

# 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 Southwestern Kenya about 400 kilometers from Nairobi, in the district of Rongo near the town of Migori.

The first 12 children arrived in Nov. 2006. Happy Home now accommodates **32 children**. The project is funded by people and organizations from **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 maintain 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.



Peter's bus, that drove by Happy Home

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# Happy 2011



# Happy 2011

In naam van onze 32 Happy Home kinderen, het personeel, de directeur, de beheersraad, de fondsen-werving teams in België, VS, Kenia en Canada, en onze vrijwilligers, wens ik jullie een prachtig 2011.

Een bijzondere dank gaat naar onze peters en meters, onze sponsors en alle vrijwilligers wereldwijd die van Happy Home een thuis maakten voor eerst 12 en nu 32 kinderen sinds meer dan 4 jaar.

In name of the 32 Happy Home children, our staff, our manager, our Board Members, our Fundraising teams in Belgium, USA, Kenya and Canada, and our volunteers, I would like to wish you a very Happy 2011.

Special thanks to our godfathers, godmothers, donors and all volunteers worldwide who made this Happy Home a home to first 12 and now 32 children for more than 4 years.

Au nom des 32 enfants Happy Home, de notre personnel du directeur, du conseil d'administration, des équipes de récolte de fonds en Belgique, aux É.U., au Kenya et au Canada, et de nos volontaires je vous souhaite une superbe nouvelle année 2011.

Un grand merci à nos parrains et marraines, nos sponsors, et les volontaires partout dans le monde qui ont fait de Happy Home une maison pour d'abord 12 et maintenant 32 enfants depuis plus de 4 ans.



## Content of this Newsletter

### Lastest Happy Home Volunteers

We would like to introduce to you our latest volunteers who wrote the stories you will read in this newsletter and who provided the pictures. Please meet Guilliana from Venezuela, who has been with us from July to October 2010. She has been of a great assistance with tutoring the children and making crafts with them. Liesbet, one of our first volunteers from Belgium came back during summertime to see the kids growing. Tebea and Anne from Germany arrived in August and plan to stay for one year. Mary from the USA arrived in November 2010 and will be with us till March. Happy Home is very happy with their precious help. Thank you all very much !!!

Are you interested in becoming a Happy Home volunteer? Read our website and contact [volunteer@happyhomekenya.org](mailto:volunteer@happyhomekenya.org)



