



February 2006

Reach-Out OVC Centre *News*

Volume 1, Issue 2

Education Goals at Reach-Out:

- To provide day care and learning opportunities for the pre-school children.
- To support the primary school pupils by providing uniforms, school supplies, food, shelter and other basic needs.
- To provide the opportunity for secondary education for those who have successfully completed their primary education - either by sponsorships to public secondary schools or through the alternative on-site school at Reach-Out.



Look inside for Rachael's story! (pictured far left)

Reach-Out Students:

- Day Care children: 169 (some children attend from outside the community)
- Primary students: 253
- Secondary students in public school: 11
- Secondary students in Reach-Out's alternative "Home School": 9

From the Desk of Hezekiah Bunde Nyaranga

"Education is the key to life!" This statement would always be rekindled in my mind whenever I walk along the humble village and see young children taking shelter from the hot sun under the simple roof they have for a house.

"Why are you not in school?" I would ask. "Since Dad and Mom passed away, we can't go to school because we don't have uniforms, books, pens and someone to take care of our younger brother & when we go to school and come back home in the evening, we go without food and water because no one is left at home to find some." "I passed my Class Eight exams and joined secondary school, but was sent back home because I could not raise the school fees."

Such are the answers and they would leave me tongue tied, unable to ask any further, because I am helpless too. "So they have lost their 'key to life!'" I wonder to myself.

In Kenya, the number of AIDS orphans has grown enormously and accelerates daily. Education, health care

services, adequate shelter, food and safe water become almost impossible to come by. Many OVCs end up dropping out of school to go out to look for survival means for themselves and their siblings or dying parents.

In May 2004 in response to this challenge, Reach-Out began the 'Home Schooling' program & also a program to support the OVCs in the regular school.

I must concede that this



The children of Reach-Out's Day Care Centre — many in blue uniforms sewn by participants in the Vocational Training program.

Those who are lucky to complete their Primary education cannot proceed to Secondary schools, where the situation is even worse, for they now have to pay tuition fees .

The situation is saddening since with this trend the society becomes a sick and hopeless one.

program has been on its feet because of you, our supporters. Without your support; in material, in encouragement and in prayers we would be hands tied now.

Finally, we in Reach-Out do and will continue to pray for you our supporters and well-wishers. Pray for us too. We both need strength and the will to persevere in this noble duty.

God bless you all and we wish you a happy & prosperous 2006.

Hezekiah Bunde Nyaranga
Program Director



"Home School" students at their desks in the alternative secondary education site sponsored by Reach-Out.

Reach-Out celebrates Christmas!



Plenty of food for all!



Drama & Poetry

“It was a golden chance for them and they all turned in great strength and vigour for the occasion.”



Fellowship & Fun

An Education Overview at Reach-Out

The improvement of access to basic education is one of the core functions of the Reach-Out program.

While primary education is now publicly funded by the Kenyan government (new within the last 3 years), students are still required to provide uniforms & school supplies in order to attend school.

If a child completes grades 1-8, he may then sit for the Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE). A student is invited to attend a local secondary school (comparable to American high school) based on his score on this exam—and most critically, based on an ability to pay.

Many children in the Reach-Out community were being forced

to forego education. Lack of ability to pay for uniforms, school supplies and later, tuition, made education an unreachable dream for many children in the community.

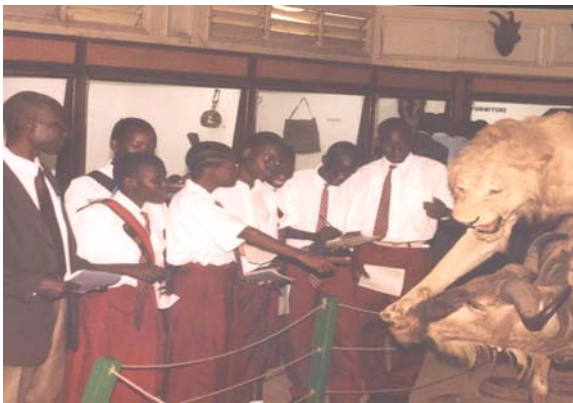
The loss of parents forced a number of young students into a role as “head of household”. Even as a primary-aged student, a child might be forced to remain at home to care for his orphaned younger siblings, providing for survival needs such as food & shelter.

Reach-Out has worked to address these challenges in several ways. Reach-Out’s Day Care Centre provides child care & nutritional support for young children, many of whom have older

siblings who are then freed to go to primary school.

The individual sponsorship program provides each child with 2 school uniforms & school supplies, thus allowing a child to stay in primary school. Tuition sponsorships provide tuition for qualified secondary students enabling them to attend public school. And finally, the alternative “Home School” program at the Reach-Out site gives motivated students the opportunity for self-guided study, practical vocational experiences & the hope of sitting for university entrance exams one day.

Thanks to your help, Reach-Out is opening the door to education to many children who once had no hope of greater learning.



“Home School” students with a volunteer teacher on a field trip to a local museum.

A Christmas Celebration at Reach-Out!

Thanks to the generosity of Reach-Out friends, sponsors & the Kenyan Community Abroad, the entire Reach-Out community celebrated the Christmas holiday with fun & feasting!

All the Reach-Out OVC’s along with 127 other children from the general community gathered at the Center on December 26th for an all day affair ! Everyone ate his fill and then enjoyed songs, poetry & dramatic presentations. The day ended with a great game of soccer for all the children.

Reach-Out distributed food baskets to the OVC’s to take home as the party ended.

Besides the children, other notable guests included a program director from a project in Uganda similar to Reach-Out, local priests, pastors, school heads, village chiefs & community elders.

Pictures to the left give a glimpse of the happy day!

