

Flo's Project Kenya 2013

Helping African women & children Impacted by HIV/AIDS



Asante Sana! Merci Beaucoup! Thank you all very much!

Apart from a few glitches, I am happy to report that another successful trip is now in the books. One look at the children's smiles makes one forget about the long flight every time.

As I was alone this trip, I had a very flexible agenda. So while I endured those 2 anxious weeks waiting for the shipment to arrive, I visited with Vila 16 Orphanage and Mwatate Home.

As my hotel was close to Villa 16, I visited Albina (Mama Krista) and the children often. This allowed me to get to know and appreciate their dire situation and I have a better understanding of their challenges, especially for clean water.

I am still seeking funding to revive the borehole/well. This water will improve their lives tremendously and ensure a better livelihood both for them and the immediate community.

During my visits to Mwatate Home I was also made aware of their challenges, especially regarding housing. There is a constant threat of eviction by the landlords, 2 sisters. Mwatate hopes to start building their permanent home soon.

I also travelled to the town of Voi and met Dr Hanif and new friends at the Rotary Club of Voi. Thank you all for your generosity in support of my projects.

Patrick Kionzo, an environmentalist, was told by one of the hotel staff to seek out the lady from Canada who was helping his community. I accompanied him on a visit to a few poor families in the community that he uses his own resources to assist. I was so touched I included some of those families in the festivities we had planned.

When the shipment finally arrived on Aug 29th, there was this crazy push to sort and distribute everything. Thanks to the many volunteers for making this task possible. Thanks Aggrey and Eric for clearing the shipment before I left; the cost to uplift it, a staggering \$2,500. Next year, I hope to ship a 20 foot container of supplies; get more bang for the buck.

Dear Willie Mwadilo, my BFF, you are an inspiration and it was a blessing to have you in my corner. A special thank you to your staff for taking such good care of me during my stay. I felt like I was an African Queen.

"You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give" ~Kahlil Gibran

Asante Sana! I will see you all next year!

Sincerely, Floreen Forde

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The truck arriving with the shipment



Patrick & Tsavo volunteers sorted the supplies



Anna and Rose sorted the books

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VISITING VILLA 16 STAR OF HOPE ORPHANAGE



Albina & Anna, the first child adopted at Villa 16



Peter receiving his antiviral medicine

Villa 16 Star of Hope Orphanage is operated by Albina Mshila (*Mama Krista*) in the Mwashuma Village of Taita Township.

Mama Krista was an SOS foster mother in Nairobi from 1977 to 2002. She was foster mother to 21 children.

When Mama Krista retired and came home in 2002, she heard that Anna, an HIV child, was locked up at home.

She took Anna into her home and started to care for her.

Later, she found other HIV children living under similar circumstances and took them in too.

Villa 16 was established in August 2005 and is now home to 23 children; 8 HIV and 15 non HIV children aged 4 to 21.

The parents of these children are either very ill or have died.

So 69 years old Mama Krista, is once again a foster mother.



Mwazala reading "The Matatu" to the young ones



Albina & the children admiring the 2013 calendar



Sigfrid, Phoebe, Mwazala and Andrew

"Dare to reach out your hand into the darkness, to pull another hand into the light"

~Norman B. Rice

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VISITING VILLA 16 STAR OF HOPE ORPHANAGE



New flip flops for everyone



Anna Mwakio and Hannah Wali preparing dinner



Hannah Wali knitting a scarf while Rose looks on



The children learning a traditional Taita dance



The teenagers preparing dinner



The boys building a house and Miss Phoebe

**“Do small things with great love”
.....Mother Teresa**

**“Children are our most valuable natural
resource.”Herbert Hoover**

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VISITING MWATATE HOME & RESCUE CENTRE



Mr Simon Kariuki & Habel Mwakio

Mwatate Home and Rescue Centre was established in 2007 by Simon Kariuki, a shopkeeper in Mwatate town. Simon was later joined by other members of the community who formed a committee that now oversees Mwatate Home.

Habel Mwakio is the Social Worker who works with the children alongside the 4 volunteer mamas (mothers) who assist with teaching, grooming, cooking and nurturing the children.

