

# 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.



Happy Home kids' creativity

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## Change of primary school for HHO kids

Since a few years, our children attended Highlight Baptist School, located just behind Happy Home. Early this year, the manager was told that the school would be turned into a teachers training college.

This news is sad as the school had a good performance. In 2011, it took 3 pupils to National level secondary school (depending on the high marks on the national primary final exam) and 15 to provincial secondary school, what is a very good result.

In collaboration with the Board of Trustees and the area Education officer, the manager identified another primary school with similar performance and identified Barry Academy, which is located at about 1,5 km down the road from Stella, in a village called Oyani Bridge. The children started schooling there in the beginning of 2012 and gradually adjust well to this new environment.

During the first month their performance went a bit down, but they are catching up fast.



*Temporary classes in the closed Highlight Baptist School*

**OYANI BARRY ACADEMY**  
P.O BOX 29-40228  
URIRI

STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE

### **BRIEF HISTORY**

The school is called Oyani Barry Academy

#### **ESTABLISHMENT**

The school was started in 2004 as a community based to uplift education standards to support vulnerable pupils in collaboration with well wishers. The school was founded on deep Christian faith.

#### **Location**

The school is situated Oyani village Hware sub location S Kanyamkugo location Oyani division in Uriri district. It can be accessed along Oyani -Hware main road a few meters from the Kisii-Migori tarmac road.

#### **Pupil enrollment**

The school started with 20 pupils of pre-primary up to class one with four teachers.

The population has since grown to the current 253 pupils and 14 teachers.

#### **Achievements**

The school sat for the first K.C.P.E exams in 2010 getting a mean score of 287 and ranked 6 out of 74 schools in the district.

The second attempt in 2011 K.C.P.E. exams yielded a mean of 294.33 placing it at number 3 out of 76 schools in the district. The school managed to take 3pupils to national schools.

The school also excels in co-curriculum activities such as ballgames, athletics, drama, music and scouting/girl guide.



## Our first graduates from primary school

*Before Evance and Edwin entered HHO in 2006, they had not been schooling regularly. Both were behind on their schooling and started primary school in a low class based on their performance.*

*Evance always had it difficult in school, and being much older than most kids in his class, it discouraged him often. His dream is to become a pastor, but he knows he needs education to get there. When last year, he was told that he would be allowed to enter secondary school IF he succeeded his final exam, Evance gained hope and doubled his efforts. In December, he succeeded the national exam and was accepted in Mukuyu Secondary school where he is now a boarding student. He gets visit from the HHO manager and volunteers during parents days and became a happy adolescent who learned that he can get where he wants if he tries hard.*

***When Evance (left) understood in 2010 that he would get the chance to go to secondary school if he succeeded the national exam, he doubled his efforts. Edwin is standing next to Evance.***

*Edwin had different dreams. Being not very strong academically, he preferred to attend a technical training. After a long discussion with the boy, the manager and the Board of Trustees identified a technical school for him in Migori town, where he'll learn carpentering*



## Computer Classes

*"Every Saturday we teach 16 children. We put them in 4 groups called: Elephant, Zebra, Giraffe and Lion.*

*(During the first class) we taught them how to turn on a computer, how to use a mouse, what a file is, how to open a file, how to close a file and how to turn off the computer.*

*(In the second class) we then introduced them to the keyboard and showed them some of the different keys that are most often used. Keys like spacebar, backspace, caps lock, shift and enter. The kids typed their names and some sentences using all of these keys.*

*Afterwards we taught them how to save a file and made sure that each child had their own file to use in future lessons. ... The kids are really enjoying learning how to use the computer and we are really having fun teaching them!"*



## Volunteers

We have continued hosting volunteers from all over the world in Happy Home. We currently host three volunteers : Fatouma, Sibylle and Shea who sent most stories and pictures for this newsletter. Thanks !!!!



## Computers

The computers used by the children were donated by African Childrens Haven for HHO's 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Thanks !!!



## Other News

### Visitors in Happy Home

The Migori teachers training college student invited our children's to the college on 21<sup>st</sup> of January. They brought exercise books, pencils, pens, schoolbags, soaps and toothbrushes, bread and juice

On 24<sup>th</sup> of March, the home received students from Manyatta secondary school who come to share with the children's church worship and lunch with our kids at the home it was a very exiting time all together. Our children's presented songs, poems and drama the entire college was very happy with their day.

### Happy Home 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary

On 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 2011, Happy Home celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



### New godfather in the USA

Thank you Mr Billman for your monthly sponsorship. Your donation will allow to replace for past godfathers who stopped supporting us !!

### A troublesome adolescent

One of our eldest adolescent boys was caught stealing teachers at school. He had started absconding school some months earlier. The case was brought to the local chief and the police. The grandmother of the boy was also consulted.

The case of this child dates back to before he joined HHO in november 2006. The local authorities warned us back then that we were getting a "problem child" but in reality, nothing serious had happened until this year. And unfortunately with his history, this latest incident and the potential for repeat, the court ruling was to take him into a youth correction center.

We are concerned with his situation and therefore the manager will keep visiting him and getting reports about his. We are at least reassured that he will have the opportunity to pursue his education in the centre, but under closer supervision.

After hearing the court ruling, the grand-mother (legal guardian) of the boy thanked the staff in HHO for having raised him the past 5 1/2 years and for giving him a chance to see what he can accomplish through good behavior and school. She said that she was very grateful that he was out of trouble for 5 years. We also think that we offered something better than what he was getting into before and we hope this will encourage him to change his behavior for good in the near future.



## Looking for volunteers : Willing to help 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)

**Fundraising !!!!** Are you motivated, convincing and willing to help Happy Home ??? We need new godfathers and mothers to replace those who left us recently. Please contact us at [info@HappyHomeKenya.org](mailto:info@HappyHomeKenya.org) BEFORE taking any initiative to ensure transparency. We will be able to guide you and support your initiative.

### 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 at least 2 months before your planned departure on [volunteer@HappyHomeKenya.org](mailto:volunteer@HappyHomeKenya.org), with your CV and a letter.

### Volunteer at home

We always need helping hands for administration. Do you have some free time to offer ? Please contact us at [info@HappyHomeKenya.org](mailto:info@HappyHomeKenya.org).



# Happy Home Contacts



## Donor contact EUROPE

**Christian Vandepias** (NL-FR-ENG)

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

Rue Fond Thirion 61, B1410-Waterloo Tel +32(0)2.354.74.41

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

## Donor contact USA

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

4012 Pirates Beach, Galveston, Texas, 77554

T 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)]

## VOLUNTEER contact

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



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

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

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facebook

Happy Home Orphanage (Kenya)



I want to help !!!

Names: .....

Email: .....

Contact address: .....

- I register as a **godfather/mother** of Happy Home and agree to give monthly donations of .....EUR 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):

- 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](mailto:info@HappyHomeKenya.org)**



# Beware of fraud !!!

Please note that we ONLY fund raise through the official Happy Home bank accounts in Kenya, Belgium, USA and Canada.

We were recently notified of a case of fraud on Facebook. People use names of your friends on Facebook (a pastor for example) to invite you to donate to Happy Home, using a fake email : happyhome.orphanage@yahoo.com. Then, they try to donate through wiretransfer or Western Union, claiming the numbers on our site are temporarily inactive. PLEASE ALWAYS CHECK THE NAMES AND EMAILS ON OUR WEBSITE BEFORE DONATING.

**Please report any fraud to [isabelle@happyhomekenya.org](mailto:isabelle@happyhomekenya.org) if you encounter other fund raising activities, websites, emails, bank accounts, etc.**