

Joining Hearts and Hands

21 Years of Helping African Children

Fall 2025



Joining Hearts and Hands Extends Mission to Pre-Primary

Traditionally JH & H has provided scholarships enabling children to attend high school. This past year we have expanded our program to Olasi, a village in Kisumu, Kenya to pre-primary students (nursery school). Each year we are selecting 10 village children raised in extreme poverty, giving them a tremendous head start in life through quality early childhood education. It is our intention to provide educational assistance to these children as they grow and move through the grades.....until they graduate from high school. The children in the photo above are some of our first students from Our Lady of the Visitation School in Olasi. Don't they look sharp in their new uniforms? Please see inside to see the construction we are doing at this school.

2 Staying With Our Children To Graduation and Beyond



Gillian Awuor Abwao

Shortly after Gillian was accepted into our scholarship program her mother passed away. To say that Gillian was traumatized is an understatement. She was unable to focus on her school work and became severely distraught and depressed. As a result, we engaged counseling services for Gillian and we were able to transfer her to another school closer to her remaining family. Gillian has always been a top student. During this time of grief her school work suffered. Through a lot of support from family and Joining Hearts and Hands we were able to get Gillian back to her old self. At her new school in Eldoret she is **number 1 in her class of 510 students!!!** Her recent letter to her sponsor is so upbeat. She speaks of being chosen for a mathematics competition and enjoying so much the schools annual cultural day where she learned of cultures around the world.

Towards the end of the last school year Emma's school attendance began to slip. As we closely monitor the scholastic progress, physical and emotional well-being of our students, we were becoming worried that Emma was have some sort of problem. As it turns out Emma was very ill. We were able to take her to the health clinic and when things did not improve she was admitted to the hospital for uncertain intestinal issues. Emma tried going back to school but fell more gravely ill. To our shock, Emma passed away on July 24th. Since all of our children come from extreme poverty we made sure that Emma had a proper sendoff and a funeral that her parents could not afford. Emma is an unfortunate example of the difficult lives that our children in Africa face each and every day.



Emma Atieno Magak



Janet Akinyi

We first met Janet Akinyi as a primary student at the first school in Kenya that we offered scholarships to in 2005. We have always kept in contact with Janet over the years, keeping track of her progress and her life in general as we do with as many students of ours as we can. Now in her mid thirties she has a teenage son and still lives in the Maseno community. Having built a relationship with her and many of our students we were able to meet her mother and grandmother in her small village. This past April we were saddened to learn of Janet's mother's passing. Being in a very difficult financial situation we were able to help with the final arrangements. In good times and in bad we at JH &H build relationships that stand the test of time.

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Top of Their Class!!

In order to receive a Joining Hearts and Hands scholarship, students must come from a family in serious financial straights. All of our over 300 scholarship recipients live in homes without electricity, running water or plumbing. Most are made of mud or tin sheets. A great number of our kids are either full or partial orphans. Given these obstacles people often think that children living in these conditions are destined to a difficult life and that education would not be high on their list of priorities. Nothing could be further from the truth!

Of our 60 senior high school students 9 of them are in the top 10% of their class. 4 are in the top 20 and most of our kids are in the top half of their classes. This is no small accomplishment as the classes run anywhere from 200 to 679 students. **Two of our students are # 1 in their class!!** Below are our top 10% scholars! **Congratulations!!!**



Sherile Akinyi



Elvis Otinga



Fred Otieno



Jeldayne Belvine Anyango



Lavender Ayuma



Owen Omwandasi



Patrick Otieno



Rollex Mregu



Donald Omondi

A Very Busy Year And More on the Way



This is the finished product of bathrooms JH&H just completed in Kericho, Kenya. They are located at Kongasis Primary School. We have worked with this community for many years and have completed numerous projects which include solar electrification, water projects, micro-business, kitchen construction and more. Kongasis has 311 pupils and 12 teachers. Kongasis educates 170 boys and 161 girls. Joining Hearts and Hands currently provides 14 high school scholarships to Kongasis graduates.

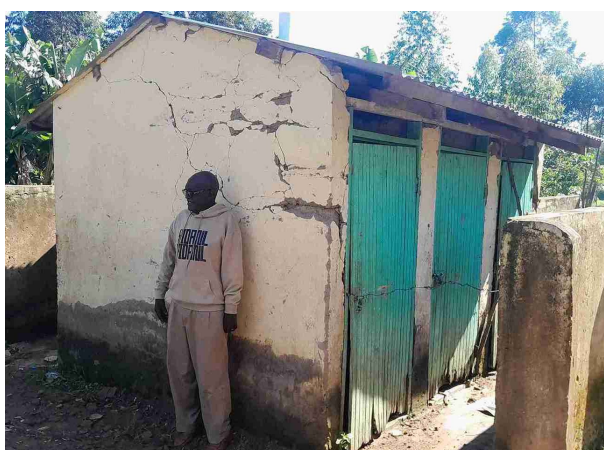
This kitchen was built by Joining Hearts and Hands at St. Dymphna School in Kisumu County. St. Dymphna's is a special school for physically and mentally challenged children. JH&H has provided desks, learning materials and supplies for the children of this school over many years. JH&H is currently providing 20 high school scholarships to this community.