Guilliana



Abibo, Dave and Anne



Aunty Millicent and Tebea



Levis, Susan, Evance & Mary

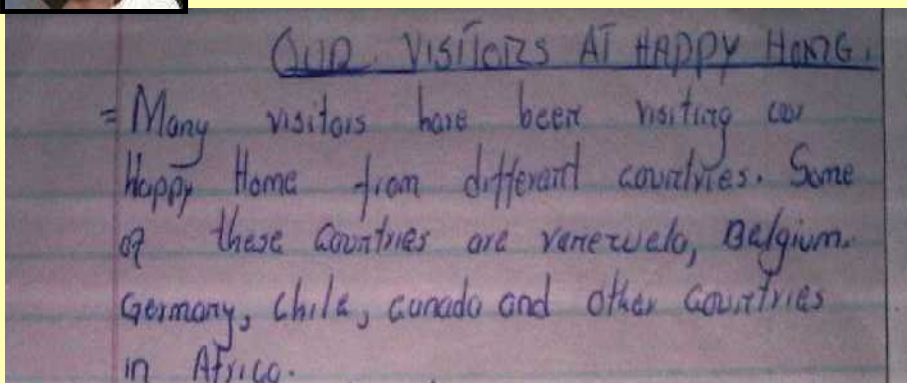


# Children's composition

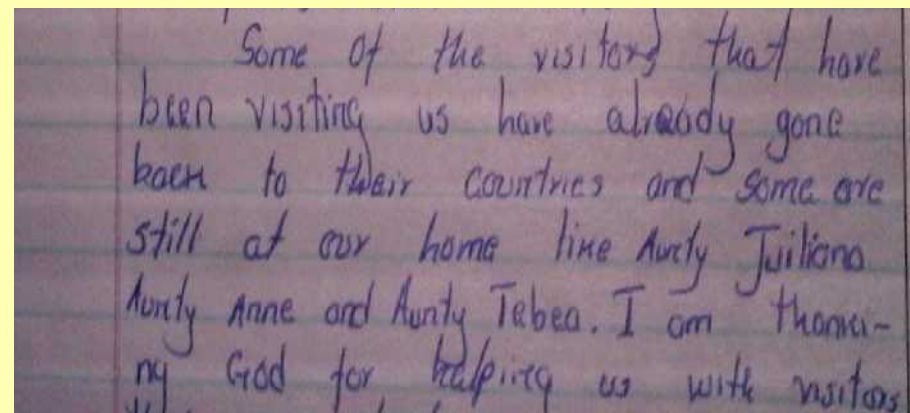


## The volunteers at Happy Home

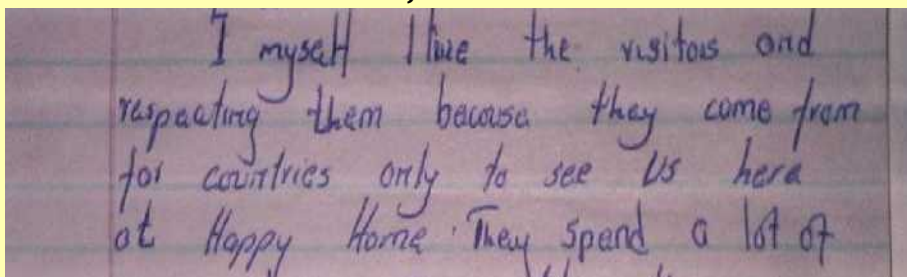
Stanley Ondieki (class 6) story about the volunteers is a good introduction to this newsletter. In the following pages, we'll let the volunteers themselves tell you some stories about their time in Happy Home.



**Stanley Ondieki:** "Many visitors have been visiting us [at] Happy Home from different countries. Some of these countries are Venezuela, Belgium, Germany, Chile, Canada and other countries in Africa."



**Stanley Ondieki:** "Some of the visitors that have been visiting us [have] already gone back to their countries and some are still at our home like aunty Guilliana [who was still around], aunty Anne and aunty Tebea. I am thanking God for helping us with visitors."



**Stanley Ondieki:** "I myself like the visitors and respect them because they come from far countries only to see us here at Happy Home."



## Guiliana's Fairytale

Once upon a time...  
a place called Happy Home.

Happy Home was the home of thirty-two African children, was located at the top of a meadow in a country called Kenya but more specifically, in a land called Stelah.

The 17 boys and 15 girls, had the following names:

**Bless**- At times she was so quiet that seemed to be unhappy, but then, in a magical moment, she smiled and laughed out loud, thus creating an atmosphere of calm around her

**Night**- Studious, quiet (sometimes), loving, showed great admiration for her sister- Mercy- look and smile in unison, seemed to smile

**Lydia** -Big eyes and eyes dreamer, loving, cheerful and always singing songs he heard on the church

**Joyline** - She was an affectionate child, with big eyes and wonderful look, she loved to smile and joke

**Rose** - she was quiet, dreamy and loved puzzles

**Osango**- purest's smile you can imagine, and he loved dancing

**Sheilla**- She was the youngest girl of all children, loving, caring, concerned, and always, always wanted to eat sweets

**Afandi**- She was the most talkative girl in the house, could be quite beautiful when she smiled, she was always wanted to play, run and enjoy



Bless, Night and Jackie (a neighbour)



Night and Lidia



Joyline, Guiliana, Osango, Sheila and Afandi



**Evan**- He was a teenager, he loved football, and admired the football player Lionel Messi-

**Collins** -charming, he was very talented in creative affairs-

**Abibo** - The little child of the house, not by age but by size, loved to draw (it was also very good at it) and movies to remain amazed by the stories-

