



Huruma Monthly Newsletter

October Edition 2015

In This Edition

- Editors Desk
- Huruma Family News
- Sponsorship Desk
- Volunteer Experience
- Project Updates
- Final Word

A Rainy October.....

The sunshine was good in September but we love the rains too!

Greetings to you our wonderful family in Kenya and all over the world. We hope that the past month has been good for you and that once again our gracious loving Father has enabled you to see yet another new month. We are so excited here at Huruma...you wanna know why? Because Christmas is approaching and oh what a joyful season it will be. But before I get carried away and start singing Christmas carols let's go right into what we have for you in the month of October.

Mama has now come to terms with being a grandmother and is back to business as usual. If you think motherhood is a tough job think about mothering 400 kids! Yeah I know...I still don't know how she does it. Catch Mama's whereabouts in her section From Mama's heart to yours.

This year we've been blessed to have so many volunteer groups come to Huruma. One of them shares their experience with you on our new section titled Volunteer Experience! You too can be part...

So much has been said lately from the sponsorship desk. Every day we strive for opportunities to improve and help our children better. One of the ways we can effectively achieve that is by keeping you informed every step of the way. This month we talk about penpal sponsors vs financial sponsors.

On project updates we are still on Gatune Water Project and we have some exciting progress to share with you so you have not heard enough of this project yet.

Finally, we like to end our newsletter with some food for thought for you. Have you ever found yourself in a situation where your heart is in the right place but you end up doing the complete opposite? What is God saying about the condition of our hearts and pleasing Him instead of our flesh? Hmm...as you keep pondering that let's see what we have in store for you this time around.

Huruma Family: From Mama's Heart to Yours

Beloved Partners and Family of God,

Praise the Lord this new month! I praise Him all the more for the great and wonderful things that He has continued to do. Indeed His faithfulness endures forever. My newly born grandson Joshua is doing well and I am still relishing the joy of being a grandmother. Besides that it's been work..work.. work.. and no rest since I got back from Australia. Motherhood for me is a full time job and my full time joy because I know I am fulfilling the one thing that God created me to do in my lifetime.

My children are all fine no graduations this time but my grade 12 and grade 8 kids transitioned from High school and Primary school to their soon to start next level of academic milestones. So I am a very proud mother this month of 40 grade 12 candidates and 16 grade 8 candidates. I thank God that I returned from Australia in time to at least spend time with grade 8 before they started their examinations including having pizza lunch with them. You know those are moments that are very precious to a mother and I love making my children feel loved and spoilt whenever I am able to.



A group photo with my 2015 grade 12 kids

Although I was away when grade 12 started their examinations I was able to be with them during the transition period to their independent homes thanks to Leigh's Blankies team from Cornerstone which has been facilitating the Transition Program over the years.

I thank God so much for people that God has placed along my call to help me and my children. I believe that when God called me He also called you so you can stand with me in this vision. So the anointing is not just for me but as the cup keeps overflowing each of you taps into the blessing of being among those who stand to be counted as helping the needy and orphaned children under my care.



A group photo with my grade 8 babies

Out of the 40 candidates we successfully transitioned 23 of them comprising of Huruma orphans and a few from needy families who are not able to support them to continue their college education. They will be in this program for the next one year to help them learn life skills, do casual jobs at the Home to earn a living with the sole purpose of preparing them for life outside the comfort of Huruma. I prayed with them in their new homes and gave them my blessing so they are all set to begin life. This is one of the highlight of my moments to see these kids come a mighty long way many times down a broken and dark path and finish strong because hope came to their rescue.

Children Are A Heritage From God

God is so good and only He knows the plans He has for us regardless of where we start.

As the curtains close for the current Transition team who will be joining institutions of higher learning next year I am looking forward to seeing the incoming group make it. I will be sure to keep you posted on their progress.

As the Leigh's Blankies team prepares to leave Huruma having completed their mission

Australians arrive! It's been a full year for us and I thank God for every single blessing of each one of you. You touch my heart in so many ways and you each have a soft spot in my heart and the hearts of my children for sure.

Sending all my love and blessings!

