



Happy Home Newsletter

Happy Home Orphanage is a non-profit organization created in June 2006 by citizens of Kenya, Canada and Belgium. Happy Home is located in South-Western Kenya about 400 kilometers from Nairobi, in the district of Rongo, near the town of Migori.

The first 12 children arrived in Happy Home in November 2006. Today, Happy Home accommodates **25 children** with room for more. The project is funded by individuals and organizations in **Kenya, Belgium, USA and Canada.**

Our aim is to help **orphans and vulnerable children** by providing them a nurturing family atmosphere in which to grow. Each child receives access to safe shelter, good nutrition, basic health services and education. We believe it is important for the children to grow up in their **own culture** within their **own community** and to keep contact with their extended families. To that end, we recruit staff from the area, send the children to a local school and encourage them to go on family visits for 1-2 weeks twice yearly during school holidays.



Evance is proud of the maize he planted

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....Latest news....

Renovations

The renovations of the larger block are slowly coming to an end. The crisis in Kenya caused long delays in the process but today the building is painted, electricity is installed and we are preparing to put the ceilings. Then, the children will be able to move in. The painter voluntarily made a nice painting on the façade.



The new look of the Happy Home building. The dormitories are large and clean, waiting for the children.



Security in Kenya

Since the peace agreement was signed, the situation in Kenya is back to normal. Life has restarted and the people now say: “never again”. To help the children cope with what happened, we are trying to set up a counseling program of about three months.



Preparing for new kids

Once the building is totally finished, we'll be able to admit new kids. The manager already liaised with the social services of the government to identify the five most needy children. We are also preparing for bedding, tables, etc to accommodate the new children. More information about them in the next newsletter !

Our senior kids will take care nicely of the newcomers as if it were their own brothers and sisters.



A Typical Week in Happy Home

On the wall of the dining room hangs the weekly schedule of Happy Home. Staff and children know their daily activities and some children “prefects” have been elected to supervise some of the activities. Some of the kids are responsible for the dorm’s cleanness, some kids are leading the songs and prayers, etc.

HAPPY HOME ORPANAGE DAILY SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN AND STAFF

DAY	TIME DURATION	ACTIVITIES	SUPERVISORS
SUNDAY	6:55am-7:55am	Waking up	Caretakers
	8:00-8:45am	Dormitory compound cleaning	Caretakers
	8:45-9:30am	Breakfast	Manager/ C.T
	9:30-10:30am	Fetching water	Caretakers
		Bathing and preparation for church	Nurse/ manager
	10:30-11:30am	Church service	Manager
	12:30-1:40pm	Lunch break	Manager/ C.T
	1:45-2:00pm	After lunch break	N/A
	2:00-3:00pm	Tuition class (classes 1-4)	Tuition teacher
	3:00-4:00pm	Fetching water	Caretakers
4:00-4:55pm	Nature walk (P, E)	Social worker	
5:00-5:15pm	Bathing, general cleaning of the dorms	Nurse/ manager	
5:45-6:30pm	Home work	Manager/ C.T	
6:30-7:15pm	Supper break	Manager/ C.T	
7:40-8:50pm	Prayer, preparing for bed	Prefect	
8:30pm	Lights out	Caretakers	
MONDAY	2:00-2:20pm	After lunch break	N/A
	2:20-3:15pm	Fetching water	Nurse
	3:40-4:30pm	Tuition classes (lower classes)	Tuition teacher
	4:25-5:00pm	Bathing, arranging hostel	Tuition teacher
	6:00-6:30pm	Children's Bazaar	Manager/ S.W
	6:30-7:30pm	Supper break	Manager/ S.W
	7:35-8:15pm	Cleaning dining hall, oranges and 300/00	Prefect
8:30pm	Bed time	Caretakers	
TUESDAY	2:00-2:20pm	After lunch break	N/A
	2:20-3:35pm	Cleaning the compound/ agricultural session	Manager/ S.W
	3:40-4:40pm	Fetching water	Records clerk
	4:45-5:45pm	Bathing, arranging the hostels	Nurse/ manager
	5:45-6:30pm	Physical education	Nurse/ S.W
	6:35-7:30pm	Supper break	Manager/ C.T
	7:37-8:30pm	Cleaning the dining hall, home work	Manager/ C.T
	8:30pm	Bed time	Caretakers
	9:00-9:30pm	After lunch break	N/A

