distancing and zero intervention, making the kids ripe for COVID-19 exposure and infection. Since missing most of a year’s education in 2020, all students are repeating their grade in 2021.
HEARING RESTORED FOR THIS PATIENT GIRL

Rehema* was born in 2004, and developed hearing complications immediately after birth. Her hearing impairment negatively affected her academically, and after further diagnosis by an ENT specialist, it was discovered that her problem needed surgery intervention to be effectively fixed. However, there was a challenge: the doctors advised that she was too young to undergo such delicate surgery. She was thus put on medication awaiting the much needed surgery, which had been slated once she hit 16 years. In September last year, she was booked for a tympanoplasty surgery, which was successfully carried out at the local county hospital. She is healing well and her hearing is now perfect. Many thanks to our donors for supporting kids medical needs to undergo such life transforming medical procedures. With her hearing finally repaired, and her overall health maintained with the proper nutrition and support from Makindu Children’s Center, Rehima has an exciting new chance at hope and happiness.

*Her name has been changed to protect her identity.

2020 COVID-19 CHALLENGES, continued

HEALTH CARE

A recent UNAIDS report confirms that the global community, including Kenya, has not reached any of the HIV prevention and treatment goals for 2020. To make matters worse, the COVID-19 pandemic has set that back even further. UNAIDS estimates that by 2022, the world will see 293,000 additional HIV transmissions and 148,000 additional AIDS-related deaths because of the effects of COVID-19 on communities and programs.

To protect from COVID-19, last March all 575 children, their 310 guardians, 13 staff and a few volunteers received a reusable washable mask. Almost all of these people still have their original masks, guard them safely, and wash them often. Knowing the masks are required, help reduce possibility of infection, and cost $1.50 to replace, everyone takes exceptional care of their personal masks.

Tippy Tap wash stations were also erected near each household. These are simple buckets of water, hung from a tree or standing contraption, with a foot lever to tilt the bucket and pour water. Further, each household was counseled on proper hygiene, and taught how to make soap. Buying ingredients is much more cost efficient than buying soap. Further, a new handwashing station was installed at the Children’s Center, with five spigots instead of just two, easing the wait times for washing hands before meals.

PROTECTION

Makindu Children’s Center serves the most needy of children, those with no other resources or options. All of the children face harsh daily circumstances - even without the pandemic— including those who have suffered neglect, physical or sexual abuse. In 2020 there were some critical interventions, when these kids received crucial advocacy and support for medical needs, psychosocial counseling and care. To help the kids exhibiting disruptive, disobedient or destructive behavior, the Children’s Center local board of
directors, the local hospital, trained health care workers, children’s advocates and wholesale food distributors are working together to keep the community healthy and safe. Small workshops and individual interventions for targeted youth at risk have been held and succeeded in getting those youth on a more positive productive path.

PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT

Staff at the Center take great care in providing the children and households with a sense of belonging to a family and community. Usually three large events are held each year, but in 2020 we were only able to host one. Instead, the social workers visited each household more often than usual in 2020, reaffirming the sense of family and community connection.

While this is devastating news, there is hope. We know our work is effective. We know your support and solidarity have helped lay the foundation for the progress that has already been made. With so much at stake, we are committed to remain positioned to make concrete, long-lasting change in the lives of the children we serve and that they have access to the resources they need and deserve. We will continue to invest in hope.

GUARDIAN SUPPORT

With 233 guardians losing what menial jobs they had, capacity development and support has become essential to their livelihood. They have learned bee keeping, rope making, poultry keeping, cheese making, merry-go-round banking, and goat keeping. Goat keeping has been most popular and with the most promise of being lucrative. Each household has received at least one goat. Those initial goats have all given birth to at least one female kid, leaving most households with at least two female milking goats. If we can ensure each household has three female goats, with at least two milking at any given time, proceeds from selling excess milk can bring in up to $7.00 a month—a significant sum of money to these desperately impoverished families. This could give them the foothold they need to climb out of such extreme poverty and empower them to sustain their own homes, families and livelihoods.

