

Århus Y's Men's Club. Nordstjernen Birgit
Thvilum
Majsmarken 16B
8520 Lystrup
Denmark

21 November 2019

Your sponsorship for SOS Children's Village Eldoret

Dear Sir or Madam,

Warm greetings from SOS Children's Village Eldoret! I trust you are well and you had an awesome year. It is a great pleasure for me to thank you once again for your support towards the activities for the children and young persons held in the village. Indeed they were successful!

Christmas together at last

Every end of the year, our children travel to their rural homes where they spend the Christmas holiday. One can see how they get excited and cannot hide their emotions. 'Can I buy some sugar and sweets mum? Jimmy* always requests his SOS mother. Jimmy* never wants to visit empty handed because he adores his grandparents and cousins. When he arrives at his rural home, he finds them waiting for him at the bus station and definitely his cousins run to welcome him. Keeping contact with their biological families is such an important part of their growth.



Jimmy and his friend in a happy mood

A festival with a lesson

Although months have passed by the children and young people in the school still remember the laughter they had during the drama festivals. It drew participants from the kindergarten up to the university level. Emmanuel* who attended the festival said, 'I am glad our school



SOS mothers graduation

agreed to host this festival; it was hilarious, the plays, mimes, choral verses and the cultural dances made my day. I had a lot to learn about promoting moral responsibility among the young people through the drama.' Did you also have such dear sponsor during your teenagehood?

The school principal was amazed to see that the festival ended well. There was something else that students don't



forget when they meet. There were new bonds made and old ones renewed. The high fives, selfies, and group photos betrayed the amity beyond the stage competition.

Mother's Pride

I am glad to tell you that this year six young persons graduated from college and two have already secured employment. Tabitha* was one of the young persons who did exceptionally well in her academic; indeed her story illustrates the impact of your support dear sponsor. Her success motivated other young people in the village who have since realized that her efforts are not in vain but have yielded great and recognizable results. Do you remember how you felt when you graduated from college? As a young teenager, you can only image how happy she felt.

When Tabitha* was asked how she made it, she was quick to say, 'I don't regret having chosen my course in food and beverage, it was my childhood dream! My journey while pursuing my passion has made me discover that cooking is fun and especially when you are learning from an experienced chef or making your own recipes.'

Mama Jane*, who is Tabitha's* SOS mother, is proud to talk about how Tabitha* has made her so proud. She is always encouraging other SOS mother's to continue performing parental duties well because it will be for their best and one day they will also reap the fruits of their labour.

The career changer...

It was tears of joy for the 16 SOS mothers after they graduated from a local university with a certificate in Child Care and Protection. Mama Grace* who gave a speech on behalf of the other mothers said, 'It takes a lot of courage to change careers; The skills you have spent years developing in your past career may not be used in a different field, but sometimes the question of 'what if continues to linger in one's mind That is what we mothers had in common and we could not resist the thought of going back to school and advance our knowledge'

Believe it or not these mothers were in different professions before joining SOS Children's Village Eldoret but there was an inkling that their best fit career could be in taking up the career as a mother. In fact a career aptitude test taken previously said exactly that.

Thereafter, last year they jumped into their journey of equipping themselves with more knowledge on child care. Switching back to academic life, navigating university life and having the responsibility of a parent meant making adjustment in their day to day life. Their study life became interesting; the children were keen to ensure their mothers wake up early to study with them and had completed their homework.

They were keen to learn what their mothers were studying just like their mothers did for them. This academic journey became shorter and soon they were ready for graduation. This was not just for the mothers but they also wanted their children to know the importance of

getting an education and chasing their dreams and goals. Today they attribute their success to putting in extra hours of reading after class, listening to their lecturers and the positive influence they had from their children. Back to the village the children were happy to celebrate their mothers' achievements.

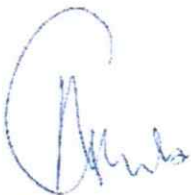
After writing this story, I can only think of this famous proverb – 'united we stand, divided we fall'

As I finish this letter, let me now take this opportunity to say thank you for all your kindness Emmanuel, Tabitha, the SOS mother and all the other children in the village have achieved their goal because of your support.

May you have a Merry Christmas and great opportunities in the coming year of 2020.

*no real names have been used due to data protection.

With best regards,



Gladys Mumbi
National Sponsorship Co-ordinator