



OLALO of ...
(Luo)

July 2014

DARAJA of ...
(Swahili)

BRIDGE of...
(English ☺)

HOPE

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!

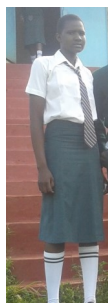
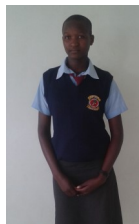
Next month begins the final term of the current school year for our students in Kenya. In our last newsletter we reported we had doubled our supported students from six in 2013 to twelve in 2014. We spoke too soon!

Shortly thereafter we added four more for a total of 16. Our students range from year one to year four in school– some are orphans, others have one or two living parents, but they all have one thing in common...without the financial support of Olalo and individual sponsors, none of them would be in school.

This issue we focus on the students – how we choose who to support, how the funds are used, how you can help...we'll even hear from the kids – through excerpts of the letters they've written. (Some don't copy well, sorry..but they are readable)

Thank you for your prayers for Olalo of Hope-Kenya. God has been faithful to us as we continue to be a strong presence in Oyugis promoting life change and renewed hope!

Nyasaye Ogwedhi!
Merry



Did You Know...

Did you know that every time someone sponsors a child's education for the year, that another child also gets the opportunity to go to school?

Many of our donors tell us to use their donations wherever it is needed most. When someone sponsors a specific student, it enables Olalo to use those undesigned funds to send another child to school. We commit to fund that student until they complete their Secondary School education using the undesigned funds or someone chooses to sponsor them.

We currently support kids who thought their education would end with Primary School. We also support several students who were forced to drop out of school because families or relatives could no longer pay the school fees.

Olalo has indeed been blessed to be able to support these kids! We are very thankful to be able to step in with support and keep these students in school.

The gratitude and commitment of the kids and their families is immeasurable!

It's all very personal....

Ever wondered exactly how our students and Olalo of Hope-Kenya connect in the first place?

It's all very personal!

The students we support are all recommended by personal connections in Oyugis...and they are all connected to our main contact – Sonko Ouma.

Having grown up in Oyugis, and through his involvement with the Oyugis Soccer Academy, Sonko knows the kids, their families and the family situations. The other coaches at the Academy, friends, local school teachers, principals, even doctors and government officials who have personal relationships with Sonko let him know about specific situations and the kids who need help.

By the time we fund a child's education, their financial/family situation has been well documented to be sure we are being wise stewards of our donor contributions and helping only those students who truly need financial assistance to attend school.

Prior to funding a child's education, potential students are required to fill out an application that asks about their educational goals and any financial assistance their family may be able to provide. For example, the family may be able to pay for the school uniform but nothing else. Olalo then picks up the remainder of the costs. The family

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may have nothing to contribute, so Olalo covers it all, which is the case with most of our students.

We also hold the student accountable to a reasonable standard of progress to continue to receive financial support. Each student signs an agreement that basically asks them to commit to work hard, have good attendance and to maintain good grades.

The Agreement also commits them to ask teachers for help if they find themselves struggling in a subject, and talking to the people working with Olalo of Hope-Kenya if any circumstances arise that are affecting their ability to maintain good attendance and required grades.

The Agreement is fashioned to function as an aid to help the student succeed in their education, and yet give them a sense of ownership by choosing to be held accountable and doing their best.

(The Agreement forms Olalo uses are available for your review upon request)

We Got Letters...

In early May, we bundled up 16 letters written by sponsors of students we support in Secondary Schools in Oyugis and sent them off with great anticipation.

It was quite an experience trying to find the quickest and least expensive way to get the letters into the hands of the kids. The cost of 16 letters –less than 9 ounces - all placed in one 8X10 flat-almost-lighter-than air envelope ranged from \$79 to \$101. OUCH!

I checked with the US Post Office last, not expecting a reasonable price or delivery time, but found the cost to be less than \$15 with delivery in 4-6 weeks. So we did all the paperwork that goes along with international mail, said a prayer over them and off they went.

In less than 4 weeks, Kennedy Nyando - our incredible volunteer in Oyugis – let me know the letters had arrived and he would deliver them to each of the students over the weekend. We were excited!



Weeks later Ken collected and mailed the letters written back by the students.

(Isn't Ken amazing? He does so much for Olalo...we depend on him so deeply and he is always so faithful in helping Olalo and the kids. We are so very grateful for Ken! He is a Volunteer Super Star!)

Less than two weeks later the letters arrived in Oregon. Every student had responded with a warm greeting and sincere thankfulness for the

opportunity to go to school.

The letters touched our hearts...some made us laugh, some brought tears to our eyes...but all of them were filled with such gratitude and renewed hope for an opportunity for life change.