The guardians are assigned to groups according to neighborhood and these groups really watch out for each other. They offer support in a myriad of ways. Each group elects a President, Treasurer and Secretary and meets at least monthly. They pool resources together to help one another when needed. For example, with the goats, for every eight female goats purchased, one male is purchased for reproduction. If a female kid is born to a family with three goats, the guardian group may vote to give her to a family with just two goats. If a male kid is born, and unneeded for reproduction, he may get sold. The guardian group will determine which family has the most need, and give the sale proceeds to that family. Most recently, there was a family who badly needed some house repair. The group then sold a male kid and had the repairs done. Another household had a child who needed special medical attention. When a male goat was born, it was sold to help pay for the medical expenses. In this way, the community of guardians make sure that all the children and households are taken care of, and they are empowered to make their own responsible financial decisions. This further strengthens their community bonds and sense of family.

We are still in need of at least 120 goats to provide this gift of empowerment and income to all households. Galla goats cost $65 each.

BUY A GOAT TODAY and EMPOWER A FAMILY.
I hope you are doing well with your family despite the pandemic of Covid-19. I hope you are keeping all the safety measures given by the world health organization (WHO) like washing hands, wearing masks, and staying home. Here in Kenya, the government is working hard to keep Covid-19 numbers down by ensuring that anybody who comes from outside the country quarantine himself/herself home. When the schools were closed, I felt so bad. Here at home, we keep on revising what we had learnt before. All schools were closed; this thing is shocking us a lot. We stay indoors all through as we are not allowed to play with our friends to avoid contracting the disease. Otherwise, we would avoid moving around the area. This gives me one reason to pray hard to achieve my goal of becoming a doctor and keep safe with your family.

First, I have the opportunity to greet you how do you do? My name is Luka. My grandmother and I are fine, and we are still praying for you to continue having the same heart of helping the needy children and making them achieve their goals. The main aim of writing this letter is because I wanted to tell you about how I am doing in my school. I have past three months without seeing each other, and it is because I decided to write this letter. I wanted to tell you that I had to a high school of my choice which was Kaukani Boys' High School. I am continuing with my studies to achieve my goal of being a scientist. The school is good and also has a large population of students. In the past weeks, we did our entry exams and managed to get a grade of B+ and 10 in my class and 21 out of all students in form one. I know that this grade will not really impress you, and I am also putting more efforts to achieve my grade of A. And I believe that when we do a little better exam, I will get it. However, now we are not in school because the break out of an international disease which has affected the whole world. I would like to wish you and your family a good April holiday. Many Moi and God bless you.

Yours faithfully,
2020 by the NUMBERS

- 575 children received monthly emergency food relief to feed their households.
- 575 children were enrolled and attended school before the nationwide shutdown.
- 575 children were visited by their social worker regularly.
- 562 children were counseled on sanitation and hygiene.
- 285 guardians were actively involved in income-generating activities.
- 234 children received medical attention.
- 194 menstruating girls received sanitary napkins.
- 102 children benefitted from a workshop on healthy relationships.
- 67 children with HIV received all medicines and health care needed.
- 41 children and their guardians benefitted from home repairs.
- 30 households received a new mattress and blanket.
- 25 households received new mosquito nets.
- 18 children with HIV visited the Centre regularly, by appointment, for a nutritious meal, health checkup, and emotional support.
- MCP received $252,892 from 505 donors and sent $292,310 in aid to Makindu Children’s Center.

Financial information can be found on our website. View past 990’s in the/about section.

- And much, much more

---

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>DATE/DETAILS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VIRTUAL SAFARI</td>
<td>MARCH 31 at 5:00 pm PDT and APRIL 3 at 11:00 am PDT Facebook Event online. Join us on safari from the comfort of your home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAFARIS &amp; MOORE</td>
<td>OCTOBER 5 - 20, 2021 and OCTOBER 20 - NOVEMBER 5, 2021 In-person Events, in Kenya. Safari to Maasai Mara, and visit Zanzibar or practice yoga on the Kenyan Coast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNUAL AUCTION</td>
<td>SEPTEMBER 25 at 5:00 pm PDT Hybrid Event, with both in-person attendance and online participation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMAZING RACE</td>
<td>Date to be determined. Check website for updates. In-person scavenger hunt, in Eugene, Oregon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLIMB FOR MAKINDU</td>
<td>to be scheduled for 2022 In-person Event, in Kenya. Climb Mt. Kilimanjaro.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THANKS ALSO TO OUR FACEBOOK FRIENDS FOR HOSTING FUNDRAISERS ON FACEBOOK AND RAISING $20,780 in 2020 for MAKINDU CHILDREN’S PROGRAM!

