

GRACEWORKS, KENYA

October 2005

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A note from the “Graceworks” director

Dear friends and supporters,

As I sit down to write this, my birthday is once again only days away. I cannot believe that a year has gone by since last October when my friends and I gathered at Spaghettini’s in Seal Beach to celebrate my fiftieth birthday!. For those of you that are around my age, you know what a milestone that is. Turning fifty highlights one’s mortality and leads to the re-evaluation of one’s life and accomplishments (or lack thereof) up until this point.

For me, this past year has been full of challenges and also some amazing events. One of the more significant events personally included our youngest son turning 18 (officially declaring my husband Richard and I empty nesters). The last year has also seen reports of apocalyptic events around the world including the Tsunami in Asia and Africa, the string of hurricanes hitting the United states gulf coast cities, starvation in Niger and earthquakes in India and Pakistan. HIV/AIDS of course continues to ravage the world, particularly Sub-Saharan Africa where people continue to die in droves, leaving suffering and misery for those left behind.

All these events which have given most of us pause also force us to reexamine our lives and to figure out what is really important.

I just returned from a trip to Kenya to check on the progress of the Graceworks project and to deliver needed supplies to the children including clothing, shoes and school supplies. While there I also helped open the Graceworks Rwika Children’s Centre fulfilling a dream that I have had for a long time. The centre will help centralize provision of services to the children and to the community at large. With all the obvious misery around the world, it is easy to lose hope or to become discouraged. I still believe very strongly that each and every one of us can make a difference by choosing to act in whichever capacity we are able to reach out to someone in need. I am grateful for your continued support as we do our little bit in making a difference in the lives of children that have been orphaned or are otherwise impacted by poverty and HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Sincerely,

Susan Njemanze MSW, L.C.S.W.

Graceworks Kenya Project Director. (714) 932-5425



Susan (kneeling) with the children in Africa

CHRISTMAS IN OCTOBER

On Saturday morning, October 8, 2005, it was as if Christmas had arrived early for some fifty children from Rwika village in Embu, Kenya, as each one went home with armloads of new clothes, shoes, blankets and school supplies. For the children, most of them orphaned by the HIV/AIDS pandemic that is sweeping the continent of Africa, it was a moment of joy in the midst of their perpetually challenging lives. The items were donations from **St. John's Lutheran Church in Orange County, California**, as well as from other supporters of the Giving Hope International's Graceworks Kenya project. The items were delivered to the children by Susan Njemanze, a Social Worker from Anaheim, California who a year ago founded the Graceworks project to help children in rural Africa that have been orphaned or are otherwise impacted by HIV/AIDS pandemic. Working under the auspices of **Giving Hope International**,

a private Christian 501 (c) (3) Non-profit organization located in the city of Buena Park California, Susan raises funds to help maintain the children in their rural communities while making sure that their basic needs such as food, clothing, education and medical care are met. Most of the children served by Graceworks reside in the homes of relatives that are elderly, poor or sick themselves and who would not otherwise be able to care for the children.

During her trip, Susan was also able to help with the opening of a counseling/resource center to be housed in a leased building in Rwika town. The center a renovated shop which has been painted a bright blue-green color will offer a centralized location for provision services to the children, their caregivers and the community at large.

The Children in Africa show off their gifts



!!!!!!!!!!ANNOUNCING!!!!!!!!!!

GIVING HOPE INTERNATIONAL: GRACEWORKS, KENYA PROJECT
RWIKI CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Rwika Children's Centre is a drop in center serving approximately 50 orphaned and impoverished children from the rural community of Rwika, Kenya. The center will provide meals, snacks, tutoring and crisis counseling services to children that range in age from 4-16 years who have been orphaned or are otherwise impacted by HIV/AIDS. The center's model is "*Giving Hope, One by One*" emphasizing the importance of the

person-to person connection which we believe is critical in making a difference in the life of a child, and indeed of the community, since children do not live in a vacuum. The center's goal is to help maintain the children in their community by providing a safe and nurturing oasis of hope where they are mentored and encouraged to succeed despite their dire life circumstances.

Building before renovation as the Graceworks Kenya, Rwika Children's Centre



Below, Susan with friends in front of the newly renovated Centre



GIVING HOPE INTERNATIONAL, GRACEWORKS KENYA PROJECT: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF HIV/AIDS ORPHANS IN AFRICA, ONE BY ONE

The Graceworks Kenya project desperately needs your support in order to continue its work with orphaned and impoverished children in Africa. Some of the more pressing needs include:

- **Funds for tuition assistance (\$ 300.00 pays tuition for a child for one year)**
- **Funds for school supplies and uniforms (\$100.00 per child per year)**
- **Food assistance for the neediest families (\$120.00 a month for a family)**
- **Funds to hire staff (2 staff at \$150.00 per month each)**
- **Funds to fund the annual Christmas party for the children (\$800.00 includes food and presents for each child)**

For more information regarding the Graceworks project, and how you can help, please contact: Susan Njemanze L.C.S.W. GHI/Graceworks Kenya Project Director

Phone: (714) 523-4454 OR (714) 932-5425; **Email:** snjemanze@adelphia.com. You can also Visit the “Giving Hope International” website to find out more about this project.

To support the Graceworks Kenya project, please send donations to:

Giving Hope International
8332 Commonwealth Avenue
Buena Park, California 90621

Please indicate that your donation is for the Graceworks Kenya project

REMEMBER THAT ALL GIFTS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

*A HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW
IT WILL NOT MATTER WHAT MY BANK ACCOUNT WAS
THE SORT OF HOUSE I LIVED IN
OR THE KIND OF CAR I DROVE
BUT THE WORLD MAY BE DIFFERENT
BECAUSE I WAS IMPORTANT
IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD*

(Author unknown)

**Enclosed is my gift of \$_____ for the Giving Hope International
(Graceworks Kenya project)**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone : _____

Email address: _____