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Your sponsorship for SOS Children's Village Eldoret

Dear Sir or Madam,

I value your continues contribution which has enabled SOS Children's Village in Eldoret to reach its goals for the year. Thank you for making this journey possible especial these times that are different.

In Kenya, COVID-19 is still influencing the lives of the children, young people and families that we support. The situation changes regularly and we are doing our very best to make sure that the children, young people and families stay healthy. We follow official guidelines to make sure they can continue to grow and develop, and can continue to go to kindergarten, school or training and take part in other activities.



Happy children at home

Allow me to welcome you to read about what happened in the village in the last eleven months.

The village at a glimpse

Currently SOS Children's Village in Eldoret; is a home to 150 children and 90 young persons. In the course of the year, some of the young people settled well in the community; as they started their independent life. Meanwhile, other children joined the next academic year after successfully completing and passing their examinations.



Gifted hands

On the other hand, the candidates who passed their examinations; joined various colleges as well as the university. I am happy to inform you that two of them even joined the Hermann Gmeiner International College in Ghana. It was a great joy for the SOS Mothers to see them off at the airport. With no doubt your support has continued to have positive impact on the lives of children and young people.



School is fun

Going to school is a lively activity for primary school pupils. This is because they learn using the new curriculum; where they are encouraged to be creative while learning. Mama Ye* happily tells me, 'my son wakes up early and is eager to go to school. He told me that learning is interesting and he understands better.'

I want to share with you this captivating story; where children visited the Nairobi National Park during their Environment Learning Activity class. Jojo* happily told me, 'then we went in the auditorium and a movie played. Imagine, from it, I learnt that there are three types of Zebra and their patterns are different. The most amazing thing is that they sleep while standing.' Through this educative trip, children learnt that National parks provide a home for the wild animals to live.

Your support helps pupils learn at an early age that the environment needs to be cared for. Imagine children like Jojo* will grow up understanding why we should live in harmony with the wild plants and animals. They will be champions who will help the world become a better place.

Outstanding services

I am happy to tell you that the Medical Centre has continued to be a glimmer of hope and a reliable treatment centre for the community. In spite of the current COVID-19 pandemic; it still offers quality, reliable and lifesaving healthcare. I know the joy you will feel knowing that someone's life changed for the best after they received treatment and they healed well.

Muncie* one of the 1000 patients who recovered well; after visiting the Medical Centre happily told me; 'the staff are quite keen and friendly. The doctor treated me for six months but now I am healed completely. I am back on my feet and my family is happy because; I can take care of them. I thank you for supporting this worthy cause, which is indeed a great achievement.'

Mental Health awareness

There is nothing in life more comforting than knowing that you are not walking alone in this unpredictable journey. You will agree with me that; many people fear talking about what is weighing them down. This is because of the stigma involved as well as ignorance about mental illness.

The good news is that forty-five staff including the SOS Mothers attended the interactive session. 'This forum equipped me with knowledge to understand the importance of a positive mental health. I know that I will be able to talk to my children and lightly carry out counselling sessions with them,' Mama Mutsa* told me. Through your generous support; such trainings will ensure that children will be confident in sharing their innermost ideas with their mothers.



Phoebe* is a young girl who is talented in braiding and styling the African hair. She is happy that she got the opportunity to share her story with me. I welcome you to read through her story.

How it started

'While growing up, my SOS sisters and I, used to compete in braiding grass matuta (three strand braiding). With everyday practice, I slowly learnt how to braid hair,' said Phoebe*. She is a good hairstylist who is sought after by her clients because she does an awesome job.

The confidence

Phoebe* did not pay much attention to being a hairstylist because she never thought that her fingers could withstand plaiting hair; even if it was the simple cornrows. She chuckles and tells me, 'my mom believes in me, she made me plait her hair each Saturday afternoon. It encouraged me and I eventually gained confidence.'

The game changer

Phoebe* flew to Ghana to attend Hermann Gmeiner International College and coincidentally, Art was a compulsory unit of study. In the introductory class, the lecturer emphasized that for each student to pass; they needed to identify their artistic edge. I started thinking what I could pursue in line with Arts and I shared with my SOS Mother.

'Mom reminded me that I had a talent and from then on, through much practice I polished my skills,' says Phoebe.* To date, it is an achievement for her since she can plait African braids, cornrows, knitting wigs and weaves. I am happy that your support helped Phoebe to identify her big break.

Fast forward

Phoebe* she can plait up to three clients in a day. They appreciate that she is gentle with the scalp and some even afford to doze off as she braids them. Phoebe's* SOS Mother, continues to be her greatest cheerleader. For the parting shot, Phoebe* is among the 200 young people pursuing their dreams in various colleges and universities both locally and internationally.

Child's best interest

We continue to update you on the issue of the ongoing reforms in Kenya's Child Care and Protection sector. In partnership with the Government, SOS Children's Village in Kenya continues to make progress in improving the care and protection children receive to make sure that the best interest of the child are secured. It will lead to the finalization of a National Care Reforms Strategy.

The Strategy is scheduled to be officially launched in 2022. Amongst other things, it provides different approaches in which children without adequate parental care can, if it is in their best interest, be taken care of in families within the community. Once the new Strategy is



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launched, we will be looking at the living and family situation of each child and, based on their best interests, we will decide where they will live in the future. If the child is able to return to live with their family, we will prepare and support them during this time. We will let you know in case this decision has an effect on your sponsorship.

As we await for the enactment of this strategy, we continue to provide the children and young people with all the support they need. Currently, they are attending school. However, during the short school holidays, some of the children and young people will spend time with their families of origin while others return to the village.

It gives me great pleasure to know that you have read through these fascinating stories. I say thank you for the good and kind thoughts you have for us. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a bountiful New Year 2022.

*No real names have been used because of data protection.

Warmest wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gladys Mumbi', written over a large, light blue circular watermark.

Gladys Mumbi
National Sponsorship Co-ordinator