Elyce Klein  Winnie Barron  Tom Marvel  Molly Glad Engle
Diana Richardson  Samira Lobby  Jerra Williams  Abraham Mwangangi
Phillip Virden  Taylor Simmons  Thomas Thompson  Kais Padamshi
Marcia Geyer  Niki Smith  Emily Glad Elise

Page 5
THANK YOU TO OUR 2020 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@makindu.org

IN HONOR OF
AARON HIROSE
DIANE & PAUL BAXTER
JOHN RHOMBERG
GRANDPA ROD
DAVE BROOKS

A & Carol Garrison
Abraham Mwangangi
Alan Wood
Albert & Merron Hart
Albion Butters
Alena Haskell
Alisa Caesar
Alison Boyer
Allison Abraham
Amazon Smile
Foundation
American Family
Insurance
Amy Davie
Amy Ostman &
John Randolph
Ana Beckman
Andy Harris
Anita Muldoon
Ann & Jeff Weeks
Anne Richardson
Annette Culwell
Anonymous
Anthony Biglan
April & Roayce Stricklan
Ashley Wolff
Audrey Rindone
Ayco Charitable Foundation
Baba Jackie
Backlund
Barb Arrell
Barb Dougherty
Barbara Andersen
Barbara Berman
Becky Chepng’enog’ono
Benjamin Barron
Bernard Dowsett &
Cornelia Tadda
Bernie Panchot
Betsy Datri
Betty Strubel
Billie Houghton
Billie Meyer
Bonnie Severson
Brenda Gaunt
Brian Obie
Brooks Barron
Bruce & Jane Bohman
Bruce Bowers
Bruce Hamilton
Bryan Grisak
Bubba Maulanna
Camille Lange
Carol Brandt
Carol Hammond
Carol Lee
Carole Kirkpatrick
Carolyn Musyimi-Kama
Catherine Myers
Cathy Kerns
David La Raus
David Seipp
Deb Strickland
Debbie Blake
Deborah & Paul Sickmon
Deborah Brooks
Deborah Getty
Deborah Irmas
Deborah Lee
Deborah Toobert
Debra Pell
Delaney & McKenna Barron
Denise Lyon
Dennis Wininger
Diana Barron
Diane & Paul Baxter
Diane Roland
Donna & William Byrd
Donna Golden
Doug & Jacqueline Lusk
Doug Carnine
Duke Mogire
Ebony Jones
Ed Simmons
EDC
Edward & Barbara
Winterganen
Eileen McMahon
Elaine Brooks
Elaine Parthermer
Elizabeth & Lawrence Marum
Elizabeth Lansing
Ellie & Greg Smith
Elliot McIntire
Elyce Klein
Emily Palmer
Emily Thurston
Erika Jeffrey
Erika Mallory
Erin Smith
Farah Abbasi
Frances Moppett
Plymouth Presbyterian Church
Frances Rubinstein
Frank & Kathleen Johnston
Fred Robertson
Gale Everett-Stahlke
George Kohler
George Swope
Gerald Hanlon
Gideon Mwololo
Glen Mullenburg
GlobalGiving
Goran Radosavic
Grant & Beth Sherk
Greg Hunt
Gretchen Barker
Harman, Harman, Claytor,
Corrigan & Wellman
Harry & Thea Brink
Hartford Don
Henry & Matty Fuller
Howard Ellis
Howard Garner &
Barbara Huburt
Humphreys
Ian & Diana Richardson
Ira Serkes
Irene Hughes
Itzel Saenzpardo
J. Street
Jacqueline Stallings
James & Marcia Hoffmeister
James and Debbie Balas
James and Kas Riesenfeld
Janet Atkinson
Janet Lichenstein
Janet Scott
Janie Daniels
Jason Paltzer
Jean & Melvin Miner
Jean Mcclung Halloran
Jerra Williams
Jerry & Marilyn Sheridan
Jerry Lidz
Jerry Silbert
Jesse Seaborn
Jessica Chanay
Jessica Chong
Jessica Knox
Jill Riley
Jim Barron
Joan Philips
Joan Rawlings-Boyd
JoAnne & John Eggink
Jodie Barram
Joe Gumiensky
John & Catherine Walsh
John & Sally Hudnall
John & Shirley Sutton
John Arrell
John De Jong
John Durham
John Nolan
John Roupe
John Stark
John Virden
John Waldo
Jon Iverson
Jonathan Floe
Joni Nelson
Jordan Naftolin
Joseph Lutwin
Josh Louria
Mighty Joshua
Josie O’Connor
Joy and John Haines
Joy Ichikawa
Judith Lurvey
Judith Tenn
Judy Parker
Julia Williamsson
Juliana Phillips
Julie Twichell
Julie Wheeler
Justin Lone
Kais Padamshri
Karen & Gary Davis
Karen Anthony
Karen Sequeira
Karen Smith
Kary & Barbara Daniels
Kathleen Hoeg
Kathleen Murphey
Kathleen O’Brien
Kathryn Allia
Kathy Biederman
Kathy Farrugia
Kaylsa Kwamboka
Keith Cohen
Keith Gehring
Ken Beeson
Kevin & Paige Riley
Kevin Barry
Kevin Higgins
Kevin Royal
Kim Lobby
Kim Morrison & John Thomas
Kirsten Pesti
Kirt Glenn
Krista Herron
Kristina Grabbe
Kristy Horton
Kymberly Randolph &
Larry Clemenson
Laura & John Holbrook
Laura Gehring
Laura Palmisano
Laura Quigley

