

GIVE KIDS A CHANCE FOUNDATION

Spring Newsletter 2013

We are a small charity making a significant difference in the lives of hundreds of children in Guatemala and India. We have only been able to accomplish this because of each donor's help and generosity.

Thank you.

Once again, the donations that you have provided to Give Kids A Chance have allowed us to continue our work in Guatemala and India. During our eleven weeks in Guatemala this winter it was clear to us that through the programs that we support, change is happening in hundreds of children's lives.

As you can see from these photos, our scholarship program is very successful, with fifty-two students studying this year in high school and university in Guatemala. We strongly believe that ultimately education is the only lasting solution to poverty.

We have been working with the Mixia family for nine years and, as you may remember, we built them a simple house in 2009. They were required to make monthly payments to partially repay the cost. This requirement enabled them to feel they were participating in owning their own home. We are pleased to report that they did not miss a single payment and we presented them with the deed to their house in February.

During the directors' time in Guatemala, we worked daily on the planning and approval stages for the children's education/cultural centre, Los Patojos, which we are going to build in Jocotenango. We have an architect and engineer who are working on securing the necessary permits and licences so we can begin construction.



Kids eating at Los Patojos.



Scholarship Students.



Giving Dona Elena title to land.



Cultural Night.



Our university students.



Mixia Family.

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At the opening ceremony for the land, the federal Vice Minister of Justice clearly stated that he wants to see Los Patojos replicated throughout the country. The key success that he recognized is that through Los Patojos programs, the children and youth have access to support and help in order to succeed at school, as well as the opportunity for higher education through our scholarship program. In addition, the centre offers extra-curricular activities such as fine arts, poetry, journalism, photography, filmmaking, theatre, break dancing and ballet. These activities, offered by Los Patojos, are directing the youth away from violence and drugs and toward success in their education. Los Patojos will become the model for numerous other centres in Guatemala. This will change thousands of lives.

A perfect example of how this centre has begun to change lives can be seen in the photo on the left. These young people all have troubled pasts. They are now intimately involved in the Los Patojos youth program and are working full time on the construction where they are learning new trades and responsibilities.

Our scholarship program in India continues to be very successful. Three students graduated from high school this year and all others are doing well. We recently received a letter below from one of our college graduates from the Kibera slum of Nairobi that speaks for itself.



More than 200 people at ceremony.



Ceremony.



Youth working on land.



Volunteers working on land.

Hello, I am Okello. I was a beneficiary of the sponsorship from Give Kids A Chance Foundation.

I am currently a student at KCA university pursuing bachelor in commerce specializing in finance hoping to graduate next year God willing. I am also a CPA (certified public accountant). I stay in kibera and I actually got sponsorship from your foundation that sponsored my collage in accounting. This is one of the reasons that i have decided to be involved in my community in kibera just to be able to give back where I can.

I have a mentorship and empowerment programme for girls in high schools in kibera called Oliveraokello HopeAlive Programme. We focus in providing talks in high schools and deal with guiding, counseling, drugs, self esteem, career talks and generally topics that affect teenagers and challenges that face girls especially in slum areas.

Currently we are working with Kibera Girls Soccer Academy and Jeremic Adventist Academy. My aim is to reach as many high schools as possible in kibera and empower the girls so that they can become positive influence in their community.

My outmost goal for the programme is to be able to build a community center in Kibera that will provide training and skills for girls who cannot afford fees to join collages and universities. The center would provide training on skills, basically training in areas that would empower the girls to be entrepreneurs and generate income to support them because I believe that part of empowering women is education and job creation.

I am writing to say thank you to your foundation for sponsoring my education. I am working to be able to give back to my community through mentoring other girls from Kibera.

Thank you and be Blessed!
Happy Holidays!



Okello.

Once again thank you to each and every one of our donors for helping us to improve the lives of all these children.

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