WEDNESDAY	2:00-2:30pm	After lunch break	N/A
	2:25-3:45pm	Fetching water	Nurse
	3:50-4:00pm	Tuition classes (class three)	Tuition teacher
	3:00-4:00pm	Bathing, arranging hostels	R.T/ manager
	4:00-4:30pm	Inventory check	Manager/ S.W
4:30-5:30pm	Supper break	Manager/ C.T	
5:30-6:15pm	Cleaning the dining hall, prayer and singing	Prefect/ manager	
8:30pm	Bed time	Caretakers	
THURSDAY	2:00-2:30pm	After lunch break	N/A
	2:25-3:00pm	Agricultural session	Manager/ S.W
	3:00-3:50pm	Fetching water	Records clerk
	4:00-5:00pm	Physical education	S.W/ nurse
	5:00-5:30pm	Bathing and laundry	Nurse/ manager
	6:25-7:20pm	Supper break	Prefect/ manager
	7:25-8:15pm	Cleaning dining hall, home work	Prefect/ records clerk
8:15-8:30pm	Prayer	Religious	
8:30pm	Bed time	Religious	
FRIDAY	2:00-2:20pm	After lunch break	N/A
	2:25-3:40pm	Fetching water	Social worker
	3:45-5:00pm	Tuition classes (class three)	Tuition teacher
	5:00-6:30pm	Bathing, arranging hostels	R.T/ manager
	6:00-6:30pm	Children's Bazaar	S.W/ Manager
	6:30-7:30pm	Supper break	Manager/ C.T
	7:25-8:15pm	Cleaning the dining hall, extra 300/00	Manager/ C.T
8:20-8:30pm	Prayer	Prefect	
8:30pm	Bed time	Caretakers	
8:30pm	Waking up	Caretakers	
SATURDAY	2:00-2:20pm	After lunch break	N/A
	2:20-3:35pm	Cleaning the compound/ agricultural session	Manager/ S.W
	3:40-4:40pm	Fetching water	Caretakers
	4:45-5:45pm	Bathing, arranging the hostels	Nurse/ manager
	5:45-6:30pm	Physical education	Nurse/ S.W
	6:35-7:30pm	Supper break	Manager/ C.T
	7:37-8:30pm	Cleaning the dining hall, home work	Manager/ C.T
	8:30pm	Bed time	Caretakers
	9:00-9:30pm	After lunch break	N/A

In this newsletter we want to guide you through Happy Home's week to give you an idea about the life of the children. It will allow you to get to know the kids better and to visit them virtually in Happy Home.

Karibu Happy Home.



Saturday 7-10 AM

Saturday morning is a time for home activities. After waking up, the children collect all the rubbish on the compound, thoroughly clean the rooms, the dining hall and the playing ground. They then have a well deserved breakfast. The morning continues with fetching water. This daily activity is a very important component of a normal day in any rural Kenyan household. During the morning hours all the mattresses and beddings are laid in the sun to dry and aerate. The younger kids enjoy playing on them.

6.50am	Waking up
7.00-8.00am	Thorough hostel and compound cleaning.
8.05-9.15am	Breakfast
9.15-10.00am	Fetching water.



The boys are cleaning thoroughly

Evanca is responsible for the cleanliness of the dormitories



Bentar, Elivar, Asca and Susan come back from fetching water

Faith, Eliver and Bless relaxing in the sun



Saturday 10-12.30 AM

On demand of the children, an agricultural session has been organized. The children planted maize, beans, soybeans and cowpeas all around the compound. The girls turned a small plot of land next to the home into a vegetable garden. They protect the young plants against chicken by making a fence with branches. On Saturday morning, the social worker takes the elder boys to a small field lend to the home by Alfred, our board member. They plough the land, plant some crops or weed the plot, depending on the time of the year. She said *“if I forget to go to the field with them, the kids complain”*. The kids were so proud to harvest and eat their own food. Before coming to Happy Home they were used to assist their family members in farming. As the children seem so happy to farm, we are currently looking for a piece of land to purchase or rent, so that they can increase their own food production.