**Peter** - He was so cheerful, kind, loving, very creative, he loved to build buses with cardboard boxes

**Duncan** - He loved to joke, he liked to laugh, and always wanted to see pictures of his favourite soccer players

**Levis**- He was playful, loved to joke, laugh, but he didn't like the other children in the house using nicknames to refer to him-

**Moses** - He had a bright look and shy smile, he loved to play-

**Zimbwani**- He was a shy child, sometimes quiet, he loved to sing , labourer, and he put much effort into the activities of home

**Elizabeth** - she liked to eat food strong flavour, she was attentive, hardworking, efficient and loving-

**Ezekiel**- he loved making faces with the face and pretend he was upset, he was playful and liked to eat much-

**Eliver** - She had a look that could get to intimidate anybody, playful, devoted, sensitive, and apparently, she did not like the photographs

**Aska**- Of great smile and dreamy eyes, she liked to write, eat corn and care for her younger brothers Abibo and Babu -

**Kihungu**- Helpful, dedicated, and he loved herding those cows that sometimes some men had to eat at home-



Collins, Evan and Abibo



Duncan, Babu, Peter, Levis, Moses, Zimbwani



**Faith** - She was a girl with huge eyes smiling, loving, attentive and enjoyed drawing

**Babu** - He was a boy with a charming smile, very studious, orderly, hardworking, but above all things, he was a dreamer -

**Benter** - She was one of the older, very gracious, cheerful, charming, always had hunger, and she wanted to be an English teacher of children in the house

**Kavere**- She was a girl with a face absolutely charming, quiet and smiling at the same time, thoughtful, studious and a little girl

**Edwin**- He was one of the older, quiet, pensive, he laughed little, but when he did, he was able to enlighten the world-

**David**- He was a happy child, noisy, he loved the pictures, play, and he was very good in math

**Ronald**- He was a dreamer, smiling, excited eyes, loved to play and watch Peter Pan

**Ondiek** - He was one of the older, shy, quiet and very good student-

**Suzanne** - She loved to sing and dance, she was always smiling, and she liked to ate a lot -

**Amriodo**- He was the eldest of four children, responsible, caring, dreamy, kind, and was always willing to help -

Day after day the children of Happy Home used to begin their tasks early in the morning. Attend school, go home for lunch, back to school, study, play, share, and return home to do laundry, play, eat, do homework and sleep.



Guilliana and Babu



Kavere and Benter under a beautiful sky



Edwin, Dave, Ronald, Collins and the little neighbour Jacky





One day, a young Venezuelan girl travelled from far, far, far away to visit the children of Happy Home in Stelah.

When she came home, were waiting to greet, the Manager of Happy Home -A Very friendly and smiling- the social worker -an educated young woman- and three girls, who seemed very happy to have the girl in home. Lydia, Mercy and Sheilla, gave (With the best of their smiles) the best possible welcome to the young Latin American girl.

In the company of the young Venezuelan girl, the children of Happy Home, made recreational activities each week, play and have fun learning. Shortly after she arrived, the young Venezuelan girl asked the Happy Home children to build an object with waste materials. That was when the boys built a bus and the girls manufactured dolls. The most important activity was that the children of Happy Home learned that nothing is impossible, although they seem in principle, that creativity and imagination are the cornerstones for the creation, and that the goals can only be achieved with provision.

This story of the children of Happy Home ends with a message of hope, future, love, and freedom of expression, because the children of Happy Home , used art to express the silence. ***"The mirrors are used to seeing our faces, the art is used to seeing our souls"*** George Bernard Shaw.



