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## GRACEWORKS, KENYA

Making a Difference in the Lives of HIV/AIDS orphans in Africa, One by One

FEBRUARY 2006

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### A NOTE FROM THE GRACEWORKS KENYA DIRECTOR:

*Dear friends and supporters,*

*Greetings and a very happy new year to you all!*

*You are receiving this letter because you have supported the Graceworks Kenya program in the past. I am writing to update you on the progress of the program and also to let you know about some very exciting opportunities that have presented themselves for this coming year. The next year promises to see a level of maturing for the program as well as open doors for collaboration with other organizations, churches and individuals who have chosen to answer the call to respond to the HIV/AIDS pandemic that continues to ravage much of the continent of Africa.*

*As the Graceworks Kenya program approaches its second year anniversary (April 27, 2006) I wish to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for your past and continued support for the program on behalf of all the children and families in Kenya that have benefited from your generosity. Please continue to hold the Graceworks program up in your prayers, that God may provide the resources needed to sustain it.*

*Sincerely,*

*Susan Njemanze MSW, L.C.S.W., Graceworks Kenya Program Director*

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### ONGOING PROJECTS:

Approximately thirty children and their caregivers in the rural community of Rwika, Kenya are currently receiving services through projects supported by the Graceworks Kenya program. ***There are also over 60 children on a wait list due to scarcity of resources.*** Giving Children Hope Kenya, the Community Based Organization (CBO) that is located in the area served by Graceworks has continued to implement the projects mostly with the help of community volunteers. The Graceworks Kenya program works to help promote the physical, emotional, spiritual, educational and developmental growth needs of children in the area that have been orphaned or are otherwise impacted by the HIV/AIDS pandemic by supporting the following activities for the children:

- *Access to emergency food/clothing*
- *Access to education (by providing fees and supplies as needed)*
- *Access to medical care*
- *Counseling/emotional support.*

### NEW PROJECT:

**A Community Resource Center:** In September 2005, the GHI/Graceworks Kenya program, helped open a community resource center in Rwika town as one of the Graceworks projects. The Rwika Children's Centre is a drop in center serving approximately 50 orphaned and impoverished children from the rural community of Rwika and surrounding villages. The center provides emergency supplies, snacks, and crisis counseling services to children that range in age from 4-16 years who have been orphaned or otherwise impacted by HIV/AIDS and their caregivers.

### FUTURE PROJECTS:

**Feeding Program:** Recent drought conditions in Kenya have particularly adversely impacted the region served by the Graceworks program. Many children there are literally starving to death. The Graceworks program has been providing some assistance in the area of food distribution to the neediest families but the need exceeds the resources currently available. The GHI/Graceworks Kenya Program is therefore hoping to raise additional funds in order to implement a feeding program for the children. The plan is to give the children a balanced meal at the Rwika Community Resource Center at least twice a week until conditions improve. This will ensure that the neediest children will not succumb to even more health and developmental complications brought on by malnutrition. The

feeding program may be enhanced or discontinued in the future depending on availability of resources and/or if climactic conditions change for the better to where there is sufficient food. It is estimated that feeding program would cost \$5,000 for six months.

**Income Generating Activities:** Currently, the Graceworks Kenya program does not have any income generating activities, however, this is a future goal. There are plans to start a **computer class** at the Community Resource Centre for the children and maybe an Internet café for the community This is seen as a very viable prospect given that many people in the area have never even seen a computer. The Graceworks Kenya program would also like to start a **micro enterprise loan program** for the caregivers to help them generate income for the support of their families.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT:**

The Graceworks Kenya Program continues to need your support in order to be able to fund the various projects aimed at easing the suffering of children in Africa that have been impacted by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. There are many ways that you can get involved. Here are some ideas:

- *Hold a fund raising event in your home, Church or civic organization to benefit Graceworks Kenya*
- *Commit to a monthly pledge of support of \$50, \$100, \$200 or however much your finances allow*
- *Go on a mission trip to Kenya to get a hands on experience of the needs there*
- *Sponsor a child or family (details provided upon request)*
- *Pray for the continued success of the Graceworks Kenya Program*

**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

Our sincere thanks go to all of you who supported the Graceworks Kenya program during this past year. A special shout of appreciation goes out to the following sponsors who made donations of \$500 or more:

St. John's Lutheran Church, Orange  
Saddleback Church, Lake Forest  
Specialty Innovations Inc.

**To support the work of the Graceworks Kenya Program, please send donations to:**

Giving Hope International  
8332 Commonwealth Avenue  
Buena Park, California 90621

*Please indicate that your gift is for the Graceworks Kenya Program.*

*\*\*\*Remember that all gifts to the Graceworks Kenya program 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*