

New Hope Ed Centre Soweto, Kenya.

Newsletter June 2026

Website: newhopeeducationcentre.org



Stories of Great Need

Earnest Odwar (pictured right) wrote to tell me about some of the difficulties his family have been facing.

“Unfortunately we have some lack. For Instance, we cook using a Jiko stove but this has become a hazard and I fear something awful may happen. It gives off so much smoke and since we cook in the house, it becomes very uncomfortable. My mother has been envisioning owning a gas cooker for some time and my brother and I support her in that as it would make things so much easier and more bearable. The house we live in is cramped as there's little room for my brother and me to sleep in. I share bedding with my brother but because we are growing, that space has become even smaller. We have to squeeze into a small gap together. The mattress itself is wearing out from our weight.

Another worry for me is that my parents borrowed some money to cater for my brothers school needs, including some text books. He got them but the money hasn't yet been repaid. The firm that loaned them the money keeps on calling and texting, wanting their money back. They keep adding their interest daily. This makes it even harder because you pay a deposit but because of the interest it appears nothing has changed. All of this worries me and makes me feel

silent and beaten. But I have to be strong and devise a way in the future so as not to experience such problems again. I do wish things had not taken this turn but let me not dwell on the past. I can do nothing but pray to God and wait for the best...”
(Earnest)

Left: Janet with Earnest's mother at NHEC in 2017.

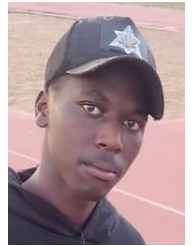
Above: A new gas stove for the family.

I am happy to report that the family now has a new gas cooker and their debt of \$100 has been repaid! (JT)



Transformation through sponsorship.

A letter from Thomas Ombaso: “Since primary school, your sponsorship has given me the opportunity to study without interruption. It lifted a heavy burden from my family and allowed me to concentrate fully on my academic work. As I moved to secondary school, your continued support motivated me to work even harder because I knew someone believed in my potential. Your generosity has not only supported my education financially but has also encouraged me to remain focused, disciplined and determined to succeed. I am pursuing a Bachelor of Education which is both demanding and rewarding. It has strengthened my desire to serve society by shaping young minds and contributing positively to the education sector.”



Stories of Heartache

This month, **Silvester Badia**, pictured right, a sponsored child at New Hope, lost his mother to HIV AIDS after a long illness. (He has now lost both parents to this disease). Silvester is also HIV Positive through transfer at birth, but doing well on ARSV medication. He has been living with his grandmother but she is elderly and no longer able to provide for his daily needs. Silvester will now be living with an uncle. (JT) **NOTE:** While overall prevalence of HIV has decreased over the last decade, new infections remain high with an estimated 1.5 million people living with HIV Aids in Kenya today. Nairobi recorded the highest number of new HIV infections, an increase of 19%.

Website: National Syndemic Disease Control)



Our prayer is that we continue strengthening our vision of transforming lives in Soweto and Kenya generally.

Many children and their families have had their lives turned around because of your support and donations.

This is helping us to balance the equation of poverty, lack and ignorance in our community.

We are so grateful.

(School Director, Edward Owino Ochieng)



(Photo left) Isaac Mutheu. Isaac's father died at the end of 2025 and his mother is now bedridden with HIV. His older sister is caring for the family of 8 children and struggling to support the family. Isaac completed his High School education last year but is unable to go on to further studies due to the family's desperate situation. Through the **FOOD BANK**, we were able to help Isaac as well as clearing their rent arrears. (Edward)

Working towards sustainability

FISH FARMING IN LAKE VICTORIA.



In 2020, Director Edward launched a Fish Farming project with the construction of two fish cages in Lake Victoria, not far from BONDO, where the New Hope Technical Institute is planned. In 2023, Edward wrote that the fish cage business was doing well. Fish sales were used in part, to purchase bags of maize to provide porridge for NHEC students. Today, in 2026, a new fish cage has been constructed, (photo above) and launched this month, which will help to increase the school's ability to become self sustaining in the future... including providing food for school children and Soweto families.

Edward says: *"I was projecting a good harvest within the first quarter of 2026, from another cage, however fish prices are weak at present so I have held back on some sales. If we are able to put in three or four cages, this would enable us to do a harvest each year. This would also help us to sustain our teachers by increased wages".*

Each new fish cage costs approximately \$5,500 yet sales from each harvest (every 9 months) should bring a profit of approximately \$2,000 after reinvestment for more fingerlings.

