

New Hope Education Centre, Soweto Kenya.

Newsletter, February, 2024



Our journey towards transformation of Soweto is steadily rising. In the midst of darkness, there is a light shining in Soweto. We are now an Education Centre.



And, Your steadfastness for our vision to transform Soweto is only the Lord knows how things would have been if it were not for your support. We are stronger and better because of you. Your love for the children's education has meant that many lives now have a sense of direction. Your support in many areas of need has been a blessing on our journey towards this transformation. However, despite your support, 300,000 children from across Kenya will not be able to go beyond Primary School because their parents or carers are unable to pay for them to go on to High School this year. This is a sad thing, to say the least. I have been approached by over 20 students looking for my help, some having gained high marks in the end of Primary Education, who cannot continue their schooling. It is heart-breaking for me to see these children's situations. I have an orphan boy, who has been in the care of the past few years. He did very well in Class 8 last year, but due to lack of resources. On a more positive note, I am so proud of the children mentoring over many years, who have now completed their education and are leaders themselves. I am more of a patron now, as our old boys have sponsored young people to work hard, to be disciplined and to be successful. We ended our youth camp late last year, with some teachers and students. It makes us and New Hope School very proud. **(Edward Owino,**

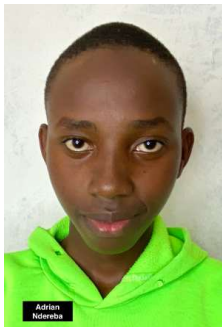


News from children's letters:

(From Dickson Gr 3) "My teacher has taught us new skills that have helped us to improvise. I can now make soap, utensils, mops and brooms."

(From Brighton Gr 6) "Soweto has changed over the last few years. Our roads and cleanliness have improved. This is because of the efforts of New Hope which allows youths from the church to do volunteer work on the streets"

(A note from Edward) Soweto has improved only in regard to the physical structures like toilets, water and electricity provided by World Bank but poverty levels are horrendous going by our fee collections and the many, many parents who throng to my office seeking for sponsorship because they are unable to handle the small fees we charge.



These boys are hoping and praying for a sponsor.

Adrian Ndereba (above left) is a loving young man whose parents are struggling financially. His father is a driver who earns approx \$150 per month which is not enough to sustain the family of five.

Brighton Ouma (above right) is an orphan whose parents died several years ago. Brighton was born HIV positive and is still positive but under medication. Relatives declined to have him stay with them after his mother died due to his condition. He is now living with an elderly lady who has no income.

Global Development Group Conference "Strength in Partnership"

Mark and Janet are Partners with GDG, for New Hope Initiatives in Soweto. I (Janet) will be attending the GDG conference on 27th and 28th February, 2024, in Brisbane. The conference will focus on identifying new developments in the aid & development sector. Global Development Group is a Brisbane-based, non-government overseas humanitarian development organisation.

Letter written by Vincent Juma in 2017.

I was born in the year 2005. I am twelve years old. My father died when I was in Class One and then my mother died the following year. My uncle then came to take my brother and me but life there was so difficult. We were neither given food nor went to school.

My uncle prevented us from going to church and at other times he would chase me out of his house and I would sleep outside in the pits. My uncle forced us to work on his farm. We used to plant, weed and harvest his crops since we never went to school. My uncle finally chased me out of his house completely and my aunt came to my aid. She tries very hard to pay my school fees despite

her own financial difficulties. I am thankful for the life my aunt has offered me although it is a huge struggle for her to pay both my fees and her own children's.

Photo left: Vincent Juma today and his letter written January, 2024.



"It's awesome to remember the day you led me to a happy life. My life would not have been good if it weren't for you who have supported my academics. I also thank God, because He has been with me since I started my education. I just can't get you from my mind, and why would I even try, for

you have been like my parents since I had no one to take care of me after my own parents died. But my aunt brought me to New Hope, and the School Director helped me as much as he could. New Hope made me to be a hopeful person and this is the place where I knew the importance of being in God's house while going on with my primary education. Now, I have finished my secondary education and over these last four years I have done my best where I could manage. My hope for the future is to be a policeman. I also want to help the needy if I can, just as you have been helpful to me. I thank you for the good work you have done".

(A note from Edward) As Vincent Juma has said, he would like to join the Police Force, probably in April when recruitments are done. There is no guarantee that he will be picked because the system is normally so corrupt... but we trust in God. In the meantime, Vincent will help in the school library.

Global Development Group

Mission statement:

"Our passion is to provide comprehensive quality management to help achieve development effectiveness, together with our partners, in our aid and development projects and activities around the world."



I have created this extra page, for those who receive this newsletter via email, so I can share another story of a family devastated by their circumstances.

(Story shared by Ps Edward) This is Evelyne Moraa who is 30 years old. She was married at 18 years of age and has three children. Her husband, Evans Mangara, died in August 2023, after a severe headache. Two days after his burial, Evelyne was sent packing, forced out of the home she shared with her husband and children by her brothers-in-law, simply because she lacked a boy child.



Evelyne had to go back to her mother, who was equally ailing, and on December 19th 2023, her mother also died and was buried on the 22nd Dec 2023. Again, after only 4 days, her own brothers demolished her mother's house. Once again, she had no home. Evelyn left the village when a Good Samaritan offered to take the family to Nairobi, not knowing where to go, but they landed here in Soweto. The three children haven't gone to school since the death of their father because they have been on the move ever since.

1. **Winnie Kemunto** - 10 years Gd 4
2. **Blessings Nyangasi** - 8 years Gd 3
3. **Maliuni Nyaboke** - 4 years Playgroup

It was the Soweto Administrator who called me, asking if we could help this desperate family.

If God can touch someone to assist them settle into New Hope, get uniforms and even food...that would be so

much appreciated. I thank you all for your heart to feel with His people. This world is going through great pain but thank God that He has raised people to alleviate suffering in some way.....

Edward.

If you know someone who might be interested in this newsletter, please forward it on. If you, or someone you know, would be able to help Evelyn's family, and would like to contact me for more information, my details are: janet_thornthwaite@bigpond.com or Phone 0438 606319. Thank you so much. Janet Thornthwaite

Photo right: All Soweto children love being at Vacation Bible School. This photo was taken in November, 2023, at the end of the school year. The holiday program is partly sponsored by the Maryborough Baptist Church, Qld.

