

December 2013

DARAJA of ...

BRIDGE of...



 $\mathcal{H}OPE$ 

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16

Nang'o! Hello from Olalo of Hope – Kenya! (Bridge of Hope)

Education...HealthCare...Life Change...it all happened in 2013 just as we prayed it would!

Children were able to go to school. The sick and injured were treated for accidents, illness and disease. Hospitalizations for required surgery or illness were made possible. Medicines for healings were paid for. Community Support (shoes-shirts-soccer balls) was enabled. New businesses were funded.

Education, HealthCare and Life Change IS occurring and a renewed hope for breaking the cycle of poverty is taking place in Oyugis, Kenya! Olalo is being a Bridge to these needed services and our prayers are being answered!

It was on January 15, 2013, when Olalo of Hope-Kenya registered with the State of Oregon as a nonprofit corporation and began to fervently pray for God to use Olalo to help meet the needs of the orphans, widows and poor of Oyugis, Kenya.

In October, just 8 months after applying for tax exempt status from the IRS, Olalo of Hope-Kenya was approved as a 501(c) 3 Charity...this allows our donors to deduct their contributions to Olalo when they file their tax returns, as well as opens the doors to other benefits for Olalo.

With 2014 just a few short weeks away, we are looking forward to another year of seeking God's plan for Olalo and the poor of Oyugis. There is still much to be done, but we believe with God's direction and your continued support, His will shall be accomplished. The need is great, but our God is greater!

Plans are already in the beginning stages for a short-term Medical mission trip to Oyugis and a possible church plant in 2014. We are excited to see what's in store for Olalo of Hope-Kenya.

As we close out year one for Olalo, we want to humbly thank each and every one of our supporters who made all these accomplishments possible. Without your generous prayer support, encouragement and finances, many would never have received the assistance necessary to promote Life Change in Oyugis.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and Volunteers, Thank You and have a Very Blessed Christmas! Nyasaye Ogwedhi! (God Bless) Merry & Pete

### **HealthCare**

Change for Change Medical Fund

A very special THANK YOU to all of you who have faithfully contributed your pocket change collected in coffee cans, plastic baggies, storage containers, jars, boxes and all those other containers that provided medical relief and healing to so many children and adults in Oyugis.

Olalo's Change for Change fund allowed the ill to seek the medical help they needed without having to choose medicine over food for their family for the day. Your change has impacted lives and promoted Life Change in Oyugis, Kenya. Your pocket change has even saved lives!

Thank you on behalf of Olalo, and on behalf of those whose lives have been made better and healthier because of your generous support!

God Bless You!



#### **Education**

Hello, from Oyugis,

I would like to take this opportunity to write you this letter. First of all thanking you for enabling me to let me join Secondary School just because of your help. Due to your help and the way you have wish me all the best in my education, I have promised to work hard in any little opportunity I get and I am ready to do so. (Excerpt from a letter from a first year student)

Education is key to promoting life change and helping to break the cycle of poverty.

In 2013, Olalo was able to support 6 young people (age13) through their first year of Secondary School and we are looking to support these same six kids through their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of school, but we need your help!

We know of many more children who have graduated from Primary School this month and need financial assistance to begin Secondary school soon. The school year in Kenya follows the calendar year. Classes begin in January/February and end in November/December.

The cost of educating a child through a year of Secondary School is just \$30 a month. This amount covers tuition, uniforms, all school books and supplies, medical while at school, 2 meals a day and all other fees. Pretty incredible, don't you think?

Would you consider sponsoring a child through school for a year, or several months, or just one month? Are you a member of a group of people who could share the cost for a year with each member taking one month? A Sunday School class, card club, gardening club, Home Fellowship group, bowling league, your co-workers... whatever you're a part of. Be creative!

Thank you for prayerfully considering educating an orphan or poor child in Kenya.

You can support a child through a monthly deduction program, or we can send you envelopes to return with a monthly payment. See the sidebar for payment options information.

(Another first year student from Oyugis writes-) ....I accept the support you gave me in my Secondary education and what you people did for me nobody has ever done for me. I promise to work hard in my education to achieve better fruit for my future. I am praying for you auys, I pray for God's protection over you people and that you stay strong and healthy to support us and others whom are still in need of education support.

God bless your family....

There are just 4 of this year's students who need continued support for Year 2 of Secondary School to continue their education. As soon as we have their costs sponsored, we will post the other children in need of Educational Support....

> Thank you for your consideration of investing in a child's life through the gift of education!



Jared Juma



Wyclif Ochieng





(Muse)

Clifford Ochieng Variese



Winnie Oduka

# **Payment Options**

Our webpage allows you to conveniently use your PayPal account or a credit card.

You will be able to choose a one-time donation, or set up an automatic monthly payment. Our webpage can be found at:

WWW.Olalo.org

Checks can be mailed to:

Olalo of Hope-Kenya **PO Box 1476** Clackamas OR 97015

To make a monthly donation through the mail to support a child's education, email us at

Olalo.of.hope@gmail.com.

We will supply you with pre-addressed stamped envelopes for your convenience.

## **Community Support**

Barber Shop Update!