From School Director, Edward Ochieng Owino:

We really appreciate all that God is doing in the hearts of people in Australia towards our dear children. Your financial investment in the work of New Hope Education Centre demonstrates the love of God in so many practical ways. We are so grateful for your love, support and generosity towards our children and their families.

We are stretching ourselves to try and feed more children despite the fact that food and diesel prices have increased drastically even in within a week. Gas prices have risen from around \$100 to \$150 per month. (Edward)

Sponsorship Contract Agreement

All sponsored children in Yrs 7-12 (including those undertaking Further Education) will now need to sign a "Contract Agreement" which outlines the responsibilities and expectations associated with sponsorship. This agreement will give an assurance to sponsors that their investment in a child's future is honoured and respected.

Clauses include:

Conduct and Discipline:

Sponsored students are to uphold high standards of personal conduct.

Academic Performance:

Students must maintain satisfactory grades.

Mandatory Submissions for High School students :

e.g. Report Card, and Sponsorship letter;

Attendance at NHEC Conferences and meetings:

Youth conference, end of term reporting to Ps Edward for mentoring etc

Faith and Values:

Students are to portray Godly values in their daily lives.

Consequences for failing to comply in any area of the Agreement may mean cancellation of sponsorship.

(Edward and Janet)

Letters of Hope

"I am 14 years old and a student at MOI Girls Senior school, in Kitale, Kenya. I was born and raised in Soweto where opportunity is scarce but dreams are not. I aspire to become an Endocrinologist. I thank God that I was able to have my first term fees paid for but I feel scared to be sent home because of lack of second term fees.

*I write this letter to explain my need for sponsorship. I have a proven academic record in my junior school, New Hope Education Centre where I was School President in Yr 8 and 9. I scored 64/72 points (A+) in my Kenyan Junior School entrance exams. In 3 years, you won't just have paid a girl's school fees, you will have paid for a future female Endocrinologist. I have clear visions of mentoring others. Sponsoring me would be like investing in a business, one that will thrive and return a profit. I am not only asking for fees but for a chance to break the cycle of poverty for my family and inspire other girls through the Science pathway. I humbly request your support so I can stay in school. Thank you in advance. **Hellen Minayo,***

*PS I am thrilled to report that, just before going to print, Hellen received confirmation of a sponsorship. Many NHEC students find they are unable to continue their education after completing Yy 9 at New Hope due to lack of school fees. **(Janet)***



Janet and Mark Thornthwaite are partners with Global Development Group (Brisbane) endeavouring to support the children and families in Soweto, Kenya through school sponsorship and other basic needs through the New Hope Education Centre.

All enquiries can be directed to Janet on 0438 606319 or janet_thornthwaite@bigpond.com or through our website:

newhopeeducationcentre.org



Providing a meal for New Hope children

Letter from Deputy Head Teacher Geoffrey Okello, (standing bottom right photo)

"I take this opportunity to say how much we appreciate the efforts you are making on our behalf. This is being felt every day by our learners and teachers. God is answering our prayers for we are now able to provide lunch each day for more children because of the recent support we have received. We are still praying for more donors and sponsors so that we can feed every child at school". (Of the 270 enrolments, there are still over 100 children who are not receiving a meal at lunch time. JT)

Photo right: A pre school child is receiving a small carton of milk having been regarded as very undernourished. This support is due to the MILK Supplement program. Eight children are now able to benefit from receiving milk three times a week.

Other photos: These children receive a plate of rice and beans each day due to sponsorship or other donations. JT



"We are praying that God will touch more hearts in Australia through this newsletter to help our children. (Edward).

These are many ways you can help New Hope children and their families who live in the Soweto slums in Nairobi:

- * Help provide more children with a daily lunch.
- * Sponsor another child so they too can come to school each day without being sent home to get school fees.
- * Support the FOOD BANK OR MILK SUPPLEMENT program so more children and families can receive a basic food supplies from time to time.
- * Help a student, who has completed Yr 9 at New Hope, to continue their education through Senior High School, Yrs 10 - 12.
- * Give to the Fish Farm project...an investment that will supply fingerlings to the new fish cage to generate income for long term sustainability of the school.
- * Give to the New Hope Technical Institute building program, which will teach students agriculture and other technical skills.
- * You can donate directly through our website or for more information, please phone Janet on 0438 606319 or email janet_thornthwaite@bigpond.com

THANK YOU!

"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Galatians 6:9