



May 2007

Reach-Out OVC Centre News

Volume 2, Issue 1

Reach-Out Programs

Nutrition

- Food Baskets
- Day Care Porridge

Education

- Day Care Center
- Secondary School sponsorships
- New Dr. El Hefni School on site
- Vocational Training

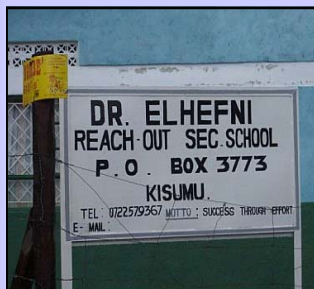
Health Care

- Health Clinic
- Home-Based Care
- Safe Water Program

Income-Generating

- Kitchen Gardens
- Community Water

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The Kenyan Ministry of Education has approved and recognized the school.

A Message from the Director , Hezekiah Bunde

It gives me great pleasure to once again pay special tribute to our sponsors for the achievement we have made in the past 6 months.



Today Reach-out stands as a pillar of hope to the residents of Kochieng west in Kisumu – Kenya, where once orphans could not access secondary education, health care, safe water and shelter.

The achievements that are witnessed in the Community today have been as result of the commitment and dedication of our sponsors. It remains true that the intervention of our USA sponsors both at individual and corporate level has made a great difference to the lives of the OVC'S (orphaned and vulnerable children) in Kochieng West.

Over the past six months we have seen the completion of the new school block which was officially opened & dedicated to the community by Dr. Martha Rogers on 25th February 2007.

Thanks to the Technical Training Foundation for making this happen.

The school, which until November last year was housed in tinny old iron sheet rooms with a population of 21 students is currently the talk in the community. The population has grown to 80 as of the beginning of February 2007. We hope that the school will continue to increase access to Secondary education to many OVC'S within the Kochieng Community. The Ministry of Education has approved and recognized the School.

It is indeed good news that the 11 students that started the school have remained to witness the transition - with none of the first seven girls getting pregnant. Our students have con-

stantly participated in inter-school exams and they ranked well.

I would also like to assure our sponsors that we will remain committed to our objectives while maintaining high level transparency in our deeds and procurements. We acknowledge dearly the participation and contribution of our individual sponsors and the Technical Training Foundation and wish to encourage them to continue supporting Reach-out.

Thank you all for your kind support and feel most welcome to visit Reach-Out at any time you wish.

From the desk of
Hezekiah Bunde



The student body of the new Dr. El Hefni Reach-Out Secondary School. Dr Pamela McQuide and Reach-Out Director Hezekiah Bunde are on the far left.

An Interview with Mrs. Isabella Mbai of Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya



Mrs. Mbai instructs a group at the Reach-Out campus.

Reach-Out extends its deepest thanks to Mrs. Mbai and the faculty and students of Moi University.

Mrs. Mbai and her colleagues have supported the growth and development of the programs at Reach-Out in ways that have made invaluable differences to the community!



Moi students work on site at Reach-Out.

Mrs. Isabella Mbai is the head of the Department of Nursing Sciences in the School of Medicine at Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya. Mrs. Mbai has been a supporter of Reach-Out since 2005 and has coordinated numerous efforts to support the growth of Reach-Out by involving Moi students and faculty in Reach-Out's program development.

Mrs. Mbai has kindly taken time from her schedule to take part in a long-distance interview. You'll read below some of her thoughts on Reach-Out and her dreams for the future of the program and others like it.

How did you first learn about the work at Reach-Out?

I learnt of Reach-Out through Pamela McQuide during a discussion with her. She then invited me to meet other visitors from the US who were coming to Reach-Out.

When did you first visit Reach-Out and what were your initial reactions?

I first visited Reach-Out in June 2005; I was very impressed and appreciative of what was going on. The initiative to help these orphans was a touching and hearty move. I was quite challenged.

Reach-Out has been called unique in its approach to meeting the needs of its orphaned & vulnerable children. In what ways do you see Reach-Out as unique?

It's unique in the sense that children are left in their home environment, yet cared for by the program. They continue being part of the community they come from. The care offered is quite comprehensive to include food basket provision, education, health care, guiding and counseling services, safe water and sanitation and of course vocational training.

What are the most critical needs you see Reach-Out meeting?

The most critical needs met by Reach-Out are meeting of basic needs and education.

How have you seen Reach-Out prepare its children for future roles in life & in the community?