Reading the letters reminded us of how blessed we are to be able to invest in the lives of children who once had no hope of a better life. It strengthened our resolve to let others know how God has been using Olalo to promote life change and hope in Oyugis for the students, their families and the community.

(Letter excerpts following page)

What's Next?

Sonko is heading home to Oyugis, Kenya for a few weeks for both family, Soccer Academy and Olalo of Hope-Kenya business.

Since letters don't take up much suitcase space, we are sending return letters back to our students with him. This will give him a chance to visit with each student, their teachers and the school principals. August is one of the months the students are out of school, so he will have ample opportunity to catch up on the latest.

During this time, Sonko will also be getting both pictures and bios of the kids who are completing Primary School and won't be attending Secondary School without financial assistance. As we receive those, Olalo will be sending out their information in the hopes of finding sponsors for the kids.

Would you prayerfully consider sponsoring a student?

The school year in Kenya begins in January, runs for three months and has one month off. It continues that way until the end of the school year in December.

So why start support now you ask? Glad you asked!

When a student begins school, we are required to not only have the money to provide for the uniform and all the school supplies, but the schools require half or 2/3 of the fees/tuition paid up front, and the remainder of the fees are divided between the last two terms. It is a heavy start on the front side and eases off as the year goes on. We don't want delays getting the kids started as we gather the funds to cover the front end expenses.

Beginning the monthly \$30 payment now allows us to have much of the needed funds available when the new school year begins.

If you are led to help support a student's opportunity for life change through education, but can't commit to a full year of school, your support in any amount will assist Olalo in putting another child in school. Be sure to designate the "Education Fund" with your donation.

Thank you for your consideration...God Bless!

Dear Mary,
I greet you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, am
happy and very grateful for whatever you people did to
me I must say that our entire community is happy about
Olalo of hope and Dyugui soccer Academy.

I am living with my parents both still alive and
they were very Courageous about the future gain, am the
fifth children in all total childrens but the miserable thing
is am the first to atten the Secondary level among them,
and that is why am said that God bless you. I wish Safe

Sometimes they see me as a boy who is not perseverence
In Our family were are Seven Children in
number, I'm the fifth born in the family, third born among boys
and appear fifth in general number, they are not Educated because
lack of funds of Secondary Education, but I'm The Only Child
among them who is Educated because of The Support I get
from Olalo of Hope and On their behalf I send to you their
greetings."

4 Excerpts from the 16 Letters.....

RENDU-BAY
first I thank the almighty
lord for allowing us to see this day. I have written this
letter so that I can thank you all and all of those
who gives you support for you to sponsor us so that we
can continue with our education.
I am in form two and I normally work hard so that
I can achieve my goals at the end of my education.
and I normally pray for you each and everytime that I
pray so that the Lord can open for you your ways and
bless the work of your hands so that you can continue
support us. I do think all of you and the lord continue
to bless you.

What Does the Sponsorship of a Student Cover?

Secondary School Fees/Tuition
School Uniform
Supplies (paper, pencils, calculator, etc)
Necessary books
While in school- 2 meals a day & healthcare



Life Change has taken place around the world last month... from Milwaukie, Oregon to Kenya, Africa!

In July, Olalo of Hope-Kenya had the great privilege of being the featured ministry for the Missions focus of Calvary Chapel Southeast's Vacation Bible School.

Each day the kids brought their coins to help support Olalo. Since the kids were bringing their change, Olalo's Change for Change Medical Fund was the natural fit for all the coins being collected.

At the beginning of the week, Pete and I had the opportunity to share a little about Olalo of Hope-Kenya with the kids. The rest of the week CCSE staff shared a little more about each of the other programs of Olalo – education, community support and our missionaries.

On the last day of VBS, at the Friday evening VBS Family Night, Olalo of Hope-Kenya was presented with a check for \$342.44 for our medical fund.

What a blessing! We were so overwhelmed by the generous spirit of the kids wanting to help others living on the other side of the world too poor to see a doctor when sick! One of the young participants even told the staff he was having a garage sale and all the money was going to Olalo of Hope....AND he already had \$12!

We are sincerely thankful to the kids of CCSE VBS for this generous gift to Olalo. Their contributions will allow many who are sick get the help they need, it may even save lives!

We are also thankful and greatly blessed by all the volunteers and staff of CCSE knowing that through their faithful serving this week, kids hearts were turned towards missions and helping others, AND 100+ kids heard about the Good News of new life through Jesus Christ!

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
PO Box 1476
Clackamas, OR 97015**

A 501(c)3 Non-Profit

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.

If you do not wish to receive our newsletter, please ask to have your name removed from our mailing list.