Construction is just beginning at Our Lady of Visitation Pre-Primary School in Olasi district of Kisumu, Kenya. This is a school we have been partnering with for a little over a year. What you see in this photo is the foundation for a toilet complex at the school. This will be our first toilet construction that will have flushing toilets as they have an ample water supply here. The school houses two levels of pre-primary students and will add a grade level each year completing the primary school. JH&H provides 10 primary scholarships at this school.



JH&H just began partnering with Mbaka Oromo Primary school to build a 2 story class complex. Pictured here is head teacher Charles in the first floor area of construction. JH&H has built many classrooms, latrines, a kitchen, an erosion prevention excavation and many other projects over the past 20 years. This building will be completed in the next few months. JH&H currently provides High School scholarships to 29 Mbaka Oromo graduates.



What you are looking at is a latrine block that is falling apart at Emunuku Primary School in Butere, Kenya. JH&H has just committed to construction of 3 new latrine blocks for boys, girls and teachers. Emunuku has 450 students. Imagine the students and teachers having to use what you see! The teachers currently share 2 doors of one of these units with primary students. We will be so happy when we can provide clean and safe facilities for both the students and the teachers.

Future Project?

Joining Hearts and Hands has been empowering women for 20 years: Widows groups in Butere and Homa Bay, Literacy project for women in Butere, computer training for single moms, educating an equal (if not greater) number of high school girls. The list goes on. Awuoth Women was established in 2010. They are a group of 400 women and 100 youth in the Kisumu area. The social enterprise aims to empower the farmers to produce vegetables to increase household income, access to diverse foods and provide food for security. Awuoth has asked JH&H to partner with them and we are currently in discussion with them.



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Please Give Today!

Our tradition is to give gifts on special occasions to let others know we love them and that we are thinking about them. Many times the gift is not needed, but simply a sign of our love. Why not give a gift in the name of your loved one or friend?

Thanks for expressing your love to help save a child in Africa

Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____

Zip _____ **Phone** _____

E-mail _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Please Check

_____ Laptop @ \$250

_____ Water Projects @ \$200

_____ Scholarships @ \$500 per year (3 years)

_____ Eye Clinic @ \$100

_____ Build Classroom @ 10,000



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Donate

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**Joining Hearts and Hands
601 23rd PL SW
Vero Beach, FL 32962**

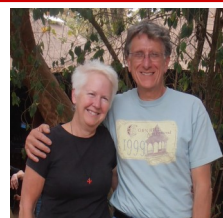
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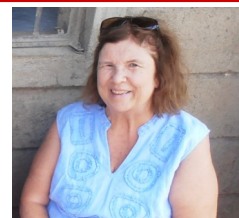
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7 Education is Our Primary Mission

Sponsor a Student Today!

787 Students Have Graduated to Date

BIG CHANGE



Good News!!

The Kenyan government has reconfigured grades. The 9th grade is now a part of the primary schools and no longer a high school class. Subsequently high school is now grades 10 through 12. That means that when sponsoring students your commitment is \$500 for 3 years instead of for 4 years!

Here is what only \$500 per year
provides:

- ♦ A year of High School Education
- ♦ Room and board
- ♦ A life with hope

“Don’t Delay”

You can send a check or pay on line (\$25 on-line fee) at
www.joiningheartsandhands.org



Scholarship students from Lufumbo. Several of the nearly 300 JH&H Students throughout Africa



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Armstrong Juma
JH&H Primary Scholar

WORKING TO IMPROVE LIVES



Tired of buying gifts that no one needs or wants for the holidays?? Why not consider a family donation?
It's a great way to share your love with children in Africa who have so little.

- ♦ Talk to your employers. Since we are a 501 (c) 3 non-profit many companies will provide matching funds.
- ♦ Allocate your Qualified (RMD) Charitable distribution tax-free to Joining Hearts and Hands.



Joining Hearts and Hands is an IRS approved 501 (c) 3 . There are no local personnel costs for **Joining Hearts and Hands**. Bill, Joanne and Marty take no salaries and pay for all of their accommodations and travel expenses both here and in Africa. Your tax deductible gifts go directly to the children.