

Sunbeam Children's Home 2008

Sunbeam Children's Home and Hospice Project *Mission:* Equip orphaned children (mostly through HIV/AIDS) with skills and self assertiveness to live independently in society, providing good nutrition, education, parental love, security and opportunities for a brighter future. The project involves constructing a facility that will house the children, be a hospice for those with a terminal illness, a family center that will provide information and education for the local community, and a mobile clinic.

Requested Support: Help raise funds to finish construction. Construction supplies such as bricks were bought locally to help support the economy of the local community. Since the opening this past August, our funds will be used to provide food, medical care, education and supplies such as clothing and bedding for the orphans. Children will be accepted between birth and seven years old. A place in a local primary school will be found for school age children. Donated funds will also be used to hire staff from the local community in an effort to continue supporting the local economy. *Contact:* Madeline Ravesloot Sunbeam Children's Home and Hospice Project, Kenya madelineravesloot@hotmail.com
www.kenyasunbeamministries.org

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The Sunbeam Children's Home, in the Teso district of western Kenya, was built to serve the needs of orphaned children and to equip them with the skills, knowledge, opportunity and self-assertiveness required to live independently in society. The essential needs include nutrition, education, parental love, security and the opportunity for a brighter future.

Over two hundred children are in dire need, having been orphaned mostly through the AIDS epidemic. And there are many adults needing palliative care who are left to fend for themselves, many of whom are cast out from their families. This year, AIWC aims to raise 5000 CHF to provide the following:

- 2000 for furnishings, such as chairs, tables and bedding.
- 250 for school supplies, pens, paper, books, and school uniforms.
- 1500 for medical costs and supplies: bandages, gauze, vaccinations, HIV medication and medical consultations.
- 500 for food supplies including corn, milk, chickens, rice, meat, and fruit.
- 750 for staff to look after the children and the facility.

Sunbeam Children's Home Update

As mentioned in the September and October newsletters, the construction of the Sunbeam Children's Home in the Teso district of western Kenya was completed in 2007, and the funds raised this year by our club will help provide furnishings, school supplies, food, and medicine for when the home opens early next year. David and Helen Gourley of Kenya Sunbeam Ministries were responsible for the idea to build an orphanage in Kenya and responsible for raising the funds for construction. Following is an excerpt from their website (www.kenyasunbeamministries.org) with Helen writing an update on the progress and upcoming opening of the children's home.

“At last the building work is complete. As you know we had a team out in 2007 that built the main structure of the building. This year we had the great privilege of having a LIFT [Labor in Faith and Trust; www.liftni.org/] team from Northern Ireland which included an American Doctor with us for two weeks. They truly did a great job which included erecting ceilings to reduce heat, ventilation in walls, glazing windows, plumbing and wiring throughout the building and installing solar power. All guttering was directed to a new large tank to harvest the rain water, and with a new inside tank linked to it we now have flushing toilets, running water and showers. A watchman's hut was built and also outside toilets for locals. We built a chicken house to start a small business to provide food and eggs for the children and to sell what is not used. All the buildings have been cemented and ready for painting. The main work now is decorating, building of cupboards and putting furniture in place.

“This year we were really blessed to have our vehicle it was a great asset especially when the Lift team were at the site. Journeys to and from the town Bungoma was much easier and quicker and it was used in several medical situations.

“When the team left David and I continued with other work needed before children can be brought in hopefully no later than February 2009. We are working with a local social worker called George who has given his time on a voluntary basis going throughout the district finding suitable children for the home. Total orphans and special needs and those who

are HIV positive. He reports being overwhelmed by the needs he is encountering. During our time in Kenya some disabled children were brought to us for assistance, we were able to give each a wheelchair which was brought out in the container. This brought great joy and help to all concerned. [...] "Looking towards 2009 we have bought a further two acres of land adjacent to the home site to build our hospice, staff/visitor accommodation and a playground for the children. It is a very long process to obtain Title Deeds of land but we are believing they will be all through by November."