10.05-11.15am	Agrie. Session
11.20-12.10pm	Bathing, arranging hostels.
12.15-12.35pm	Inventory check: home/ school based.
12.35-1.50pm	Lunch break.



The kids planted maize, beans and soybean all around their home

Edwin, Kihungu and Jotham are weeding the maize field



Asca shows how to protect the seedlings with branches

Asca and Bless shows their small garden



Collins, Onyancha, Edwin, Stanley, and Kihungu are planting maize and beans



Saturday PM

During the afternoon, the bigger children are reviewing their lessons with the help of the tuition teacher, one of our staff members. The younger children enjoy their free time. The girls like to assist their “aunties” in preparing the meals or tying up the home. The boys play and build their house.

The afternoon finishes with some physical education activities led by the social worker before the children go to bathe before taking supper. Bedtime is as usual around 8.20

1.55-2.10pm	After lunch break.
2.20-4.00pm	Tuition classes(classes 3-6)
4.00-5.00pm	Fetchng water.
5.00-5.30pm	Physical Education.
5.30-6.30pm	Bathing/ arranging the hostels.
6.30-7.30pm	Supper break
7.30-8.15pm	Cleaning dining hall, entertainment
8.20pm	Bed time

Collins, Ronald, Edwin and E Vance are studying



Asca, Elivar and Bentar help to bring the dry clean clothes inside.



Bless, Irene and Faith (the daughter of a caretaker) help their Auntie cleaning the beans.



Ojwya, Stephen and Kihunghu build their house



Sunday AM

Sunday is a nice day, as kids can go to church. As every other, the day starts with cleaning, fetching water, and bathing. The girls assist in putting large “sufurias” of water on the fire to make warm water for all.

The children love church, as the service is full of songs, music and dances. They spend the largest part of the morning in church. The church is located just below the home, on the other side of the main road. It is a very simple wooden building and we can hear the music from church from far. After church, it’s time for lunch.

TIME/DURATION	ACTIVITIES
6.45am	Waking up
6.55-7.55am	Dormitory/ compound cleaning
8.00-8.45am	Breakfast
8.45-9.30am	Fetching water
9.30-10.20am	Bathing and preparing for church
10.25-12.30pm	Church service
12.35-1.40pm	Lunch break

The church is a simple wooden building, but becomes quite lively once the service music and chants start.



The boys find it easier to carry water by wheelbarrow



Night and Susan heat the water for bathing.



Asca and Susan help making « chapati », a type of flat pan-cooked bread that is a Kenyan delicacy.



Stephen and David Ombwayo made a nice real size motorbike, using a piece of tree



Sunday PM

Sunday afternoon is a moment to relax. The higher classes have one hour of tuition teaching and all children have to finish their homework, but the time remaining is used for play.

As usually, the bigger girls will prefer spending some hours of the day in assisting in cleaning or learning to cook. The younger kids like to imitate “cooking” with plants and mud, or to play with bottlecaps. The boys are specialists in building, small cars, large motorbikes or their always growing two story house.

Before sleeping on Sunday, Evance, Ronald and Collins animate the kids with songs and prayer. If ever, you get the chance to visit happy home, make sure you attend one of those. It’s a marvelous moment of song and joy in the light of a petrol lamp.

12:30-1:30pm	Lunch break
1:45-2:00pm	After lunch break
2:00-3:00pm	Tuition class (classes 3-6)
3:05-4:00pm	Fetching water
4:05-4:55pm	Nature walk/ P. E.
5:00-5:45pm	Bathing, general cleaning of the hostels.
5:45-6:30pm	Home work
6:30-7:35pm	Supper break
7:40-8:15pm	Prayers, preparing for bed
8:20pm	Lights out

The boys home is growing almost daily.