Some of these children are orphans while others were vulnerable children rescued from the streets of the Taita Taveta and the greater Kenyan coastal regions, including Mombasa.

Mwatate is now home to 37 children between the ages of 5 and 17 years who have been given a second chance and are living happily in harmony.



Mama Elnora



Mama Asman



Mama Christine



Mama Margrate



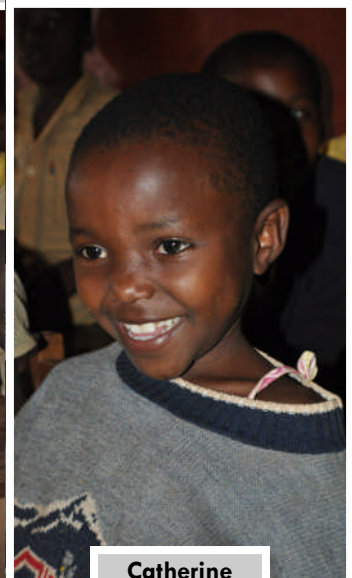
Agnes



Wawuda



Bonface



Catherine

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VISITING MWATATE HOME & RESCUE CENTRE



Mwatate Mamas received goodie bags



Gladys



Tumani



Margaret and Beatrice



Mwatate teenagers Peninah, Betty and Emma



Zaddock



Bonny and Tecker



Denaice



Rose

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THE CHILDREN'S PARTY, AT LUMO COMMUNITY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



Mother Teresa once said, "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one". Mother Teresa would have been proud of us on Sunday August 31st 2013.

We held a birthday party and fed 100 children and about 25 adults. We brought all 60 children from the orphanages and invited 40 children from the neighboring communities. It was a very special day for everyone.

The children had fun running around and playing or just sitting in the shade chatting or eating.

For lunch, we ate beef stew with rice and vegetables and for desert we had black forest cake and pineapple. There was water and juice to quench our thirst as this was one of the hottest days of my trip.

At the end of the day, every child received a bag of goodies to take home. It contained cookies, candy, pop-corn, a toothbrush, toothpaste, pens, pencils, a tennis ball and a stuffed toy. The look on some of the children's faces was priceless.

The children then enjoyed a scenic drive through the park on their way back to the orphanages.

Thank you to Lumo Sanctuary, Willie, Sarova, Dr Hanif and friends, Patrick, Albina and all of the volunteers.

As the party was so uplifting for the children, I intend to make this an annual event. Enjoy the photos!



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Photos from the Children's Party



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A GLIMPSE OF LIFE AT THE ORPHANAGES



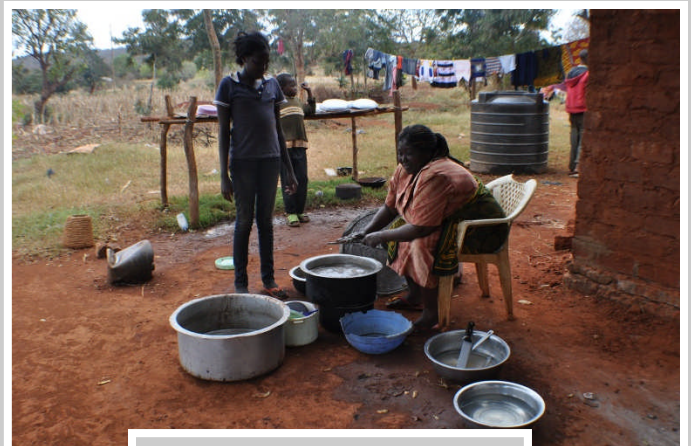
The kitchen at Villa 16



The kitchen at Mwatate



Villa 16 ... boys doing their own laundry



Villa 16... washing the dishes



Hair dressing at Villa 16



Mwatate children eating lunch outdoors

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ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER IS ESSENTIAL



Life with water -Sarova Lodge has a functioning well, they grow their fruits and vegetables all year



Life without water - Villa 16 has a broken well, they buy water at 30 shillings (40 cents) per can



Life without water - Villa 16 buys a lot of water to wash the dust and mud off these children's bodies



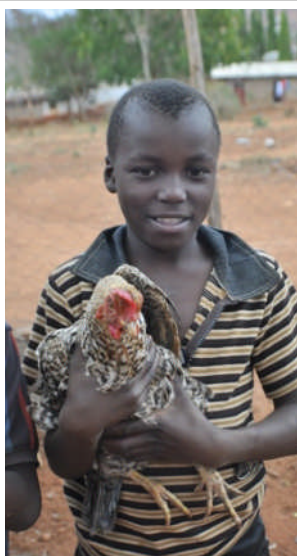
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The Dairy Goat and Chicken Projects.....



