



Beth Kent

Chair of our Board of Directors

Beth Kent has been with Children's Mental Health of Leeds and Grenville (CMHLG) since 2010. Beth holds a Masters of Science in Rural Extension Studies from the University of Guelph with an academic focus of capacity development, communications and leadership enhancement. As CMHLG's Director of Administrative Services she is responsible for the IT portfolio, administrative support to the Board of Directors, and the administrative services for the agency including management responsibilities for the Administrative Assistants.

Prior to her role at CMHLG, Beth worked for the United Way of Leeds and Grenville as the Youth Program Coordinator, Leadership Development Coordinator and a Campaign Division Leader. Her experience with voluntary boards both at a local and provincial level and facilitation of long range plans and board development has been invaluable.

Beth was on the founding Board of Our Kenyan Kids and has recently returned and accepted the role of board chair. She looks forward to working with a wonderful team, volunteers and supporters of Our Kenyan Kids to help one child at a time break the cycle of poverty and devastation.

Tax Receipts

Postal costs continue to soar.

To control our expenses, and maximize the good your donations will do in Kenya, tax receipts will be mailed out once per year. These receipts will reflect your total donations for the year. This has an added benefit for you if you have donated multiple times. You only need to make a single entry in your Tax Return worksheet to reflect all of your individual donations. To ensure that your tax receipts get to you in a timely manner, we ask that you keep us advised of any change in address.

Of course, if you have a special need, we will be happy to mail a tax receipt to you at any time during the year.

To add your name to the distribution list or to request being unsubscribed from the list, please send an e-mail to:
info@ourkenyankids.com

News and Events

Our Kenyan Kids Open Meetings

The number of Open Meetings in the coming year is being reduced. It is currently planned to hold four such meetings - plus the Annual General Meeting - with at least one of the open meetings being an out-of-town affair. Specific details will be provided later.

Project Exposure Trip

With the current outbreak of Ebola in West Africa, it has been decided to postpone the proposed Project Exposure Trip. The situation will be reviewed in early-2015 and, if it is decided that the risk level for travellers is acceptable, we will then make an announcement.

This month's Newsletter . . .

. . . is devoted to the work at Hope House Babies' Home in Nairobi.

Our Kenyan Kids
thanks

Wall Street United Church
for making its facilities freely available to Our Kenyan Kids for meetings and events.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING IDEA

Make a donation to

Our Kenyan Kids

in honour of a friend or relative.

We will send a special Christmas card announcing your gift.

Donations may be made by cheque to Our Kenyan Kids, or online at www.canadahelps.org



Photo Gallery

Hope House Babies' Home

Many thanks to the staff at Hope House for making these photographs available to us.



The back yard of Hope House Babies' Home



The front of Hope House Babies's Home



Playtime 1



Mealtime preparations



At the sand pit in a local park



A never-ending task



Why not Adopt-A-Cot? (See page 3)



Playtime 2

Partnering with and Donations from Our Kenyan Kids

This article is reprinted from a recent is of the Hope House newsletter

Since January 2009, Hope House Babies Home have been blessed to be one of the many Kenyan projects assisted by “Our Kenyan Kids” (OKK) a charitable organization in Ontario, Canada. They have supported us financially since then and several members donate by “adopting a cot”. A team visit Kenya most years and during the visit, the team go to each of the projects they support and treat staff members to a wonderful dinner and catch up with what each ministry is doing at present.

OKK has a local office in Nairobi and the staff here are responsible for the distribution of funds, goods etc. They are Josphat Kageni who is supported by an advisory board consisting of, Silas Inoti (Chairperson) Emma Kang’ethe, Steve Lombo, Faith Muiru and Kyambi Kavali.

Recently we were asked what our needs were for Hope House, so a list was given inclusive of digital baby weighing scales, a thermo scan thermometer, juicer, blender, small heater and a baby’s cot. All of these items have been purchased and we thank God and Our Kenya Kids Canada for their generosity.



Adopt-a-Cot

The Adopt-a-Cot fundraiser has been very successful since it was started a few years ago.