The preparation is quite evident; especially preparing them to be responsible and fruitful citizens by providing an enabling environment. Problem-based learning approach (to be used in the home schooling program) will also prepare them in problem-solving.

Please briefly describe the connections between Moi University & Reach-Out.



Mrs. Isabella Mbai (center) visiting the Reach-Out community. She is accompanied by one of the home schoolers and a Reach-Out staff member.

Moi University will offer the following expertise to Reach-Out:

- Reach-Out Program monitoring and evaluation
- Secondary school curriculum development for problem based learning
- Health care services provision
- Enhancing the HIV/AIDS prevention program
- Staff development and training
- Community teaching/education and service
- Proposal writing and development
- Connection with potential donors and well wishers
- Expertise to expand this approach to other communities, regions, and countries

By doing so, Moi Students are incorporated into the project and gain expertise in their area of interest.

Do you have any future visions for Reach-Out or comparable programs that you could share?

{I'd like} to see the program duplicated in other areas with similar needs. The current program should expand to provide more training opportunities to the students.

Any final comments?

God rewards good-heartedness. Let's keep on empowering these children. The future of our generation lies in children.

This is a poem written by a Reach-Out secondary student.

It was presented at the school blessing for the **Dr. El Hefni Reach-Out Secondary School**.

The poem is typed exactly as the student wrote it and gives us insight into the emotions and depth of grief felt by a newly orphaned child of Kisumu.

You Left Me Dad

Anonymous

God, My dear God,
Why should something happens to me my Lord,
Last year,
Not long ago,
Memory still linger my head,
Still fresh like a morning dew on grass
Long, but not long ago.

I was the one who held her hand on burial day,
Weeping, weeping helplessly,
Her eye's sore and red shot,
As she recalls her last and the only parent gone,
Weep not child, weep not,
Papa is only going to rest,
After along struggle with the monsters.

The reverend stands,
Gives his sermon.
The home was a bee hive.
People in, people out.
Promises , vows, and pledges.
Made by uncle Ben and aunt Kezia.

Finally the box containing Dad
Is painfully lowered in the grave.
Painfully it's painful and painful.
Planted six feet underground.
Go Papa, rest in peace and remember to greet
Mama.

I remember uncle Ben on the burial day.
He promised to take me to school.
Have you forgotten uncle Ben?
Didn't you say I'll not sleep hungry?
It is now three days uncle,
I have not eaten anything.
A stupid Buserd is my new name.
A street King chokoraa,
A sugar licking cockroach,
A constant bedwetter.
A stupid bustard and all that.
I am innocent uncle, I didn't choose to be an orphan.
A dredded monster now
Uncle, help the helpless orphans
And God will reward you.



Reach-Out programs offer hope and the opportunity for a future to the orphaned and vulnerable children of Kisumu.



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A program supported by
Task Force For Child Survival & Development
750 Commerce Drive
Suite 400
Decatur, GA 30030
www.taskforce.org/reachout.asp

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Restoring Hope to Orphans and Vulnerable Children

- **Children in Reach-Out community: 325**
- **Children currently supported: 265**
- **Children who need sponsors: 60**



Our next issue will feature:

*Details of the PBL educational system.
Updates on water, health & nutrition programs.*

Eight new homes were built for orphaned or vulnerable children this year because of generous donations from Reach-Out supporters. Thank you!



**Your letters
open the world
to your
sponsored child.**

Please email or write!

Reach-Out OVC Center
Child's Name
PO 3773-4010
Kisumu, Kenya

reachout5@yahoo.com

Sponsorship Opportunities & Renewals

You can change a Life!

Sponsorship for one child costs only \$250 per year.

This \$250 will provide a child with the following:

- A blanket
- A mosquito net
- Two school uniforms
- A nutritious food basket every 2 weeks.
- Access to safe water, health care & educational opportunities.

You will receive a photograph & letter from the child you sponsor.

Make your sponsorship check payable to "**Task Force for Child Survival & Development**" and send it **Attn: Reach-Out** to the Task Force address above.

There are many giving opportunities outside of child sponsorships. For additional information about ways you can help Reach-Out please call 919-380-9107 or 404-583-3520.

The Task Force is a tax-exempt non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the state of Georgia for purpose consistent with section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. As such, your contribution is tax deductible. Our tax ID number is 58-16986648.

A heartfelt thanks !

Our thanks go to **Make An Impression, Inc.** of Cary, NC for its generous contribution toward the printed copies of the newsletter.



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