



# NEW HOPE EDUCATION CENTRE

NEWSLETTER JUNE, 2024

An update on the recent floods and demolition of homes along the river bank in Soweto and other areas.

During the recent crisis, children were left to fend for themselves, jobs were lost, roads and homes were washed away. Many children who once lived on the streets are feared 'missing' as they can longer be traced.

(Photo Above): School Director, Edward Owino comforts James Odongo as he waits for his brother Fabian's return home. (story far right)

## Kenyan Government orders Soweto homes be demolished.

(from Pastor Edward Owino, New Hope School Director)

"People were told via social network that any building within 30 metres from any river around Nairobi would be brought down and trees planted in those areas. They said the demolition was necessary because of 'climate change' and they didn't want any more lives lost by way of floods.

As well as houses, over 300 buildings, including churches and small schools, were demolished. Some families had their belongings trashed. Many children now roam the streets, homeless, but we are unable to take many of them, when they cannot pay even a dollar for their education.

There has been movement among

the people here like that of the 'exodus' in the Bible with goons taking advantage by stealing from the torn down residences. The rent for the few remaining houses on the upper areas have now doubled. Hearts are heavy all over but we are taking it one day at a time especially when there is no foreseeable solution. We are able to give short term relief by giving as many food parcels as we can to the most needy cases. The number of displaced persons is overwhelming, even among children, but we are encouraging them to learn and accept that when problems come, God is our comforter.

Friends like you have helped us to alleviate the stress level and hunger by giving donations for food and making some rent payments. Thank you dear partners. I lack words to show my appreciation to you people. You have embraced us fully by sacrificing your resources to bless people that you may never meet physically. Keep helping and holding up my hands as I manoeuvre the difficult terrain of transforming lives in the slums of Nairobi.

We look forward to a wonderful DVBS (Vacation Bible School) for all the children at the end of this school term, for both NHEC children and the community. We are targeting 250 children and going for 5 days this time. More support will be needed for this, but we are already training workers and volunteers for it. We are so grateful."



GEORGE OTIENO

George and his family were facing eviction from their home as he was unable to pay his rent of \$40 per month. George has had no work since the construction site where he worked was washed away. His wife had just given birth to a third child but he also cares for his other siblings who had nowhere else to live after their mother passed away. His young brother, Erick, had not been to school since October last year but help came when his rent payments were paid for three months while he looks for other work. George and his family were also given food items, all made possible from a kind donation.

FABIAN JAMES



Edward says: Fabian was forced to live on the streets to support himself by collecting plastics and bottles to sell for food when he and his siblings were deserted by their mother for more than five months. During this time of hardship, it led Fabian to have a sense of freedom on the streets where he became undisciplined in his behaviour. We thank God that He has answered our prayers for Fabian's safe return. He has now been welcomed back to school. I have provided him with unconditional love and have assured him of my personal support whenever he feels that he needs something.



(Photo) families receive food parcels after the floods have destroyed homes

**A 'Good News' story: Update on four former New Hope students who are nearing the end of their College Education .**



**Braise Mwangi** was one of three boys selected by EFAC (Education For All Children), a US based organisation that offers High School and Tertiary education for the brightest students nationally who come from poverty stricken backgrounds. These boys were chosen

because of their results at the end of their Primary education and fine character. They were considered to have great potential. Braise has just completed a Bachelor of Commerce in Nairobi and has now been selected to do his Internship at the UCLL University of Applied Science in Advance Marketing in Belgium.

**Vincent Jared Otieno** (right) was also chosen by EFAC, and given the opportunity to study Medical Science in America following exceptional High School results. Vincent has spent the past 12 months in the US and has now returned to Soweto for the summer vacation. He spent time with Yr 6 and 7 students at New Hope this week encouraging them to do



their best so that they might have the opportunities he has been given.

**Hillary Jared** (Vincent's younger brother) (EFAC recipient) says: *I am thrilled to share that I emerged victorious in my first year studying at the Multimedia University of Kenya.*

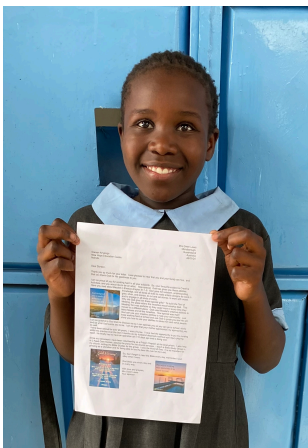
Both Vincent and Hillary, and another brother, were once found living 'on the streets' when they were young boys before Ps Edward found someone to care for them and he enrolled them in New Hope School.

**Lilian Mueni** has had her Australian sponsor since she was a young girl. Lilian says: *I am now enrolled at the Chuka University Radio for training and mentoring and I am so thrilled, for now I have learnt script writing, operating audition and graphic designing.*

**Edward says:** *"I am such a happy father as I see some of our children excel in their education and receive great opportunities. The mindset of poverty in Soweto has a long way to go but this is the generation to transform it. Our Australian sponsors have played a big part in enabling these very bright students to excel in their studies. This has been our vision, and our hope, for our community.*

*The number of sponsored children is amazing and we appreciate all the efforts made by our Australia sponsors and beyond. Hundreds of children have had an education since the school first opened. It's far surpassed my imagination looking at the numbers that have passed through our hands with God's help.*

*However, even those who have completed their High School education, don't have the means for further education or to gain skills that will help them to being employed. This is the sad reality for the majority of our children."*



**Doreen Anyango** (pictured above) is a very happy girl, having received a letter from her sponsor.

**Felistus** (pictured right) keeps smiling even though her mother has HIV AIDS and is often unable to work at her small business to provide for her children. Many children only eat one meal a day, provided by New Hope School.

The weather has now turned cold but New Hope School provides a safe haven where love and care is given by the dedicated teachers and staff.

**Felistus Namkuyu 'THE FACE OF NEW HOPE'**



**Love in action.** Many people who have come to New Hope

school for help during this recent crisis are not connected in any way to the school, but they have not been excluded from receiving love and care from Ps Edward, the teachers, staff and other pastoral carers. This is faith and love in action! We are so grateful to each one of you for your continued support and for being part of our team! The floods were devastating, but the destruction of so many homes was the 'final straw' when neither compassion or compensation was given to people who were unable to help themselves. They had neither food nor shelter, yet you have shown love and mercy by your kindness. Thank you so much.

**Janet and Mark Thornthwaite** Partners with Global Development Group, providing support for New Hope Education Centre and the Soweto community.



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All donations are tax deductible when made through GDG.

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