Dave and Collins showing their Masai Mara game reserve, the girls created dolls and a house for their dolls, as Faith shows below



## Tebea's Anecdote

### Saturday sewing time

"Auntie, help me with a needle!" Saturday morning. And Bless' glance at me was just far too asking to say "no". Anyway: The children should learn how to sew. With a sigh I passed her the needle. "But - please - hand it back to me when you don't need it anymore. And you stay here for sewing." I looked at her strictly. "Sindyio?" [*isn't it*]. Bless nodded. Fine. I went on with a few stitches.

"Auntie, I also need threat." Of course. I gave her the threat and went on sewing some of the clothes the children gave me all over the last week.

But, as it is always like this, a twin rarely comes alone. After a few minutes I was surrounded by young humans, everyone of them asking for a needle and some threat. They wanted to try sewing their clothes on their own. Okay. Fine. They should learn it anyway. And if I have to do it again for them or all completely myself - I did not care.

Finally, I handed my last needle to Dave. "You are sure you want to try it?" I looked at the boy from Standard Two [*class 2 in primary school*] suspiciously. Until now I have not known him as a child caring for his clothes too much. But he nodded. "Yes, Auntie." - "Okay. Take the threat yourself."



Susan sewing



He did. I went on sewing - and from time to time I gave the children around me a glance. We were sitting on the step in front of the building including the girls' dormitory, the food store and Mamdого's office [*Mamdого is the nurse of Happy Home and a real mother to the kids*], all of them making a concentrated face. Small fingers doing their work.

I looked at their results. Kavere had finished the hole in her skirt and it was really well done. You could hardly see that it was sewed. She gave me the needle back and I handed it over to Mercy who wanted to sew some tiny clothes for the girls' dolly. My look wandered towards Dave. He recognized it and just started sewing even more carefully. I smiled. 'Sometimes he is so loud' I thought. 'But he can as well be really, really cute.'

And when he told me "Auntie, I've finished!" he looked so proud of himself and his work done that I could forget about the quite disturbing attitude he sometimes showed. "Good" I said, having a closer look at his work. - He was so proud that I did not dare laughing out loudly.

But the grin coming to my face I could not suppress. I decided to re-sew his sweater in the evening. I then saw the whole trouble Dave would have brought himself if he had tried to wear his sweater again: He managed to connect the whole sleeve to the Rest of the shirt. I think it would have been a funny view on Dave - and with a smile I thought: "At least he tried."



Mamdого shows the kids how to sew



## Mary's Field Trip

### Migori Teacher's College

The first field trip I went on with the children was a visit to Migori Teacher's College. We squeezed into the back of a truck and drove the fifteen minutes or so to campus.

They had a large hall set up for the event with special seats reserved for the guests from Happy Home. There were speeches and prayers for the adults, while the children were lead out by the teacher's choir director to learn a song for the afternoon. When they came back, they were lead on to the stage to be "adopted" by mentors from the college. Each child was paired with one male and one female MTC student and introduced individually on stage with their mentors.

After that was everyone's favorite time of day—lunch. It was a feast with rice, beans, cabbage, bananas, and soft drinks. The kids were spread throughout the hall and campus, sitting, talking, and walking with their partners for the day. There were big smiles on their faces as they were showered with individual attention and drinking soft drinks.

The day ended with pictures outside of the students with their mentors, and Migori Teacher's College making donations of several bags of clothes, soap, food, and small toys.

Many thanks to the Migori Teachers College for this event !!!



Teachers singing for the Happy Home children



Riding home with the kids after the event



## Latest news about Happy Home

### Next newsletter

In the next newsletter you can expect more stories from the children themselves and from our volunteers.

### News about the projects

We would like to inform you that the biogas project is still ongoing but was delayed by the unavailability of the contractor who is still busy on another project in the area. We'll keep you informed about the progress as soon as they start the works again.

### Happy Home on Facebook

Dear friends, Happy Home is now on facebook. Please visit us by clicking on the facebook logo, and don't forget to add us to your favorites !

**Happy Home Orphanage (Kenya)**

facebook

### Happy Home Stabilises at 32 kids

After a long reflection about the capacity of our facilities and an analysis of the current dynamics at the home, we agreed to stabilise the number of children in Happy Home to 32 children.

