

# Creation of Hope

Sponsors Newsletter | January 2021

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Greetings, Creation of Hope Sponsors and Supporters! Warmest wishes to you all as we immerse in a new year and continue the COVID journey - an experience like no other, impacting us all.

Indeed, none of us are clear on where we are going, what route we will take, how many steps are required or how long until the end goal. But we do know that we are relying on a unified and sincere effort from each one of us and God's grace to get us to the end.

Creation of Hope has been impacted by COVID in many ways. Our residents were locked down for eight months and are now just starting to return to school. All Kenyans are living through many restrictions. We have lost sponsors who were no longer able to support the children at this time. Others have had their hearts opened to generously support special projects such as the residence playground and the over-used van's much-needed repair.

As the Canadian founders and partners, Eric and I are happy to share news and updates with you from time to time in this Creation of Hope newsletter. As the charity Hope Story oversees the outreach to the children, other updates and communications come directly from this important partner. Both are valuable in sharing news, sharing stories, and seeking connections and support! Please read and enjoy!

## Pizza Party

Over the more than 12 years of operation, Ruth Kyatha, the program manager, has hosted over 100 Canadian visitors to her home and the Creation of Hope residence. Visitors have stayed for the afternoon or up to a month! In 2018, Creation of Hope supporter Koko Saar, her mother, and sister stayed in Ruth's home for over a week and shared time with the children. They even hunted down the ingredients and baked pizzas for the kids - a food the kids were unfamiliar with but certainly enjoyed!

Last fall, Koko funded a "pizza party" for the children, and they loved the special treat. It sounds as if this is on its way to becoming an annual affair.

*Thank you, Koko, for buying us pizza!*



## COVID Update and School Uniforms

COVID has had an impact in Kenya as around the world. Given the differences in climate, living conditions, and health care in Kenya, it is challenging to truly share with you information about case numbers and waves the way we are used to hearing it here at home. Here is a COVID update in Ruth's own words:

*"COVID-19 has dealt us a hard hand in this country, as everywhere else. Schools were closed in mid-March. In October, some children went back to school, and this January, everyone else has returned to class. The government has said that there is no going back to school closures. That makes me happy because it means the children can advance towards their goals. But this situation will only be maintainable if there are no threats to the children in learning institutions. We are praying for grace in all this. Things have relaxed some, but the disease is still here."*

Creation of Hope has seen some return to a previous routine with school resuming - children leave the property on a daily "hike" navigating the mountainous paths to their local school. But Ruth also reports on a unique situation due to the months of limited activity:

*"The long stay at home has caused a hilarious situation. Our children eat well and have had less movement [without their daily hikes to school]. As a result, most of them cannot fit in their uniforms."* Of course, children have also been out of school for a year, and some have had a growth spurt!

When I have recently shared this with others, the initial reaction is smiles and amusement as people think of slender well-exercised orphans putting on weight!

But the reality of this situation translates into the need to replace school uniforms for almost all children - a cost which accounts to more than the budget has allotted! What a hilarious situation indeed!

If you can relate to this unique need and wish to identify a special donation for yourself or someone you know to go to school uniforms for the children, please, please reach out. This is a unique one time need, as was the playground and the van repair - and we are so very appreciative of generous and tender hearts that have reached out to meet the children's needs. Thank you.



## Outfit a child for school

UNIFORM

\$20



SCHOOL SWEATER

\$10



SOCKS AND SHOES

\$25



HopeStory

Make a donation for individual items or provide a child with a complete school outfit for \$55



1-866-839-5437 or visit [hopestory.ca/donate](https://hopestory.ca/donate)



## Annual Christmas celebration with a twist

Usually, each year, Christmas brings a big gathering and meal at the Creation of Hope residence. It is a true celebration. As in Canada, the government told Kenyans to avoid gatherings this year. And so instead, vans headed out in different directions in the Mbooni district. Bags of food, and gifts of clothing and shoes were distributed to all the orphans and vulnerable children living with caregivers or relatives. Pictures for each sponsored child were taken "on location."

Thank you to our donors and sponsors who so generously and faithfully donate funds year after year to help make Christmas special for these vulnerable children. You will soon be receiving annual photos of your sponsored child either from Kay Mutinda, who assists or from Hope Story directly.



## Photos

Photos tell such a great story! Hopefully, long-term sponsors have kept a file of the images shared over the years. One can see the growth, the changes, the thriving and the care that these children have received. They are reflections of generosity and love.

To assist you with a record of photos, Hope Story just recently introduced child sponsors to new shared online folders where you will now have access to past images and, moving forward, videos from the children!



Juliet then and now!



Eric in his Christmas clothes in 2013  
and, thriving 7 years later in 2020!

## Gratitude

We are really grateful that we can share updates on the program. We are really grateful for Ruth and her son Kioko and many dedicated staff who have cared for the children so faithfully during this time. We are really grateful that we have Hope Story to partner with and support the entire program's operation. And we are really grateful to you, our sponsors, our donors, our Creation of Hope family for caring, donating, sharing, and giving.

COVID has been difficult. There have been many challenges. But there have been such warm and touching experiences of caring for the orphans and otherwise vulnerable children at Creation of Hope. Thank you for that!

And thanks be to God for His care, protection, and strength.

Our sincere best wishes to you all as you navigate 2021.

Anita and Eric Walters



Creation of Hope staff

Please contact Maggie at [sponsorship@hopestory.ca](mailto:sponsorship@hopestory.ca) for more information about children in need of an educational sponsor.

## Contact Us



**Ruth Kyatha**  
Kenya – Program Manager  
[rmkyatha@gmail.com](mailto:rmkyatha@gmail.com)



**Eric Walters**  
Canada  
[ericwaltersauthor@gmail.com](mailto:ericwaltersauthor@gmail.com)



**Anita Walters**  
Canada  
[anitaawalters@gmail.com](mailto:anitaawalters@gmail.com)

### Newsletter Team

Editor: Anita Walters  
Designer: Maggie Grift

### Our Canadian Partner:



Hope Story  
55 Flemming Drive, Unit 3  
Cambridge, ON N1T 2A9

**HopeStory**  
SERVING CHILDREN. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

[sponsorship@hopestory.ca](mailto:sponsorship@hopestory.ca)  
[hopestory.ca](http://hopestory.ca)