Need a haircut? You can get one for just 40 cents! Yes, you read that right, 40 cents will get you a nice clean cut...only catch is, you've got to travel to Oyugis, Kenya to get it!

Robert and Calvince are at the helm of the Barber Shop sponsored by Olalo, learning how to run a business and learning how to cut hair by Oti.

On a recent trip back to Kenya, Sonko Ouma surprised both friends and family back in Oyugis with a two week visit. After visiting other local barber shops, Sonko and the crew remodeled a bit, painted and spruced up the shop and almost immediately business picked up.



Since most people in Oyugis own cell phones and few of them have electricity to charge them, Charging Stations are popular in Oyugis; and now the Barber Shop has them, too. Residents who use cell phones for banking and other necessities, can get their phones charged while getting their haircut, or just drop them off and pick them up fully charged

for a very reasonable price.



Sonko has certainly blessed the Barber Shop by having the entrepreneurial vision and knowing how to fill a need...haircuts and phone charging!

Funds earned by the Barber Shop will be used for the shop's self-sufficiency AND to donate some proceeds to the Oyugis Soccer Academy to help support the kids at the Academy without the means to participate fully in the program. They are also putting aside 10 Kenyan Schillings a week to support



the soccer academy in the future.

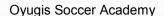
The kids at the Academy (ages 8-18) were inspired when they learned about Olalo funding the Barber Shop, and motivated to begin their own savings plan by putting a little into an account each week with the Barber Shop. Their vision is to buy land they can use as a field to practice their football (aka soccer) without others telling them when they can or can't use the field to practice or play.

And one more bonus...the Barber Shop is on the main road through Oyugis, and the building is big enough to house the very first Olalo of Hope-Kenya office...in Kenya! We may not yet have a desk or a chair, a computer or a person on duty, but we have a sign announcing our presence! Sonko did a masterful job painting the sign for Olalo and for the Oyugis Soccer Academy. The sign matches both organizations logos perfectly and announces to everyone passing by that Olalo of Hope-Kenya is alive and well in Oyugis!





# SOCCER ACADEMY



The Oyugis Soccer Academy was founded by German-born Oliver Page to work with area orphans and vulnerable boys. The Academy is under the direction of volunteer Sonko Omondi Ouma.

The purpose of the Academy is to teach the skills and disciplines of soccer, to offer a healthy environment for kids to learn the sport and to be mentored in life skills by caring adults. After trainings, the boys take part in Bible Study and learn about Jesus Christ.

Today there are approximately 85 boys who regularly attend the trainings and Bible study.

While Sonko is here in Oregon, Olalo volunteer Ken Nyando has taken on the administrative duties of the academy, and Arthur Orondo has taken on the training. We know both Sonko and the boys at the Academy are

anxious to get him back!





As we continue to feature another team member in each newsletter, this month we'd like to tell you a little about our missionary team...

Introducing....Corinne & Sonko Omondi Ouma....

Corinne and Sonko are currently residing in North Portland and attend Life Change Christian Center. They met in Oyugis, Kenya several years ago while Corinne was on her annual mission trip to Oyugis. They were married here in Oregon in June of 2012. They plan to return to Oyugis to take up residence near Sonko's family sometime in 2014, but are open to the Lord's leading as to the timing of their move.

Corinne was born in Portland and has one younger brother. When Corinne was a little girl, she told us she was going to grow up and be a missionary in Africa. That vision became reality a number of years ago when she went to Kenya with another local nonprofit and

fell in love with the orphans and widows in Oyugis. Each year she returned to Oyugis and each year her time in Kenya expanded longer and longer. Her passion is to return to Kenya to work alongside her husband and to continue to minister to the orphans, widows and poor of Oyugis with the love of Jesus Christ.

Sonko was born in Oyugis. Back in Kenya is his mom, Rosa, one brother, five sisters and many nieces and nephews....and of course, the boys at the soccer academy! Sonko has a great talent for painting – landscapes and signs as you can see by the Olalo of Hope sign, and he has also earned a living by creating business stamps, painting and general contracting.

Currently Corinne works for Red Robin and Sonko works at Life Change Christian Center and at Portland City United Soccer Club as a coach. In his spare time, Sonko plays on three different soccer teams.

When asked about his thoughts or goals for Olalo of Hope-Kenya, Sonko said, "Olalo is changing lives of the people. I can really see how people are changed and they are feeling so blessed…and with just small amounts of money (to make this happen). The people are happy." And about the future for Olalo he said, "I would like to see it continue to do great things…and to change their destiny."





Olalo of Hope-Kenya is a faith-based nonprofit working in the east African country of Kenya.

Our Mission is to help break the cycle of poverty by building strong communities by working with various partners and communities to empower individuals and families with opportunities for the furtherance of education, healthcare and skills needed to affect life change within their communities.

Olalo Programs include:
School Tuition, Uniforms, School Supplies
Change for Change Medical Fund
Community Support
Orphan Care
Missionary Team Support.

### How to find us....

On the Web: www.olalo.org

FaceBook: https://www.facebook.com/

pages/Olalo-of-Hope-Kenya

Email: Olalo.of.hope@gmail.com

Mail: Olalo of Hope-Kenya

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