

Suitcases for Africa Annual Report 2018

Educational Sponsorship Program 2018

The 58 children in the sponsorship program continued to work hard under the encouragement of our administrator Susan Nanjala. Thirty of the children were in high school and 8 students graduated. We are very happy and congratulate both the students for their hard work and the sponsors for their years of support and encouragement. The remaining children numbered 6 in lower primary and 22 in upper primary Please see the details of how the sponsorship program operates in our 2017 Annual Report.

Girls Sanitary Support Project: In 2018 SFA continued the project to fund all the girl students in our program with all sanitary supplies necessary so that they could continue to attend school during their menses. Often girls in these communities miss a week of school during every month due to these supplies being unavailable to them. As a result they soon fall behind in their studies. We are grateful that this will no longer impact their academic performance.

Special Educational Funding: During 2018 we continued to fund 3 students at boarding schools due to emergencies. The individual children had to be removed from their homes or communities due to violence, abuse or rape. Thankfully these children are now continuing their studies in better situations and are all doing remarkably well with time and support. Without this intervention they would have lost their education and their lives would have been intolerable.

A New Well: In December of 2018 work on the new well commenced at **Indulusia Primary School** in the Shikutse location of Malava. Throughout the year fundraising efforts continued for a third well sponsored by Joshua and friends.

This young 16 year old has been working since the age of five to bring clean accessible water to those without a well in rural Kenya. Remarkably, Joshua, aided by other donors, has achieved his goal once again!

Digging at the well site was close to being finished by year's end. The well will be visited by an SFA team in early 2019 and the grand opening will be celebrated with the community. This well will be serving the 498 students of the school and 18 staff members but will also extend to the local community of an additional 200 people. Previously the children had to haul water for drinking and all other needs from a highly contaminated stream used for bathing by the community and their cattle. They suffered from waterborne illnesses and there was a constant fear of children drowning while fetching water. We expect students will be absent less often and do better in their studies due to the improved health this well will provide.

Mosquito Nets Campaign 2018

Throughout the year and with the sales of our donation gift cards at Christmas, SFA ran a campaign to raise funds for the purchase of bed nets. These nets protect children and their families from contracting Malaria. Malaria is endemic in the region and is responsible for many deaths each year. It is also often the cause of disabilities in those who survive. We have met many disabled children over the years who suffered from loss of hearing, cognitive impairment and physical impairment. This year over \$1500.00 was donated for this specific project. The nets will be purchased and distributed in Kenya early in 2019.

2018 Team Visit to Kenya Projects Postponed

A contested national election in Dec 2017 which continued for months afterward into 2018, caused unsettled conditions in the country. SFA received numerous reports from our colleagues in Kenya that it would be unwise to visit during our usual late winter/spring timeline as there was an increase in violent incidents, robberies and assaults.

For this reason the SFA Board of directors made the decision not to risk the safety of members and postponed the visit until safer conditions should return. It is for this reason our team will be looking forward more than ever to return to visit the SFA projects and communities in early 2019. We are sure we will see a big change in some of the sponsored children especially those who have since joined high school.

We know and feel that we are very privileged to be doing this rewarding work and our hearts are still very much engaged in making a hard life in rural Kenya better for those we serve wherever possible. We thank all those who have partnered with and supported us in reaching those goals in 2018.

Thank you,

yours sincerely,

Darlene Anderson,

President, Suitcases for Africa