In my heart and prayers,

Mama Zipporah,

Director, Huruma Trust Fund



Leigh's Blankies team with our Transition children



Mama praying with the Transition kids in their new homes

Read more @:<http://leighsblankies.blogspot.com/2015/11/day-5-moving-day-many-prayers-with.html>

Sponsorship Desk: Sponsor Vs Pen pal

Our dear sponsor parents and pen pals,

The word sponsor is a very familiar term at Huruma and our children seem to resonate with it more than any other word perhaps. Which then poses the question who really is a sponsor and who is a pen pal? Is there a difference between the two or are they one and the same thing? The reason why I chose to centre this piece around these two key words is because it's very easy to confuse the two and the ripple effect is very critical especially when a child is involved in that thought process.

At Huruma it's possible to be both but it's also possible to be a pen pal and not a sponsor. The latter can be very confusing because aside from financial support a sponsor is also involved in writing letters to their child on a regular basis as a way of communicating with his/her child. This means that this child could innocently conclude that a pen pal is a sponsor as evidenced by how they commonly refer to this person.

What then are we trying to say to you our valued sponsor?

It's important to distinguish between the two with your child beforehand in order to better enhance your relationship with them. Sometimes it can be progressive in the sense that some sponsor parents may prefer to begin at the pen pal stage then progress to being a sponsor parent. It's equally important to walk through that transition process with your child. In recent past we have had children who have come to us and categorically said that they have a sponsor but when we go back to our records or conduct follow ups we find that the person is a pen pal.

But because our children know that a sponsor writes letters to them they broadly refer to both of them as one-**sponsor**.

We love you sponsor parents and pen pals and so do our children but let's help clear the air for them because at the end of the day they remain our highest priority and we all want nothing but the best for them. This can only be achieved by approaching them with clarity of thought in how we relate to them. We are also encouraging that new sponsor parents be integrated into the system formally through the office via the sponsorship program to facilitate a smooth and coordinated understanding. If you are interested in being a pen pal kindly communicate the same with the office so that it's easy for us to also distinguish that.

We will keep sharing bits and pieces of information that we feel is important with you and the whole idea is to engage you better and start a conversation with each other that will eventually enhance our relationship and partnership with you for the common benefit of our children.

If you have any questions, suggestions or feedback on this piece or any other subject related to sponsorships please write to us on myhurumahome@gmail.com

Until next time whether you are a pen pal or a sponsor.....keep in mind that our call is to become parents to these wonderful children.

God bless you & your families.

Volunteer Experience: Sara Ghali-Board Member, Hope for Huruma Foundation



It's unbelievable to me that I have been in Kenya for 17 days. As the end of my trip draws near I fight sadness. Instead, I'm trying to make the most of every minute of my remaining 4 days at Huruma Children's Home. During this,

my third trip, I have grown to love "my" kids more deeply, have become closer with others, and have begun new friendships with children I've only just met. Truly, I love them all. Each precious face tells a story and if you'll only invest some time and caring they will trust you with it. The stories are all very different but most include significant elements of struggle, rescue, and restored hope.

HOPE. It's why we do what we do at Hope for Huruma Foundation.

For each of its children Huruma Children's Home provides a safe home, a good education, and hope for the future. Its founder, Mama Zipporah, has a vision to do all this and more.

Haven

Huruma is a haven for children who have been abandoned, rejected, or whose parents are unable to provide a safe home for them. At Huruma, I have met HIV positive children driven out of their communities due to the stigma associated with the virus. I have met infants left at the hospital by their ill-prepared young fathers after the death of their mothers during childbirth. I have met teens

left to survive on their own in the slums when family members were no longer able to provide for them. Young abuse and rape victims work to put their lives back together within the walls of Huruma. Offspring of parents whose lives were torn apart during tribal clashes seek shelter there as well. Over two hundred children call Huruma their home and are deeply grateful to Mama Zipporah for taking them in.

Outreach

Mama Zipporah gives jobs to women in need enabling them to care for their children. She goes into the slums to share food with the poorest of the poor and share with them her message of hope. Mama is well-respected in the community and it is not uncommon for residents of her village or police officers from nearby towns to seek her out when there is a child in crisis. I sat next to a Kenyan woman on the airplane from London to Nairobi. She was very familiar with Mama's story and her good works in her country. Mama Zipporah is mother to the residents of her home but her hope extends to all Kenyan children.

Mama was given a sizable piece of land about an hour's drive from Huruma. She has big plans for the land, including planting crops to feed the children at her home. Before that is possible, Mama will install a well to provide water not only to her land, but to the surrounding community. Currently, these folks must walk a mile or more to buy water for cooking, drinking, bathing, and so forth. Mama plans to share the water from her well to lessen that burden.

