

spring

2022

Dear Friends of Graceworks,

I pray that you and yours are finding ways to remain energized and hopeful as we continue to navigate this brave new world of post covid "new normal." For me, I find that while many challenges are present in my life, remembering to be grateful for what I have including family, friends, physical health and my faith in God, is a sure way to do that. I am also extremely grateful for all of you who continue to support Graceworks in fulfilling its mission of bringing hope to orphans and vulnerable children both in Kenya, Africa, and right here in Orange County.

I just returned from a month-long visit to Kenya to check on the welfare of the enrolled children in the Graceworks project in the village of Rwika, and can assure you that your support is literally transforming lives there. Not only are the children able to attend school, with their school fees and supplies provided, but the feeding program has ensured that they get at least one meal a day which they would otherwise not have.

With the help of the dedicated staff and volunteers there, the children are also thriving in their self esteem and feelings of being loved and cared about. I wish to extend a special thank you to all the sponsors who took the time to write a letter to their sponsored children. It is my hope that you will find the updates in this newsletter both informative and inspirational. It is our way of keeping you in the loop regarding the wonderful work you help us do. I am looking forward to seeing you at our September 18 event!

As always, I leave you with my favorite quote: **"A hundred years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove. But the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."** Forest Witcraft

Blessings,

Dr. Susan Njemanze, Ed.D.

Graceworks Founder/President

Susan with a child and guardian receiving food supplies



I have a favor to ask... Please,



Save the date!
Graceworks Annual Gala!
A Little Bit of Africa
at The Villa in Orange
September 18, 2022
Invitation to follow in August

Thank you!



KENYA UPDATES



Our youngest kids pictured with US visitor, Linda

The children look forward to coming to the Rwika Project facilities for their Saturday center-based meetings where they participate in mentoring and counseling activities as well as receiving on site feeding and take-home packages of food and hygiene items. The guardians also attend the meetings to receive their own counseling and mentoring in relation to their roles as caregivers for the children.

March brought visitors from the US, including Dr. Susan Njemanze, to the Graceworks Kenya children's meeting. Dr. Njemanze and the two other visitors, Charity and Linda, were greeted with singing and dancing from the children and guardians. Most children were able to attend the program.

The US visitors spoke words of encouragement. Activities included singing, snacks, and play. Later, boys and girls moved to separate groups to share candidly about challenges they may be facing. Lunch was served and all the children received a take home bag that included cooking basics and hygiene items and new T-shirts donated by St. John's Lutheran Church.

MOVING UP...!

Your gift of support includes those in higher education...

Starting College!

Sharon M.M., pursuing a certificate in Electrical Engineering.

Evans M.M., pursuing a certificate in Plumbing.

Moreen N.G., pursuing a certificate in Plumbing



College students

Sheila, Raphael, Michael, Evan, and Moreen

Continuing in College

Michael Dennis M., 3rd year in BA Business Management Accounting

Sheila M.N., pursuing a BA in English and Literature

Raphael M.M., pursuing a Diploma in Early Childhd Development

Penina K.M., pursuing a degree in Mass Communication



Kenya Schools are scheduled to open for the First Term of 2022 on April 26.

We thank you for your ongoing support which enables us to continue to ensure the children receive the educational assistance they need.

A Message from the Sponsorship Committee



Students read from our small library.

We want to thank 28 sponsors that took the time and effort to send written communications to their respective sponsored children/youth in February 2022! Thank you for sharing your family pictures, prayers, and words of encouragement to the 25 children that received your cards and letters. We are pleased to announce that your cards and letters were personally given to them by Dr. Njemanze during her visit in Rwika this March-April.

Thursday, March 17, was another great day for the children to be at Graceworks where they had come to write letters back to their sponsors. The children were very delighted to have received letters from their sponsors.

We currently have 21 children in need of a sponsor.

If you do not sponsor a child/youth, want to sponsor more children, or have family and friends who are interested in sponsoring, please contact us today at

info@graceworkshopenet.org.

LOCAL OUTREACH UPDATE



Graceworks continues to collaborate with other organizations including St. John's Lutheran Church, Olive Crest and the County Social Services Agency to reach the foster care population in Orange County. On April 16, Graceworks provided funds for Taqueria Hoy to feed the guests during the community Easter Egg Hunt event. The taco bar was free of charge for all who attended. Local kinship and foster care families all enjoyed the event.



OTHER WORK IN KENYA CONTINUES



The area around the new gate was being filled with hardcore stones and quarry dust to enable access of vehicles and the expected 40 ft container with food and playground equipment.



Project land is being cleared of brush to prevent fire and to enhance security



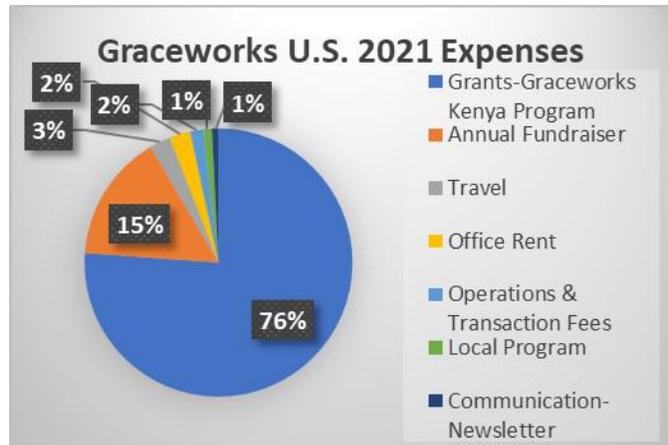
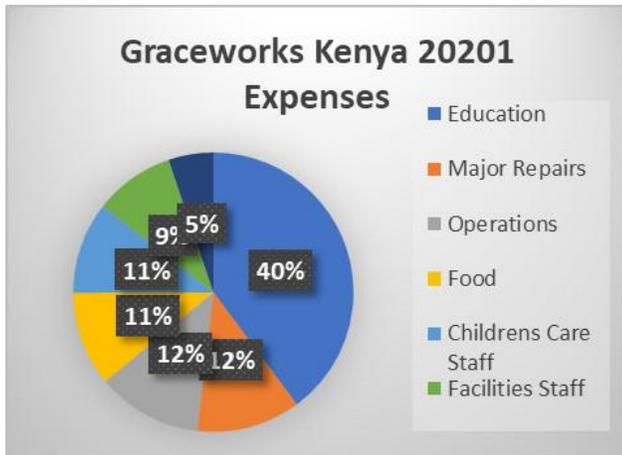
Electricity installation has begun. This is a very exciting development and will bring new opportunities to our facilities!

FINANCIAL REPORT for 2021

Income for Graceworks: General Contributions 46%, Gala 33%, Sponsorship 21%

Repairs on sliding gate to community center, construction of a guard shack and container foundation. Children's Care staff: Program Manager, Social Worker, Community Liasson, assistants. Facilities Staff: farm workers, security, and facilities maintenance.

The major expense is support for the children in Kenya. President Njemanze's yearly travel to Kenya provides first hand observation of facilities work and program activities, and training of staff.



Thank you for your continued support!

For more information or to donate, please visit our website at www.graceworkshopenet.org

Graceworks Board Members: Dr. Jay Bauman, Alison Conard, Andrea Dabrow, Dr. Darrell Dudley, Megan Gjersvold, Theresa Hines, Michelle Levesque, Dr. Susan Njemanze, Sharon Portman, Stephanie Van Blarcom