But with the constant increase in the cost of living in Kenya, and the high cost of secondary and post-secondary education which we have yet to face, we will need to continue increasing the sponsorships and monthly income to give our current children the necessary tools to become independant and responsible adults.

In the future though, as our young adults gradually leave the Home, we plan on adding new children to remain at about 30-35. For more information on this or any other topic, please don't hesitate to contact us.

### Had je liever een nieuwsbrief in het Nederlands?

Wij zoeken vrijwillige vertalers !!! Email me [isabelle@happyhomekenya.org](mailto:isabelle@happyhomekenya.org)

### Auriez vous aimé avoir les nouvelles en Français?

On cherche des volontaires pour la traduction !!! Contactez-moi [isabelle@happyhomekenya.org](mailto:isabelle@happyhomekenya.org)



# Happy Home Contacts



[www.HappyHomeKenya.org](http://www.HappyHomeKenya.org)

E-mail: [info@HappyHomeKenya.org](mailto:info@HappyHomeKenya.org)

## Donor contact BELGIUM

**Christian Vandepias** [[Christian@HappyHomeKenya.org](mailto:Christian@HappyHomeKenya.org)]

Rue Fond Thirion 61, 1410-Waterloo +32.2.354.74.41

**Roel Merckx** [[Roel.merckx@ees.kuleuven.be](mailto:Roel.merckx@ees.kuleuven.be)]

**Hilde Keunen** [[Hildekeunen@yahoo.com](mailto:Hildekeunen@yahoo.com)]

## Donor contact USA

**Ed Sulzberger** [[Edsulzberger@happyhomekenya.org](mailto:Edsulzberger@happyhomekenya.org)]

**Linda Ercole-Musso** [[Lindaem@happyhomekenya.org](mailto:Lindaem@happyhomekenya.org)]

4012 Pirates Beach, Galveston, Texas, 77554

1-409-737-1388

## Donor contact CANADA

**François Dubé** [[Francois@HappyHomeKenya.org](mailto:Francois@HappyHomeKenya.org)]

Tel (514) 495-7927

**Isabelle Vandepias** [[Isabelle@HappyHomeKenya.org](mailto:Isabelle@HappyHomeKenya.org)]

**Edouard Lelievre-Douyon** [[Edouard@HappyHomeKenya.org](mailto:Edouard@HappyHomeKenya.org)]

## Donor contact KENYA

**Elke Vandamme** [[Elke@HappyHomeKenya.org](mailto:Elke@HappyHomeKenya.org)]

## Government relations Kenya

**Alfred Mdeizi Sagwa** [[Alfred@HappyHomeKenya.org](mailto:Alfred@HappyHomeKenya.org)]

## VOLUNTEER contact

[Volunteer@HappyHomeKenya.org](mailto:Volunteer@HappyHomeKenya.org)



**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 .../.../ 20.... 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 activity..... (specify) in ..... (town) on ... / ... / 20....

*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.*

Done in ..... on ..... Signature,

## Bank Account (please thick your choice):

**Kenya** NBK (National Bank of Kenya), Awendo Branch (swift: NBKEKENXXXX) : Account: **Happy Home Orphanage 012 464 552 5400**

**Belgium / Europe** "AMIE VZW " hosts our project: Account: **979-326 10 73-35** (IBAN: BE57 9793 2610 7335 - BIC: ARSPBE22). Please mention your name & email. (Tax deductible in Belgium > 30€ /year)

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

**Canada** DESJARDINS account of "ÉSÉE Monde": # Transit: 30219 # Institution: 815 # Account: 0823617 (Tax deductible > 30Ca\$ / year). Mention « Happy Home Project », your name & email.

**PLEASE POST TO THE CONTACTS LEFT OR TO [info@HappyHomeKenya.org](mailto:info@HappyHomeKenya.org)**

