

HOLIDAY GREETINGS!



DECEMBER, 2015

The holidays are a time when we pause to reflect and give thanks for the many blessings in our lives. We let those dear to us know just how much we love them with gifts, warm embraces and words of gratitude. We, the Graceworks Board of Directors, want you to know we count you among our blessings and are exceedingly thankful for your support.



**GRACEWORKS Board of Directors:
Dr. Susan Njemanze, Alison Conard,
Jacqueline Adams MSW,
Jay Bauman DDS, Mary Salgado,
Robert Meaux, Robin Lyall,
Sharon Portman, Dr. Darrell Dudley**



All our supported children in Kenya also send greetings and gratitude. Here are some letters from a few of the older students.

Graceworks Friends. Receive many greetings. I wish to thank you for giving me hope that I had none before. I had no parents and you became my parents. You've made me what I am today and what I'll be in the future. Thank you for supporting me in my education. I am currently pursuing a diploma in Tourism and Hospitality) at Rwika Technical Institute. I work hard day and night to succeed in society and maybe in future to be helpful to my community. E.N. (18)

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for all the things you have done for the Graceworks children. You have catered for our needs since we joined this humble family. May the almighty God bless you abundantly. I finished secondary school with a passing grade. I thank you because I studied without problems as my school needs were catered for by you. I am now waiting university admission. I am grateful because Graceworks supports each and every one of us to achieve our dreams and no dream is too small. I promise to make you proud.

L.W. (19)

I thank God for giving me this opportunity to write this letter. I am good in both health and mood. I would like to thank Graceworks for supporting me until I graduated secondary school. I would like to go on with my education in college so that I can achieve my goals in future. As we know, we are being helped to be a blessing to others. I would also like to support others like you have done to me. D.M. (22)

Graceworks. Mine is to express enormous gratitude toward the good job that you are doing to me as your child. To start with, I wish to inform you that I am taking a course in plumbing at Rwika Technical Institute. Currently I am doing all I can to make ends meet to make sure that your effort is never wasted. I'm happy to inform you that am almost coming to the end of the tunnel. I really appreciate your efforts and may God bless you heavily. I believe you invested your resources in good hands. Thank you. K.M. (20)



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With Success Come Challenges.....

When Graceworks was founded 12 years ago in response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the orphans and vulnerable children we were helping were very young. Most were primary school age, and therefore it was relatively inexpensive to assist them with school fees, and other basic needs.

As time has passed, and thanks in part to the excellent support, encouragement, and guidance provided by our Kenya staff, most of the children have continued to grow up and remain in school, against all odds. Many are now in secondary schools and colleges. We have also graduated some who have gone on to lead successful lives. What an awesome thing!

The challenge we now face, however, is that it has become increasingly difficult to keep up with secondary and post secondary funding support for our assisted orphans and vulnerable children in Kenya.

While the cost per student per year for a primary school child in our program is only approximately \$600, the cost jumps to \$1,200 a year for a secondary school child, and for a college student, it is between \$1,800 and \$2,500 per year. At Graceworks, we believe that it would

At Graceworks, we make a promise...

be tragic if we were to nurture the potential in these needy children when they are younger only to dash their hopes of continuing their education when older when it could give them a better shot at a more hopeful future. **To meet this challenge, we now have a post secondary scholarship program.**

At Graceworks, we make a promise to the orphans and vulnerable children we assist that if they persevere and stay in school, we will do our very best to help them achieve their dreams.

This holiday season, you can help us keep this promise. By making a donation, you give a gift that keeps on giving.

GRACEWORKS USA LOCAL OUTREACH

In keeping with our mission of providing broad-based assistance and support to orphans, vulnerable children and youth, Graceworks reaches out to needy children in Kinship Foster care in Orange County, California. We provide assistance with food, clothing, shoes, school supplies and other support. Graceworks also hosts special events, especially around the holidays, and provides gifts for affected children and families in collaboration with individuals, churches, busi-



nesses, civic groups, and other charitable organizations.

What is Kinship Foster Care?

Kinship Foster Care is defined as "residential care of children by relatives." There are an estimated 63,000 children living in Orange County being raised by relatives. A majority of these are with grandparents who range in age

from 55-75, most on a fixed income.

How do children end up in Kinship Foster Care?

When families experience a crisis that results in the absence or incapacity of parents, many children end up in

foster care, with relatives, or with single parents who struggle to care for them. This is because we no longer have orphanages in the United States. Children can also end up in Kinship Foster Care due to issues of abuse, neglect or abandonment by their parents.

For more information on this special local program or how to become involved, please contact us at info@graceworksproject.org.

"Family is the most important thing in the world."

– Princess Diana

The Year in Review: 2015 Updates

In January the new school year began for Graceworks assisted children in Kenya. Among them were 10 students who had graduated from primary to secondary schools. The program Social Worker met with all the children before they reported to their respective schools for a congratulatory message, encouragement and briefings on what is expected of them while in secondary school. The children were very happy and very thankful for the support and in return promised to do their best in school to shape their lives and their future.



Counseling the new Secondary school kids



Transport to the secondary schools



In April, the Kenya program celebrated the 11th year anniversary with food, fun and motivational speeches for the children by community volunteers.



In July, Graceworks president, Dr. Susan Njemanze, visited Kenya to check on the progress of the program there. She spent much of the time meeting with older youth, encouraging them.



P.O. Box 1239
Anaheim, CA 92815

- **Sponsor a child.** Sponsorships start at \$50 per child per month.
- **Become a Graceworks Hope Network Hero.** By committing to a specific **monthly** gift amount, you can help us reach out to more orphans, vulnerable children and youth providing resources and services.
- **Volunteer your time and talents:**
Locally in Orange County and internationally



To donate, please send a check to: Graceworks, P.O. Box 1239, Anaheim, CA. 92815. You can also give through PayPal on our website: www.graceworkshopenet.org. All donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by IRS regulations.

The Year in Review continued

In September, Graceworks USA held its annual “A Little Bit of Africa” Fundraiser event at the Wyndham Hotel in Garden Grove, California. The highlight of the evening was hearing the very touching stories of newly sponsored children from their sponsors.



Some of our sponsors share the children’s stories and their sponsorship journey.



Attendees mingle, chat, and bid on silent auction items in the foyer.

The generosity of our wonderful attendees made for a very successful event. Besides raising money for another year of support for our children, we were also able to raise almost all of the funds needed to complete our water well project in Rwika, Kenya, which will bring clean water to the village.

In October, the Graceworks USA Local Outreach Program in collaboration with Olive Crest and Thrivent, held a respite event for Orange County Kinship caregivers at St. John’s Lutheran church in Orange. The caregivers dropped the children off for a few hours so they could run errands or rest. Our volunteers had a great time with the children and at the end, each child received a special toy.