Late Breaking News!

Thanks to an incredibly generous donation made at the end of 2005, Reach-Out now has its own source of fresh, clean water—a new well was drilled this month on the Reach-Out site. The first test of the bore-hole produced 40,000 liters of water in one afternoon—all of which was freely distributed to the community.

More next newsletter!

“As a public health professional, one of the most cost effective & life saving interventions possible is to provide safe water {for a community}”



In Their Own Words.... Reach-Out "Home School" Students Write

The students of the **Reach-Out** "Home School" Program were asked to write a description of their lives before **Reach-Out** & their dreams today. These papers will appear in this & subsequent newsletters. Following is the first, by Rachel Ochare:



I'm **Rachel Ochare**, aged 18 years old and a Home-schooling student from Reach-out. I'm the sixth born in a family of eleven siblings, 7 boys and 4 girls. I'm the eldest sister.

My Mum died in 1998 when I was 9 years old and in class 3. Though still young, I was forced to think as an adult for I had to assume the responsibilities of a mother in the house. My father was already bedridden by then. My life took a different turn and every moment seemed to be pushing me into an early grave.

My Dad passed on 2 years later when I was in class 5. My elder brothers, confused by the situation, became careless and irresponsible. I became the Mother and the Father of my younger siblings. I got an informal job at the neighbourhood that earned me Kshs. 50 (US\$ 0.6) per day. I did the work and going to school at the same time.

I almost missed my final exams in Primary school because I could not raise the money for registration. A volunteer however saved the situation. I passed with flying colours but welcomed all with tears of sorrow for I thought I had no step ahead.

I thought of several bad ideas; getting married off, being a prostitute or to commit suicide, but the thought of my younger siblings settled my mind. I envied my former rival classmates walking to school in nice dresses while I was overwhelmed with 'parenting' at 14 years. Oh my! I got another job at a hotel that earned Kshs. 70 (US\$ 0.9) per day. I however kept on thinking about my education.

One day I was seated outside our hut around 7:30 am when I saw 2 gentlemen coming through our gate. They reached where I was and after exchanging greetings they asked me my name, about my siblings, our life and about my education and dreams.

I saw some light at the end of the tunnel when the gentlemen told that they would like help get for us somebody to provide our basic needs and education. They took our names and told me to go with

them to show me where I would get my education. We reached a place with a simple structure where I was told I would join the Home schooling programme. I didn't understand the meaning of Home schooling but got an explanation from one of the gentlemen, who brought me here; whom I later learnt was the Coordinator of **Reach-Out** programme, Mr. Hezekiah Nyaranga. I joined the Home schooling and met two girls who were in the same situation as I. I was determined to learn and get what I want, now that I had the chance and my siblings were catered for by the Reach-out in the household where we were adopted.

Home schooling is an interesting kind of education. I enjoy it very much. My favourite subjects are Languages and Sciences. I would like to be a Journalist in future. I want to join Ohio University in Hawaii for my career studies. I have seen the state in one of the world maps that Hezekiah brought us and I would like to go there for my University degree.

I always pray for Mr. Hezekiah and our Sponsors that God may bless them all. Above all, my Hero is Pam McQuide.



Odhiambo Lago Hezekiah
TOP PUPIL
Alendu School



Omongo Anyango Diana
TOP GIRL
Migingo School



Okello Amondi Nancy
Second GIRL
Nyamware School



Andeso Atieno Everline
Fourth GIRL
Nyamware School



Okal Anyango Jane
Sixth GIRL
Migingo School

Congratulations to Reach-Out Children Excelling in Kenyan National Exams!

A number of orphans & vulnerable children under the support of **Reach-Out** were among the candidates that sat for the 2005 Kenya National exams at the end of their Primary education. To receive a Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) & be eligible for admission to Secondary school, students must pass tests in the areas of English, Kiswahili, Math, Science, Geography, History, Civics & Religion.

The five **Reach-Out** supported children pictured to the right received his/her KCPE with honours! Our congratulations to all the students for their diligence & hard work!

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A program supported by

Task Force For Child Survival & Development
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Reach-Out Advisory Board

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Peggy Hart, Treasurer/Sponsorship Coordinator

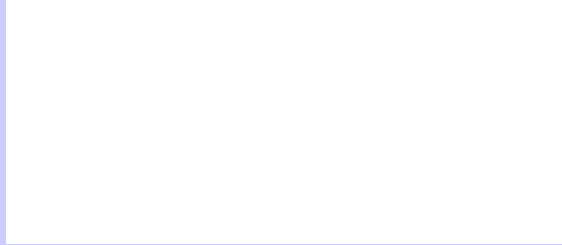
Phone: 1-770-971-6249

Beth Radcliff, Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Phone: 1-704-948-0949

Restoring Hope to Orphans and Vulnerable Children

- *Children in Reach-Out community: 347*
- *Children currently supported: 283*
- *Children who need sponsors: 64*



Our next issue will feature:

**A new water source at Reach-Out!
And more on education .**

One Reach-Out OVC sponsorship provides an orphan or vulnerable child with:

- One blanket
- One mosquito net
- Nutritious supplements every 2 weeks
- Two school uniforms
- Access to safe water
- Access to health clinic
- Access to day care or education

Your letters open the world to your sponsored child. Please write!

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

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. And you'll have the opportunity to

communicate with your child throughout the year! 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 770-971-6249.

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©(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 so generously donating the printed copies of November's newsletter.



Reach-Out Programs

Nutrition

- Food Baskets
- Porridge

Education

- Day Care Center
- Secondary School sponsorships
- Home-Schooling
- Vocational Training

Health Care

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

Income-Generating

- Kitchen Gardens
- Community Well