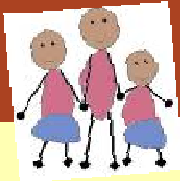


Happy Home Newsletter



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 November 2006 . Today, Happy Home accommodates **32 children** with room for more. 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 day visits during school holidays.



High tech kids in Happy Home

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Latest News

Sad news : Dead announcement of Bernard Sagwa,

Happy Home board member.

In name of the Board of Happy Home, the volunteer administrators in Belgium, USA and Canada, and all happy home friends, we wish to express our regrets to the family members and friends of the late Bernard Sawga, with special thoughts to his wife and children. Bernard has been of a great support to Happy Home and to the children's educational program. We will certainly miss him and hope he rests in peace.

Still looking for a field to rent

This is the second cropping season we are trying to find a land to lease. Last season we almost found land, but at the last minutes the owner decided to rent it to someone else. These days the manager has been following up on three other options, from which only one remains a possibility. This land would allow us to produce some of our food and save a lot of money.

Good news : health insurance

Since the first days of Happy Home we've been trying to register the children with the National Health Insurance Scheme in Kenya, but as this scheme is designed for families and not groups, we never succeeded. Ababu, our manager since late 2009, made of this issue his top priority and managed to solve it. Our children are now covered in case of medical problems.

Thanks a lot Ababu.

Volunteers Volunteers

We have continued hosting volunteers from all over the world in Happy Home. Mary, from the USA, left us in March and lately our two German girls, Anne and Tabea, left after one year with the children. Two new ladies, Katarina and Merle arrived recently to take over.

Fundraising news : Happy Home Baby Marie

A new happy home baby, Marie from Belgium, decided to share her presents with the happy home kids. Her parents asked friends and family to donate to happy home rather than buying a present for her birth. She fundraised 1950 euro !!!

Fundraising news : 1200 pies

SALCO vzw, a Belgian non-profit organization, raised 5145 euro by selling not less than 1200 pies !!! Thanks a lot to An who organized this event.



Stories from the volunteers

My favorite moment in Happy Home

We always ask volunteers after they left to describe their favorite moment in Happy Home. Mary's story is really nice :

"I think my favorite moment was Night coming up to me and asking if I would read a storybook with her.

I had been there for a week or two only, and it was the first time one of the kids had approached me for help instead of going the other volunteers, so I felt like was really being accepted as an auntie.

Reading was one of my favorite activities as a child, and it's definitely one of Night's, and I loved being able to share that with her. We sat for at least an hour going through the Disney storybook Bambi. We would stop at the end of every page, and she would ask me to describe words she didn't know, and I would ask her questions about what we just read to check her comprehension. I would act out words like "stagger" and look up words like "glitter" in my English-Swahili dictionary. I would repeat the correct pronunciation of the words in English and she would make me read out the word in Kiswahili and pronounce it for me if I got it wrong.

I had so many favorite moments at Happy Home, but this was my first one, and it's still the strongest one in my memory."

Mary, USA, Nov 2010- March 2011



Stories from the volunteers

Story from Tabea, German, in HHO from august 2010-2011

“Like so, like so, like so!”

“We had visitors : a group of international ICYE-volunteers.

Happy Home was crowded with people those days and we could hear all languages, not only German , no, also Kiswahili, Sheng, French, Polish, maybe some words Italian, Danish and Swedish or randomly traces of Greek and Estonian were in the air. It was a colorful assembly that was made up by the international guests.

The Happy Home children enjoyed playing, singing and dancing with our visitors. The last evening, Catherine, a volunteer from France, usually working in a children’s home in Nairobi, taught the children a new dancing game. We played it for the whole evening, up to the time the children were supposed to go to bed. The game is very easy: All the participants make circle. Catherine starts singing: “I want!” “I want, I want”, the others reply. Again: “I want!” “I want, I want” - “I want Bless to come and dance for me like so, like so, like so, like so, like so! Ah!” Imagine that in the “like so” part Catherine started demonstrating the way she wanted Bless to dance for her.

...



Stories from the volunteers

“Like so, like so, like so!”

...

