



HOLIDAY GREETINGS!

DECEMBER, 2018

Dear Friend of Graceworks,

As another year comes to a close, it is with a humble and extremely grateful heart that I say “Thank you” for your support and wish you and your loved ones a safe and blessed holiday season. As we leave the first year of our *second* decade as a registered U.S. charitable organization, we continue with our goal to help children get their basic needs met, both in Kenya and here in Orange County. This only happens because of you! It is my sincere hope and prayer that as we enter this next chapter of the Graceworks story, many more lives will be impacted as we work together to bring hope and change to children’s lives, one child at a time, community by community.



*Blessings,
Susan Njemanze, Graceworks President*

WARM GREETINGS OF THE SEASON FROM THE GRACEWORKS BOARD!*



Dr. Susan “You’re funny!” Njemanze



Dr. Jay “Tah-da” Bauman



Sharon “soft kitty” Portman



Dr. Darrell “Smiley” Dudley



Robin “Hey There” Lyall

This year, we sadly accepted the resignation of our long time and devoted Board member, Jackie Adams. Her love for the children of Graceworks and her wise counsel from her many years experience as a social worker and educator are greatly missed. We all extend our heartfelt appreciation and wish her the best!

LOVE YOU, GIRL!

* Robert Meaux not pictured

GRACWORKS HAPPENINGS 2018

IN KENYA:

- In January, The Rwika compound saw the safe arrival of a 40-foot container loaded with food and playground equipment, donated by St. John's Lutheran Church. The trip, however, was not without its challenges. Though we always welcome the rain, the timing resulted in the delivery truck getting stuck in nearly impassable mud in route to its destination. It was the event of the year for the community!



- In July, a group of 17 volunteers travelled from the USA to Kenya to assemble the awaiting playground equipment. It was hard work but they did it and did it well. The children in Kenya love the playground!



IN the U.S.A.:

- In April, after over a year of working out of a storage unit, Graceworks was able to find an office at a convenient location and reasonable cost. We feel much more organized and our meetings and volunteer projects are much easier to do now! It is in Orange on Chapman Avenue near the 57 Freeway.
- Graceworks continues to work collaboratively with Olive Crest and St. John's Lutheran Church to support monthly respite programs for Kinship Foster Care.
- In September, Graceworks held its eleventh gala fundraiser at the Bowers Museum Santa Ana. The theme was "Celebrating our Knights in Shining Armor" a tribute to our supporters and volunteers. Proceeds from the gala enable Graceworks to continue providing basic needs and education for children as well as expanding the working Graceworks compound to move towards sustainability. Thanks to all of the attendees and those who support us in so many ways.

- In November, St. John’s Lutheran hosted a fabulous Thanksgiving feast for local families. In support of this outstanding outreach, some of our Graceworks Board members attended. St. John’s is a loyal partner of both Graceworks USA and Graceworks Kenya.



- In December, Graceworks will und a Taco truck to feed over 500 children and caregivers at a collaborative holiday event for families in the foster care system. The event is hosted by St. John’s Lutheran, The Orange County Social Services Agency, and Olive Crest.

MEET A GRACEWORKS HERO

Last year, Kennedy Schaffer, a 17-year old high school student, contacted Susan and asked if she could do a donation drive for Graceworks for one of the required projects for graduation. Kennedy’s future goal is to go to medical school and become a doctor in order to help those dealing with HIV and other chronic diseases. A couple years ago, Kennedy and her mother, a medical doctor traveled to Kenya on a group mission trip, led by Susan. There, she met the children at Graceworks Kenya, many of whom are HIV/AIDS orphans. Upon getting a green light from Graceworks to proceed with her project, Kennedy organized an event at a school in her home city of Long Beach to raise money and collect school supplies and other items for the children served through Graceworks. We are so very proud of Kennedy Schaffer! After her graduation from high school, Kennedy was accepted at UC Berkley and is now in her first semester there.



ONGOING NEEDS

IN KENYA

The mission for Graceworks, at its inception, was to help children in the rural community of Rwika, Kenya who were orphaned or otherwise impacted by the HIV/AIDS and by poverty . We strive to keep children in the community with emphasis on making sure the children had a responsible caregiver and remained in school. Children and caregivers would also be assisted with other basic life necessities including food, clothing, medical care and emotional support.

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ONGOING NEEDS-KENYA (continued)

The last 11 years have seen many changes. Some of the children we started with are now adults and have already graduated from our program. Currently, most of the remaining children are in high school and colleges but some are still in primary school. Today: 24 children are in primary school, 27 in secondary school, 7 in colleges and technical schools and several young adults waiting for acceptance to technical or vocational schools. For next year: 21 ongoing primary school children, 20 secondary school children, 7 ongoing college/vocational school kids and 8 new secondary school graduates who will be waiting to go to college or vocational schools.



Ongoing needs for Kenya are:

School fees and supplies for the children
(Primary, Secondary, College, Vocational),

The Orphan Care program
(food, medical care, counseling/ mentoring)

Administrative costs for staffing Graceworks Kenya

Facilities maintenance/improvements.

Your monetary donations are used to meet these continued needs

IN THE U.S.A.

Four years ago, Graceworks expanded its work to include outreach to vulnerable children in Orange County. In keeping with our mission of bringing hope to vulnerable children, we provide support to children in Kinship foster care. These children are cared for by grandparents or other relatives due to abuse, neglect or abandonment by their parents. This outreach is in collaboration with local organizations that serve this population. One of the ways we support this often ignored population is by helping host respite and holiday events for the children in kinship foster care and their caregivers.

Ongoing needs for this local outreach program are:

VOLUNTEERS FOR...

- Office work, mailings, filing, and various clerical duties
- Help at respite and holiday events for our Orange County kinship foster care program
- Help with planning and working at our fundraising activities

MONETARY DONATIONS...

- To help with expenditures for monthly Kinship respite picnics and holiday celebrations
- Help to offset cost of office rental, supplies, printing, and other operational needs.

TO DONATE

You can send a check to: Graceworks, P.O. Box 1239, Anaheim, California 92815.

You can also give by Credit Card or PAYPAL through our website www.graceworkshopenet.org.

All gifts received are tax deductible as allowed by IRS regulations.

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