One joyfull little family...



Bless, Night and Kavere are « cooking » ...



Weekdays AM

During the week, the children wake up around 6AM to prepare themselves to go to school. They shower, have some breakfast and leave hand in hand to school. The younger classes come home at 1PM, and stay at home for the afternoon. The elder children go back to school in the afternoons.

During morning hours, the caretakers go and fetch water, do some cleaning, update the file of the children, wash clothes, go shopping, and prepare the children's lunch. By the time the kids come home they can remove their school uniforms and come and eat.



Auntie Jane carries water and washes the clothes, so that the kids can wear something clean after school.

Hassan, our manager, working on some budgets



The aunties are cooking the children's lunch



Monday and Friday PM

After lunch, the children who remain at home go to their daily water fetching activity. The biggest kids fetch the water from the well and the younger ones carry it home. In the afternoon the children follow some tuition classes. Our record keeper is trained as a early education teacher and follows-up on their study performance.

After bathing, the “children’s baraza” is organized. This is a meeting in which the children and staff can share ideas, make requests, and during which minor problems can be solved.

After supper, a prayer and singing night is organized, such as the one held on Sundays. The kids really love those moments of joy and coziness.



Afandi enjoys her avocado. Every afternoon the children get some fruit or milk as a snack.



David Ombwayo and Stephen pour the water in the « supadrum » at home.



Every kid has his/her own bottle to carry water. They really enjoyed having Uncle Edouard carrying some with them.



Amriodo is fetching water for all kids from the well.

	6.20pm	Lights out.
MONDAY	2.00-2.20pm	After lunch break
	2.25-3.35pm	Fetching water
FRIDAY	3.40-4.30pm	Tuition classes(lower classes)
	4.35-6.00pm	Bathing, arranging hostels
	6.00-6.30pm	Children’s Baraza
	6.30-7.30pm	Supper break
	7.35-8.15pm	Cleaning dining hall, prayers and singing
	8.20pm	Bed time



Wednesday PM

Wednesday is the study day for class 3 children. During this time the smaller kids can enjoy their leisure activities as usual.

Before supper, the children are asked to arrange their rooms and the inventory is checked. The staff try to teach the children to be responsible of their clothes and belongings to avoid wasting them too fast. Therefore, broken clothes are identified and the children learn to mend them. Only when necessary they are replaced by new ones.

The day is closed again with a prayer and singing night. This is the type of wonderful evenings you can get in a big family without TV !!!

Today, Uncle François, our visiting donor rep. from Canada, is the childrens' tutor.



Zimbwani found a nice spot in the shade to study



WEDNESDAY!	2.00-2.20pm	After lunch break
	2.25-3.45pm	Fetching water.
	3.50-5.00pm	Tuition classes(class three)
	5.00-6.00pm	Bathing, arranging hostels.
	6.00-6.30pm	Inventory check.
	6.30-7.35pm	Supper break.
	7.35-8.25pm	Cleaning the dining hall, prayers and singing.
8.30pm	Bed time.	



Dady, our smallest one, enjoys himself with a self-made car.

Diner time at the boy's table.



Before eating, the children cue to wash their hands. The smallest go first.



Tuesday and Thursday PM

On Tuesday and Thursday the early afternoon is occupied by agriculture. Agriculture is an important element in the kid's education, as several of them might become farmers in the future. Some of the children inherited the land of their parents in the village and might go back there after their time at Happy Home. Furthermore, the children love it.

The remaining of the day is taken-up by leisure, helping out in the house or physical activities.

Why do they need dolls?
The girls in Kenya play with real babies. Asca carries the baby of one of the caretakers.



TUESDAY THURSDAY	2:00-2:20pm	After lunch break	
	2:25-3:35pm	Cleaning the compound/ agricultural sessions.	
	3:40-4:40pm	Fetching water.	
	4:45-5:45pm	Bathing, arranging the hostels.	
	5:45-6:30pm	Physical education.	
	6:35-7:30pm	Supper break.	
	7:37-6:30pm	Cleaning the dining hall, home work.	
	8:30pm	Bed time.	

