

New Hope Education Centre

Newsletter, September, 2025.

NHEC is now serving hundreds of people daily350 students are enrolled, from Pre-school to Year 9. Children come to study during their free time, pastors are being taught, counselling is taking place, prayers are being offered for people across the world, including Australia, everyday. Children are being fed and finding a home away from home. (School Director, Edward)



In my last newsletter, I shared how the lack of food was the main cause of suffering for families, especially the children. In this newsletter, I have included some photos of some of those children who are being helped by the work of the Pastors and Teachers at New Hope school through new ministries created, e.g. the Food Bank and Milk Supplement for young children.

I have also shared with you about the plight of Marion, a Yr 7 student, who needs our love and support. She has had a serious affliction all her life and this was brought to my attention this month.

Many of you will have received a letter from a sponsored child telling you how Soweto has greatly improved, with construction of better roads and other developments. It is certainly encouraging to see such positive changes yet people still struggle to pay their meagre rent or feed their

families due to lack of job opportunities. Even casual work washing other people's clothes or picking up rubbish from the tip, are jobs that are now hard to come by. Even more alarming, according to the information received from School Director, Edward Owino Ochieng, is that there are more neglected and abandoned children than ever before! Some mothers are leaving their children to fend for themselves as they take up work as a 'house help' in more affluent areas. Some of the news items in this newsletter are difficult to share but I do want you to be aware of some of the challenges the children and their families are facing every day in the Soweto slums. Your support keeps us going. Thank you so much for your kindness and support.

Janet and Mark Thornthwaite

New Hope Partners through Global Development Group



Living conditions in the slums today.

(Photo left) Lovelyn and her mother stand outside their home in Soweto. It is situated down an alley way, just one room, about 50 metres away from New Hope school. Waste water runs into the streets which is why there is often the smell of sewerage when there is an overflow. Most houses are neglected like this because the owners are as poor as the tenants. There is no maintenance done despite the fact that tenants pay rent. The only difference is that they are a bit cheaper and more affordable for people who earn very little and can only stay in such houses.

(Report from School Director Edward)

(Photo right): Nancy Wanjiru and her grandchildren.

Nancy is one of the beneficiaries of donations to the Food Bank. Their one room home is in the same street as New Hope School. Nancy's grandchildren depend on her because her daughters have no jobs. Some of the children are not going to school because they have no money to send them. (Edward)



FOOD BANK: Last month, thirteen families received maize flour, cooking oil, rice and soap due to their dire situation at home. They will continue to receive food for the next 6 months, after which their situation will be reviewed. These 13 families represent 65 people in total both children and adults.

Milk Supplement: We have bought some boxes of milk but we are starting with five serious cases thrice a week. We shall advance as we gauge each situation individually. They will be taking the milk within the School.

Your steadfastness in our vision of transforming Soweto is amazing. Only the Lord knows how things would have been if it were not for the steady support and donations that you have kept flowing to us in all our challenges. We are stronger and better because of you. (Edward)



Marion Achieng, 13 yrs Grade 7

(From Edward, School Director)

"Marion's condition has been troubling my heart for sometime now. Her father died in 2019 as a result of a drowning accident. He was a fisherman. Her mother, Irene Adhiambo, does house chores for families in the estates for survival. She has 3 other children. Marion was born with this condition (pictured right) but the egg-like swelling on the right ear has become more prominent recently and has been growing quickly. The mother took her to hospital when she was very young but they couldn't afford the operation then, nor can they now. My concern is that the growth behind her ear is increasing day by day".



(From Janet) After receiving the news about Marion's situation and having received some financial support, Marion and her mother were able to attend the Metropolitan Hospital in Nairobi on 20th August to undergo various tests, including an Ultrasound. Marion was referred to a specialist and his report stated her condition as a "Benign lipomatous neoplasm with "Giant melano cystic nevi". This is a rare condition, that appears on the skin at or around birth. Giant-size nevi can grow to more than 40 cms (15.75 inches) across by adulthood. Marion has been referred for plastic surgery and treatment in the coming months, the cost of which is AU\$4,500. The operation will include "a wide local excision, plus skin grafting and resurfacing". If you would like to support Marion in her journey of recovery, in any way, (a letter, or finance or prayer) please email me, and I will pass this on. It is a very scary and worrying time for this beautiful child and we want to help in any way possible.

Letter from Marion's mother (27/8/25)

"Emotionally, Marion is fearful and not so close to other children because she feels intimidated and sidelined by other children although they don't show her any open discrimination. She tries to cover her face with a headscarf meaning that it disturbs her. I am a widow with four children and working as a house help which a low payment which pays for food only. I earn 6,000 KSH per month (\$70) from washing clothes for people. I am straining to pay my children's school fees and to pay house rent. I live in a single room but sometimes the landlord locks us out of the house because of lack of house rent. Pastor Edward has allowed Marion to remain in school although I have big fee arrears since the year began".



(Photo above) This family has been chosen to receive food once a month for 6 months due to their mother's inability to provide food for her children. One single room is home for this family of three boys and their mother. If you, or someone you know would like to sponsor a child, (between \$30 and \$40 per month, depending on age) please contact me so I can give further details.

Cassava and maize farm.

The land, pictured right, (one acre) was given to Edward Owino as a small business loan several years ago by a New Hope supporter. It was agreed that crops would be grown to help provide food for the New Hope children. With the land now producing successful crops, large trucks carry the produce from Bondo to Nairobi where they are stored not far from the school. A handcart is used to carry the maize to New Hope. Edward says: "If we could get a further 3 acres for farming, it would help us produce other cash crops, and more for our own needs".



Contact details: If any of the stories in this newsletter have touched your heart and you would like to know more, please contact me on 0438 606319 or email janet_thornthwaite@bigpond.com All donations are tax deductible when forwarded through Global Development Group or I can make the International Transfer directly to the school where it will be directed to the cause that is intended. This newsletter can be shared with anyone who you think might be interested. Thank you so much. Janet