

# NEW HOPE EDUCATION CENTRE Soweto, Kenya.

DECEMBER, 2025.

## Thank You for Walking This Journey With Us

### From the School Director:

"To my dearest friends and benefactors,  
Your consistent giving has built a bridge for me to cross, time and time again. You've empowered us to achieve great things again this year, like gifts for the school children when we opened classes early this year, providing bedding for those who have been sleeping on the bare floors, household items, hospital treatment for children like Marion Achieng, a security system with CCTV, regular food parcels for those in greatest need, white boards for classrooms, sponsoring children so they can remain in school, paying school fee arrears and accepting our vision to build a Technical School in the town of Bondo. This legacy of support is something I'll carry forever. Thank you for being a force for good in my world. Your generosity has truly transformed lives. Your kindness has created real change. Finally, I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas holiday and a Happy New Year in 2026. **Edward.**

Thank you for standing with us in supporting the New Hope Education Centre, in Soweto, Kenya. Your gifts and prayers have truly transformed so many lives. Your love, in action, has given these children and their families hope for a better future.

As we celebrate Christmas this year, we are reminded of the greatest gift of all. May Jesus be the LIGHT of your world, guiding you through the New Year.

**Janet and Mark Thornthwaite**



**Photo above:** These are the children that Beatrice has taken into her home, apart from her own four children. They are all reliant on their mother, aunt and grandmother for their every need including school fees for the older children. Only one of them has been able to be in school this year. Photo right: The treadle sewing machine that has been gifted to Beatrice.



**A new start for Beatrice!** With a gift of a sewing machine, Beatrice can now begin to find self-worth and independence as she begins to generate a business for herself and her children.

### Snippets from letters sent by students to their sponsors last month:

**(Marion, Yr 7)** Thank you very much for your support since my surgery process started. I'm healed and I'm like other children now. I would like to see your faces and travel to Australia to see all those who have supported me.

**(Maryann, Yr 4)** There are some students who don't have anything to celebrate this Christmas but I know God is able to provide it.

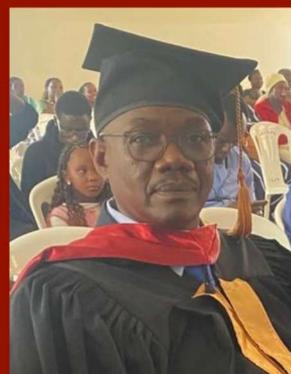
**(Bryslie, Yr 6)** I live with my grandmother and my young aunty; we are happy because we help each other. You are the best sponsor I have ever known in my entire life because you have relieved us from sadness to happiness.

**(Molvine, Form 2)** I always prayed everyday that one day God would hear my prayers and send someone who would clear my school fees balance. I did not lose hope and He answered my prayers by sending you into my life. I am very happy and I promise that I will work hard in my studies and not disappoint you.

**(Sandra Maya, Gr 4)** I loved your letter: it makes me feel good and happy. Through you, I understand the love of God. Now my heart is at peace and I am enjoying my classes.

**(Esther Syombua Gr 8)** I have been staying at home for many weeks because I lack school fees. My mother has been asking her brothers to help her but they say they don't have it. When she has no job we just sleep with our empty stomachs because no one wants to help my mother. Sometimes she gets sick and weak but my sister and I have nothing to give her but I will never give up my dream of being a doctor.

### Edward Ochieng Owino



recently attained his Masters Degree in Theology with a thesis on Pastoral Ministry. "We congratulate Apostle Edward, who defended his thesis research paper on 5th November before a panel of five professors. This will soon be available for viewing as a public document. Edward's graduation ceremony took place on 11th of December 2025.



**FOOD BANK:** Over 50 families will receive a food parcel to help them through the Christmas season, including these children above. **Below:** An elderly lady from Soweto receives a food parcel with great joy. These are made possible by donors to the newly formed FOOD BANK. If you would like to contribute, please contact me on 0438 606319 or email [janet\\_thornthwaite@bigpond.com](mailto:janet_thornthwaite@bigpond.com)



**Three students received a sponsorship this last month.**

Photos Right L-R: **Esther Syambua** (14 yrs) stayed at home for half of this year due to lack of school fees. Esther is a very bright student who will go into Year 9 in 2026.

**Sharl Wendi Mukabane** (Gr 1) has not been at school all year because of school fee arrears. Her mother sells vegetables at a small street stall but this is not enough to support Sharl or her other children.

**Moses Mwenzia** (Gr 1) His father says: "I am unable to pay my son's school fees. This is because I earn very little and it does not cover house rent. My wife has a small grocery stall but it does not enable us to pay school fees or the needs of our children. I am so grateful for the sponsorship received for my son".

## The Power of One

Once upon a time, there was an old man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach every morning before he began his work. Early one morning, he was walking along the shore after a big storm had passed and found the vast beach littered with starfish as far as the eye could see, stretching in both directions. Off in the distance, the old man noticed a small boy approaching. As the boy walked, he paused every so often and as he grew closer, the man could see that he was occasionally bending down to pick up an object and throwing it into the sea. The boy came closer still and the man called out, "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?" The young boy paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The tide has washed them up onto the beach and they can't return to the sea by themselves. When the sun gets high, they will die unless I throw them back into the water." The old man replied, "But there must be tens of thousands of starfish on this beach. I'm afraid you won't really be able to make much of a difference." The boy bent down, picked up yet another starfish and threw it as far as he could into the ocean. Then he turned, smiled and said, "It made a difference to that one!"

We all have the opportunity to help create positive change, but if you're like me, you sometimes find yourself thinking, "how much of a difference can I really make?" I think this is especially true when we're talking about addressing massive social problems like tackling world hunger or finding a cure for cancer, but it pops up all of the time in our everyday lives as well. So when I catch myself thinking that way, it helps to remember this story. You might not be able to change the entire world, but you can change a small part of it, for someone. "The Star Thrower" (or "starfish story") was written by Loren Eiseley, (1907-1977), published in 1969.



*...when lives are touched by compassion and kindness, everything changes.*



*"Star of Wonder, Star of Night  
Star with royal beauty, bright.  
Westward leading, Still proceeding  
Guide us to Thy perfect LIGHT"*