Children Are A Heritage From God

Promise

Every child holds promise but will best reach his potential in a safe, supportive environment. The teaching staff at Huruma work tirelessly to prepare their students to succeed at whatever they might choose for their future. Their salaries are meager by U.S. standards and are low compared to other Kenyan schools. But the teachers at Huruma are dedicated to Mama's mission and to serving the children in her care. Last week teachers from Arizona visited Huruma to provide professional development for the school staff. Upon receiving gifts of backpacks full of supplies the Huruma teachers cried with delight, "It's like Christmas!" Even more than the gifts, they were extremely thankful for the encouragement, friendship, and learning poured into them.

Mama has developed a mentoring program that allows children to explore various careers in which they are interested. College-bound students participate in a year-long transition after high school that enables them to work and learn to be more independent before leaving for a college or university. Other students choose to enter the workforce right away and Mama assists them by connecting them with nearby businesses.

Everyone Wins

When Mama Zipporah's vision is advanced EVERYONE wins.

Children's lives are saved. They are given hope and a future.

Teachers are employed and provided with a purpose that gives them pride in their work.

Communities are enhanced when their poor are cared for and their land is improved.

Visitors are blessed when their lives collide with those of Huruma's family.

Donors are rewarded when they see the positive impact of their financial support.

There are opportunities for EVERYONE to get involved to support Huruma Children's Home. Volunteers are needed for events and fundraising in the U.S.. Financial supporters help ensure Mama's vision for the future is carried out. Visitors to Huruma carry the love of all of our supporters in a real, physical way. Our prayer is that you will join us



Gatune Water Project

Gatune water project is one of the most exciting dream come true projects we have currently. Lots has been reported about it This month we are happy to report that we have already started seeing the immediate outcomes of the project. The long awaited heavy short rains that had been predicted are here with us and our systems have already started harvesting surface run off. We thank God that the rains are not raining as the heavy as the Elnino rains that had been predicted because that would have caused havoc but God has blessed us with very productive rains and we pray that it continues that way.

The rains also came in time for our first planting and part of our farm now looks green and the crops have started sprouting. We first planted maize and beans for our first crop and we are very excited to see them coming up.



Remember the first time Mama planted the crops on open land she did not harvest anything because monkeys decided to have a party on the farm. This time round our crops are secured because we now have a farm caretaker housed at the farm so he is able to scare them away if they dare show up. We are so grateful to Feeding Mouths; Feeling Minds for sponsoring this wonderful project and we look forward to beginning phase 3 soon which will mainly involve installation of drip irrigation systems in order to better manage our water. In the mean time our rain fed crops are coming up, our nappier grass around the dam has started shooting and most importantly we are storing rain water in preparation for the dry season in January next year.

As we always say a story is better told with photos....



Final Note: Self Reflections

There is a thin line between pleasing God and pleasing others. I have heard people argue that by being good to others we are fulfilling Gods commandment to love others as ourselves hence pleasing others and pleasing God. To me there is nothing wrong with that statement as long as your heart is in the right place. However we must always remember that God expects us at all times to aim at pleasing Him first in order to consequently please others. I think God was saving us from ourselves here by saying it's in pleasing God that we please others. That way we are able to stay on track and not lose our focus by concentrating so much on what we are doing for others but rather what we are doing for God.

However in our service to Him it's very easy to miss the mark and forget that as much as God has called us to serve He has not called us to fulfill this service by being people pleasers. On the contrary our service to Him should come from deep within our hearts because only then can we effectively and clearly align our whole being to His call for us.



In Galatians 1:10 Paul says if his intention was to seek popularity with men then he is not a servant of Christ. Meaning that before God makes us servants of men He expects us to first become servants of Christ. What an amazing example of servant hood to follow and learn from in Jesus the servant King. His

heart was fixed on the heart of His Father and He understood that the only way He could fulfill the will of His Father on earth was by guarding His heart and ensuring that it was in the right place.

That should be our focus too in service to Him. To give Him our hearts and trust that He will reveal His heart to us so we can serve Him with all our hearts, please Him and in turn trickle down the blessing to others.

You are always in our prayers and this month we pray that you will have a fruitful November as you keep serving Huruma and all those that God has placed in your heart for His glory.

**In His Service,
Peris Muchina
Project Coordinator, Huruma Trust Fund**



Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/508408105841253/>

Page: <https://www.facebook.com/H4HFoundation/>

Blog: <https://hurumachildrenshome.wordpress.com/>

Visit our website at: <http://www.hchnngong.org/>