“After that the whole group joined in again: “Like so, like so, like so, like so, like so, like so!” After Bless had copied the dancing - under the laughter of everyone else - it was her turn. Bless took revenge: Sheila had been the one to laugh the loudest, so now it was up to her to copy Bless’ dancing. The game started being a competition: Who would make the funniest or most hip shaking movements of all of the girls? Whatever you sang in between - the “like so”- dancing parts became a contest in Kenyan dance and it is amazing how much our girls have learned especially the young ones, in the little time they are at home.

It was great fun for all of us to look and dance, to clap and sing and even in the next days we played it again and again.

And always it went like so, like so, like so, ...”



Stories from the volunteers

Story from Anne, German, in HHO from august 2010-2011

“Aunty let’s swim !!!”

There was something, a new thing on the compound. Let's have a closer look to those trees near the hedge. Something is different there, orange ropes are hanging out of the tree and down at their end someone tied a board! It looks like a swing!

It's a weekend, only the older children are still in school and so the younger ones enjoy the free swing. “Aunty, let's swim!!!” - “You mean swing, to swim is if you are in water!” - “Sawa, let's swing! You swing me!” A new task for the volunteers: Push the kid on the swing!

...



Stories from the volunteers

“Aunty let’s swim !!!”

...
Hours and hours the children can spend under the tree, sometimes even two of them share a ride on the swing. All over the compound we hear the screaming and the laughter, children laughter, the nicest sound in the world. Of course, there are also disputes about who's turn is it next, how long can one child sit on the swing, the usual stuff. But no one was harmed, the older ones care for the smaller ones and so all in all the new swing is great fun. Already, the boys are looking for the next tree that would be able to carry a swing. “Aunty here we put one for the older ones, yes?” Children all over the world love to swing, pretend to fly and spin around in circles.

And it's just fantastic to hear their joy.



Looking for volunteers : Willing to help us ???

Had je liever een nieuwsbrief in het Nederlands?

Wij zoeken vrijwillige vertalers !!! Email me isabelle@happyhomekenya.org

Auriez vous aimé avoir les nouvelles en Français?

On cherche des volontaires pour la traduction !!! Contactez-moi isabelle@happyhomekenya.org

Godfathers Godmothers We need new godfathers and mothers to replace those who left us recently (see next slide)

Volunteer in Kenya

We welcome volunteers who would like to spend **at least 3 months** with the children in Kenya. Volunteers assist the staff in their office duties, help the children with their homework and tutor them, participate in animation of games for the children, and write stories for newsletters.

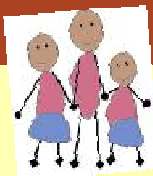
To apply : (1) first read our website carefully (2) read the volunteer agreement (3) Contact us on volunteer@HappyHomeKenya.org at least 2 months before your planned departure, mention the planned period, add your CV and a motivation letter.

Volunteer at home

We always need helping hands for fundraising, administration, translation, etc. Do you have some free time to offer ? Please contact us at info@HappyHomeKenya.org BEFORE taking any initiative to ensure transparency. We will be able to guide you and support your initiative.



Happy Home Contacts



Donor contact BELGIUM

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Edouard Lelievre-Douyon [Edouard@HappyHomeKenya.org]

VOLUNTEER contact

Volunteer@HappyHomeKenya.org



info@HappyHomeKenya.org

www.HappyHomeKenya.org



I want to help !!!

Names:

Email:

Contact address:

- I register as a **godfather/mother** of Happy Home and agree to give monthly donations ofEUR to Happy Home Orphanage bank account.
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 EUR to Happy Home Orphanage bank account.
- I would like to **help in the country office** with (specify) or organise a Fund-raising activity..... (specify) in (town) on ... / ... / 2011

Done in on Signature,

The money you are so kind to give will integrally be used to provide a safe and comfortable home to total orphans registered in the orphanage and to maintain their home.

Bank Account (please tick your choice):

- Belgium / Europe** "AMIE VZW " hosts our project: Account: **979-3261073-35** (IBAN: BE57 9793 2610 7335 - BIC: ARSPBE22).
Please mention your name & email. Tax deductible in Belgium from **40-€**/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).
Please mention « Happy Home Project », your name & email.

PLEASE POST TO THE CONTACTS LEFT OR TO info@HappyHomeKenya.org

