

Notre Dame Children Outreach – Nyalieng'a Kenya

Update for our Supporters in Waterloo Region, Canada

June 2021

Greetings. Many thanks and blessings to you and all our sponsors of NDCO / NDH / SSND Convent.

May God bless and reward each of you and your family.

May God keep your family and Friends from Covid 19 challenges and effects.

We appreciate especially that you are still able to support our children with education and personal needs and you were able to donate to see to the completion the SSND convent in January of 2021. In the new convent chapel, we have a special writing place by the altar that says “God, Please Bless, Reward and Protect NDCO sponsors and those who contributed to the building of the convent.” So you are all in our daily prayers and masses for your own intentions. Many thanks again.

Since the Covid 19 pandemic began, none of our children or staff members have contracted the virus.

Because of Covid-19 challenges, the government, on visitation to NDCO, concluded that the NDH (Notre Dame Home) was inadequate for the children. We were forced to squeeze our budget and make sure that all our children were happy and safe in regular boarding schools (apart from class seven). That also means that next year our budget will require more funds because of boarding requirements and also the government has increased school fees.

The situation of the school has been very challenging since the year 2020 in March when the Covid-19 pandemic emerged. There has been school disruption and schools were closed for eight months but now schools are open and some students are still having online classes. Currently grade four are still on long holiday. They will resume learning on 26th July as they are promoted to grade five. Class eight on the other hand have received their results and are waiting to join high school in July.

Many people are wearing masks. Some are not but if they are caught they are asked to pay a fine. Observing social distance is a challenge especially on public transport and public places eg churches, schools etc (Homabay County where we are is the third highest affected area in the country). All markets are open and people are advised to adhere to Covid 19 restrictions - wearing masks, washing hands regularly and keeping social distance. Government, Chiefs, church leaders and school principals have played an important role in educating people to protect themselves and all their loved ones so that everyone can be safe.



Our girls at their new boarding school - first day.

Vaccines are available and only free for the government employees and elderly people. Any other person has to pay certain amount of money, so it is a big challenge for the NDCO children, staff and guardians to access the vaccine since we did not budget for it.

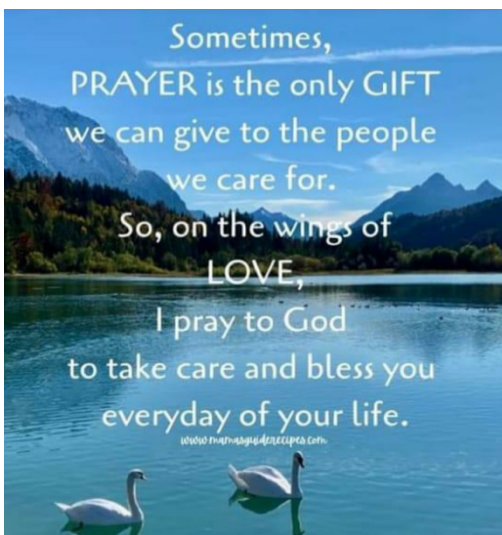
We have experienced heavy rains in the country. Many people were affected by floods and had to move to higher grounds. Currently the rains have subsided and some schools that were affected have resumed learning in their various institutions. Some people are doing second weeding and top dressing as they look forward for the harvest. Since the children are no longer staying at NDH we continue with our agriculture to get some yields to take to our children during visitation. Covid-19 has challenged us to improve our agriculture and we now raise rabbits and chickens to provide our children with protein.



Our boys at their new boarding school.

When the NDH was closed by government regulation and the children welfare office because adhering to covid-19 protocols was going to be a challenge (especially social distancing), a quick and rushed decision was made to focus more on our outreach program (home visits and school visits). After consultation with the children welfare office, we were allowed to keep the students in class eight with us for them to finish their studies and national examinations because they were already registered.

Thank you so much for all your donations and support especially during the peak of covid-19.
God bless and reward you abundantly.



Yours faithfully
Sr. Nentaweh (Director of the NDCO)