Time for sports.
The kids play volleyball with some neighbours.



The girls find it normal to assist in cooking and washing dishes. Benter and Asca.



Irene, Faith, Amriodo and Dadi are ready to light the fire to boil water for the showers.



Fundraising News: Kenya

Edouard and Isabelle, our international board members, organised a sale of clothes during a flee market in the International School of Kenya in Nairobi. The clothes were very new and expensive clothes received by a bankrupt shop in Belgium. It was agreed with the donors of the clothes that those would benefit the home more when being sold than used by the kids. The sale led to a benefit of 15400 KSh or about 154 €, including some donations. Isabelle and Edouard now prepare for more similar sales.

Edouard praises the quality of the clothes to convince this mama.



Isabelle shows the pictures of the children to a potential client.

Fundraising News: Canada

François, our fundraising person in Canada, came to Kenya to visit his friend Edouard and to meet the kids of Happy Home. He spent a full week in the home, played, studies and ate with the children.

The kids really enjoyed his visit and often ask how uncle François is doing.

François helps Afandi doing math exercises.



Playing football with our little champion, Edwin



Time to say goodbye



Corporate Partners

Several companies in Belgium already supported Happy Home over the last 2 years. One big supporter has been **Strapex Belgium** and the staff association of **Strapex Netherlands**.



Accenture, the well known international global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing company, recently helped us with a large amount to finish the renovation works. This summer the last . The building is now almost finished.

In name of the children, thank you !!!

We hope to come soon with good news about other Partner's projects, which were submitted recently to other organizations.



The children help carrying the ceiling boards to their new home.



Fundraising News: Belgium

Happy Home Babies



The list of Happy Home Babies grows monthly.

The parents of little **Otto**, **Marin**, **Lina**, **Zitta**, **Kobe** en recently **Jesse** chose to assist Happy Home children with their birth-presents.

Their friends and family were kindly invited to donate something for the children rather than purchasing a present for the babies.

Happy home is very grateful for all those surprises.

If you plan to have a Happy Home baby yourself, please inform the Happy Home team in your country and ask your friends and family to mention the name of your baby during their transfer. Thanks a lot !!!

JESSE

Vrùblijevende Cadeautip :

U kan een bijdrage schenken aan 'Happy Home' dat weeskindjes opvangt in Zuidwest-Kenia.

www.HappyHomeKenya.org

rekeningnr. 979-3362073-35 met vermelding 'Jesse'

fiscaal attest vanaf 30 euro

Happy Home Contacts



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I want to help !!!

Names:

Email:

Contact address:

I register as a **godfather/mother** of Happy Home and agree to give* *monthly / quarterly / yearly* donations of* *KSh / € / US\$ / Ca\$* to Happy Home Orphanage bank account (in the country indicated below) starting from the date of/ 200..... In case of termination of my sponsoring, I will contact Happy Home by email or post at least two months in advance.

I give a **casual donations** of* *KSh / € / US\$ / Ca\$* to Happy Home Orphanage bank account (in the country indicated below)

I would like to **help in the country office** with (specify) or organise a Fund-raising happening..... (specify) in (town) on . / .. / 20....

I would like to **Volunteer in Happy Home**, can help with and am available round the following period to

The money will integrally be used to provide a safe and comfortable home to total orphans registered in the orphanage and to maintain their home. The contact email will in no case be transferred to anyone.

Done in on Signature,

Please tick the country office you wish to relate with:

Kenya: Happy Home Orphanage 012 464 552 5400, NBK, Awendo Branch (swift: NBKEKENXXXX)

Belgium / Europe: 979-326 10 73-35 (IBAN: BE57 9793 2610 7335 - BIC: ARSPBE22). Please mention your contact details(email). Tax deductible > 30€ /year

USA: Checks payable to the "African Childrens Haven" and mark the memo line as "Happy Home Kenya" . (US income tax deductible)

Canada: bank account registration in process, contact François Dubé

PLEASE POST OR EMAIL TO THE CONTACTS LEFT