Give a man a fish and you
feed him for a day,
Teach a man to fish and you
feed him for a lifetime.



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A GLIMPSE OF LIFE IN THE MSORONGO COMMUNITY



Patrick Kilonzo

Patrick Kilonzo is one of 6 siblings from a poor family in the rural farming village of Kajire in Taita Township. Life was always a struggle and a great challenge for Patrick and his family.

Ever since he was a young boy, Patrick had a passion for helping people rise out of poverty. His worse nightmare occurred when his mother got sick and his family could not afford to pay for her treatment. He was unsuccessful in his efforts to raise funds to pay for his mother's treatment and she died.

This incident was life changing. He decided to dedicate all his efforts to his community so that he could make a difference in their lives. Patrick provides lunch for school children, has bought 200

school uniforms and shoes as well as school furniture for nursery school kids who had sat on the ground for 2 years. He has also bought mattresses for several families, the list goes on.

Patrick's other passion is Wildlife Conservation. He founded the Tsavo Volunteers Organization to help to protect the wildlife from poachers. He also educates the community on how to preserve their habitat. The volunteers locate and remove poacher's traps, plant trees and educate the community on preservation.

Patrick also founded the Elephant Dung Paper Project which creates eco-friendly paper souvenirs.

Patrick's motto "The Joy of Having is Sharing"

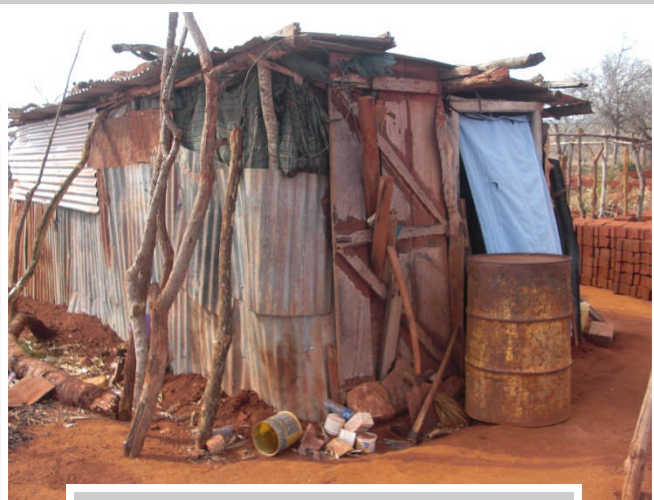
The most useful asset of a person is not a head full of knowledge but a heart full of love, with ears open to listen, and hands willing to help.



Family of 10 lives in this tiny home in the community



Another needy family in the community



Widow Sofia's home got blown away



Patrick and his volunteers are building her a new home

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☆☆☆ Thank you ☆☆☆ Asante Sana ☆☆☆ Merci Beaucoup ☆☆☆

A big thank you to everyone who helped to put smiles on these lovely faces. Special mention to Parkwoods United Church family, Sarova Taita Hills volunteers, Lumo Sanctuary volunteers, Rotary Club of Scarborough Bluffs, Rotary Club of Voi, Bridgeways Freight, Superstore Scarborough Town Center, Greensborough Public School, my co-workers, family and friends in Canada and Kenya.



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Revive the well at Villa 16
- Pay tuition for children in high school
- Sponsor needy children / families
- Ship a 20 foot container of supplies
- Solicit funding to ship the container
- Collect items to ship - clothing, shoes, blankets, computers, books, toys, bicycles, motorcycle, sewing machine
- Build the dormitory for the children

Give Hope! Support! Donate! Inspire!

Please help us make a life altering difference in a child or a family's life.

If you would like to make a contribution to assist Villa 16 Star of Hope, Mwatate Home & Rescue Centre or Msorong Community, kindly contact us for more information.

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