For those who don’t know how it works, people adopt a cot for \$120 per year

A photo and details of the baby in that cot are sent out with three-monthly updates on the progress of the baby. When he or she leaves to join the adopting family, details of the next baby in the cot are sent out. Reminders are sent after 12 months to ask if the donor wants to continue for a further year.

Thanks to all who support this worth-while plan.

Hope House Babies’ Home Overview

This article is reprinted, with modifications, from a recent is of the Hope House newsletter

Hope House Babies’ Home provides a place of safety and comfort for babies who have been abandoned for a variety of reasons.

Our aims are to care for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the babies, and to place the children lawfully into good families via adoption.

Hope House was established in 2002, a project by African Growth Ministries and is a registered NGO through the Kenyan Ministry of Home affairs.

At present, there are 21 babies in the Home, but in the past this has varied between 15 and 22. During the past 3 months (to September) 12 beautiful babies were admitted. In the same period, one girl and 4 boys were reunited with their biological mothers while another 5 children left Hope House to join their new adoptive families.



A Reminder

Don’t forget to pay a visit to the **Our Kenyan Kids Shop** at the Yuletide Fare at Wall Street United Church in Brockville. This year’s event will take place on 28 and 29 November.

You can also buy your **Meaningful Gift Christmas cards** here. Thanks in advance to all of you who will select Our Kenyan Kids as the recipient of your donations.

A Volunteer Nurse's Experience

This article is reprinted from a recent issue of the Hope House newsletter

My name is Mary Warner and I am a nurse from Perth Western Australia. I took leave from my job and came to Hope House for four weeks to assist with caring for the babies. On my first day I realised the enormity of work involved in caring for 22 babies and how hard the staff worked to provide that care. It was also heartbreaking to realize that these babies did not have their mothers to give them that special care but would have different carers during their time at Hope House. The staff provide the babies with all their basic needs and whenever possible some extra attention and cuddles. I think a few words spoken by a carer to one of our new babies summed up to me what Hope House represents. As the carer held our new baby she softly said "you are home now, you are safe" and that is the goal of all the staff, to keep their babies safe and healthy until a loving family is found.



To all the staff who sacrifice time with their own families to care for the babies, I have the deepest admiration and feel privileged to have worked alongside of them all. My prayers for the babies is that a loving family will be found for them all.

I hope to return to Hope House in the near future and I will encourage anyone considering volunteering their time to do so as it is greatly appreciated and makes a big difference to the babies to have those extra cuddles. To all at Hope House, thank you for making me feel so welcome and I will never forget my time there.

Note from Rosaline Knobbs, Hope House:

What Mary didn't say was that she contributed the majority of the funds, with help from one of our donors here, to buy disposable diapers for one month for our babies' comfort. We have been using cloth nappies which does create a lot of work, washing and drying, and is not nearly as kind to the babies.

Are you reading a second hand copy of this Newsletter? You can receive your very own copy by sending your e-mail address to info@ourkenyankids.com.

Our Kenyan Kids, P.O. Box 164, Brockville, Ontario K6V 5V2

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Our Kenyan Kids © 2014

Christmas Cards

Next month's Newsletter will make available a number of templates for Christmas cards.

In the past, we have provided templates for making cards, but these were designed for creating on your home computer and mailing. This coming set will be different in that they can be e-mailed to your friends and family. The recipient can then print them out at home on a standard letter-size sheet of paper, fold the paper appropriately and display it, as normal for a Christmas card.

With postage, a Christmas card can cost anything from \$7 and up. So we hope, after using our templates, you will be tempted to share some of your savings with Our Kenyan Kids.

And one thing is for sure: Canada Post and card manufacturers are not going to send you a tax receipt if you buy \$10 worth of postage or cards.

THANK YOU to:

➡ **Paul Willis and Cypress Ingredients of California for providing the selenium for our PLWA (People Living With AIDS) program and for covering all costs of shipping and distribution.**

➡ **The National Council of Women of Canada Development Organization for a grant to provide two computers for the students of the Kambui School for the Hearing Impaired.**

➡ **The Maitland Garden of Hope for designating all contributions for the 2014 season from visitors to the gardens for the Gathathi and Vulnerable Children's Centre.**