

HOLIDAY GREETINGS!

DECEMBER, 2019

Dear friend of Graceworks

It is hard to believe that the holiday season is upon us once again. My hope for you for the holidays is that you will take time out to enjoy the company of friends and loved ones, and to count the many blessings - yes many - that we so often take for granted in our day-to-day busyness. We at Graceworks want to let you know just how much we appreciate you. Through your support, Graceworks is making a huge difference in the lives of children both in Kenya Africa and here in Orange County California.

This year, I travelled to Kenya in April and in August to check on the Graceworks supported program there and to attend to some governmental and oversight requirements. I am delighted to report that the Kenya program continues to grow and to have a definite positive impact on the community through its many activities. We provide school fees and supplies, required uniforms including shoes, health care, supplemental nutrition and support by our compassionate social workers, counselors, staff, and mentors. The Kenya program continues to exceed all my expectations in quality and effectiveness. The dedication of the staff, the caregivers and the community volunteers is truly exceptional.

As you contemplate your holiday and end of year giving, we hope that you will continue to consider Graceworks as one of your favorite charities. With your help, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of orphans and vulnerable children, bringing them hope and changing their lives.

Blessings,

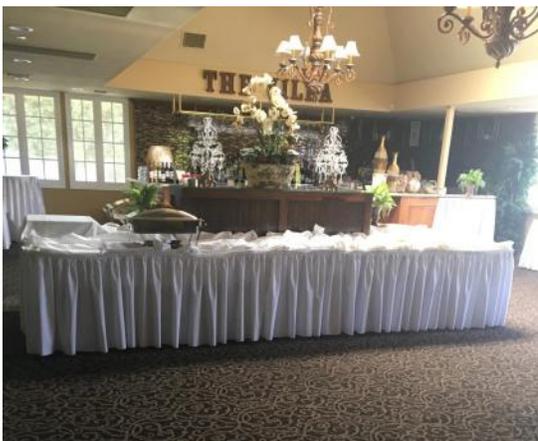
Dr. Susan Njemanze, Ed.D.

Graceworks President



The Graceworks Board wishes you all a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy Kwanza and a most Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Dr. Susan Njemanze, Alison Conard, Dr. Darrell Dudley, Dr. Jay Bauman, and Sharon Portman



This year our fundraiser luncheon "Sharing our Story, Sharing Our Blessings" was held at the *The Villa* in Orange where our guests were treated to a lovely venue, fabulous Silent Auction items, and a scrumptious buffet! A shout out to all of our wonderful volunteers making our event happen! And a loving thank you to all who attended!



We want to remind you....

Our orphans and vulnerable children live in families, not in orphanages. Often it is with a widowed grandmother or other relative. Without the additional help provided by Graceworks, these guardians would not be able to support the child(ren).

A NOTE from GRACEWORKS KENYA VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER

On my Kenya trip in August, I was blessed to travel with three young ladies from Orange County who have supported Graceworks over the years and who wanted to do some hands on service at the Kenya program.

One of my fellow travelers, Emily, writes about her experience.

“This past August, I visited the Graceworks Kenya program for the first time and saw so many incredible activities at the Center and met so many of the kind people in Rwika about whom I’ve heard so much . This trip was the epitome of God providing, in His perfect timing, through all things. A serendipitous meeting with Susan in August, resulted in me and two other recruits getting ready to travel in 10 days time; armed with crafts and curriculum’ we were ready to be part of the Vacation Bible School team! All a small miracle of its own! The theme of the VBS camp was “Life is wild, God is good!” Over the four-day program, the kids warmed up to the fun and interactive setting of our lessons, very different from their formal style of schooling. The older kids soon began to share personal stories of just how “wild” life can be and how God has always provided for them, often putting people in their lives to care for them or to just remind them how loved they truly are, especially through the Graceworks program.

The program ensures that each of these hard working students have what they need to be successful in school. Mentors, teachers, staff, and visitors encourage them, hold them accountable, and remind them that even people on the other side of the world care for them, believe in them, and are cheering them on as they continue to pursue their loftiest dreams. The most memorable parts of the trip for me by far were the high aspirations and dreams that so many of the primary school kids have, the love for learning that these scholars have, and, of course, all of the huge smiles and warm hugs.”



Volunteers (from left) Emily, Sarah, and Mollie



Leaders with primary kids paying attention!



High schoolers enjoying crafts

Fifty-five children attended VBS along with nine teachers and leaders. The Director of Graceworks Kenya reported that “VBS was very good, the activities were well received and the food prepared was good.”

PROGRAM UPDATES

KENYA PROGRAM: From the time Graceworks was registered in 2007, the goal for the Kenya program was to break the cycle of poverty and despair for the orphans and vulnerable children in the rural community of Rwika, by providing assistance with basic needs and education support.

Over the years, many children have graduated from the program and gone on to pursue their life goals. Currently we have 65 children enrolled in the program. Most of the children are in high school and college with only 20 children in primary school. **Our Kenya Program needs continue to be:**

School fees and supplies for the children

(Primary, Secondary, College, Vocational),

The Orphan Care program

(food, medical care, counseling/mentoring)

Administrative costs for staffing

(Counselors, Director, security, and office admin are essential to the program success!)

Facilities maintenance/improvements

(out buildings, fencing, utilities, etc.)

DONATIONS can be sent to Graceworks, P.O. Box 1239, Anaheim, California 92815

OR use Paypal at <http://www.graceworkshopenet.org/>

Our “Shamba” (garden)! Seed beds were started and sprouting in September (remember, this is Kenya spring time!). Those seedlings will be divided out into larger gardens and will contribute to our children’s food needs, and to the sustainability of Graceworks Kenya.



Clearing the land to ready for planting



cabbage

Along with corn, these greens are healthy staples in the Kenya diet and essential for our children’s nutrition.



Collard greens

onions

THE USA PROGRAM:

About five years ago, Graceworks expanded its work to include outreach to vulnerable children here in Orange County. We provide support to children in Kinship foster care that are being cared for by grandparents or other relatives due to abuse, neglect or abandonment by their parents. We have continued to do this by collaborating with other organizations in Orange County that serve this population.

To Donate towards collaborative Kinship respite events and holiday celebrations and gifts, you may send a check to: Graceworks, P.O. Box 1239, Anaheim, California 92815 PLEASE write “local mission” on memo line.

TO VOLUNTEER: Contact Susan Njemanze by phone at (714) 932-5425

OUR WONDERFUL GRACEWORKS CHILDREN and YOUNG ADULTS!



**Primary School Students
Grades 1 through 8**



Our most recent addition,
Ian

Shadrack, a double orphan from age 2, and his two siblings, lived with their elderly grandmother who was unable to fully provide for them. Shadrack entered Graceworks program at age 8. He is now in his first year of a vocational program.



Secondary (High School) Students, Grades 9 through 12



Vocational, College and University Students



Ann was a baby when her single mother died leaving her with an ill and elderly grandmother unable to provide. She entered the Graceworks program in 2008. Ann is entering her 3rd year of High School.