Page 6
THANK YOU TO OUR 2020 DONORS

IN HONOR OF
RICHARD LOBBY
ELLIE & GREG SMITH
GLORIA BARRON
WINNIE BARRON
RAFIKI

Peter Christensen
Peter Greenberg
Patrick Hemmaway
Patrick O'Brien
Paul Hagen
Paula Dorney
Paula Titus
Penelope & Vincent Combs
Penelope Holladay
Pete Barron &
Bojana Stefanovska
Peter & Josephine Von Hippel

Ruthanna Hall
Ryan & Emily Elisei
Saad Ashfaq
Sam Grossinger
Sandra Anderson
Sandra Brown
Sandra Snyder
Saqib Chaudhary
Sara Fielder
Sarah Hamrick
Sarah Randolph-Andrew
Sarah Rodriguez
Sathish Santhanam
Scott Werwath
Seraphine Nzomo
Shade Roberts
Shannon Kapek
Sharon Bechtum
Sharon Lange
Shauna Castellaw
Sheila Hunt
Shelli Hartig
Sheran Shiner
Sheri Wong
Sherry Slaymaker
Shirley Bittner
Shirley Oneill
Sonya Grequor
St. Michaels Episcopal Church
Stacey Hoffman
Staci Shaw
Stacy Mikeska
Steffi & Curt Gordinier
Stephanie Staton
Stephen & Sheila Bradley
Stephen Johnson
Stephen Marx
Steve Arrell
Steve Carroll
Steve Gillingham
Steve Stoltz & Rhonda Mustoe
Stephen Randolph &
Sue Omel Randolph
Steve Vogl
Steven Goode
Sue Funk
Sue Powell
Sue Vaeth
Susan & Derek Erb
Susan & John Minor
Susan (Carey) Hutchinson
Susan Bailey
Susan & John Davenport
Susan Dean
Susan Farris
Susan Grimes
Susan Bailey & J. Knapp
Susan Long

THANK YOU FOR GIVING
HOPE TO MAKINDU KIDS!!!
makindu
CHILDREN’S PROGRAM
P.O. Box 51556
Eugene, OR 97405
makindu.org
HelpTheKids@Makindu.org

Thank you D. Pennell Brooks, Tom Marvel, Doug Lusk, Bob Poole, Cathy DeLong and Marcia Moore for allowing MCP to use and publish your stunning photos of the Makindu kids.