

Dear Friends of CHANGE LIVES NOW,

The season of thanks is upon us, and we come to you with grateful hearts this year as in years past. For the last few years we have focused on our college program in Nairobi, Kenya. As I am sure you know, kids from the slum have no hope of a future if someone doesn't take an active interest in their next step.

In the last few years we've seen Mogra Rescue Center become much more self-sufficient. The orphanage currently has 257 children with over 50 of these kids being under five years old. The needs continue, but it's incredibly rewarding to see the greenhouses flourishing with nutritious food used for feeding the children and selling in the markets. There are cows, chickens, rabbits and goats, and trained personnel who know how to use the resources they have to take care of the needs. It's because of you that this is a reality.

The Change Lives Now board consists of folks with a passion for this mission, born out of seeing the need, and a desire to DO something with what we've seen. We've never been interested in creating needs, just DOING something about the needs we encountered. These "needs" have names, faces and stories. And ultimately WE were the ones most changed. As the orphanage grew more and more self-sufficient, we were able to focus on the next step as the children grew and graduated from high school. We certainly couldn't do everything, but what COULD we do for deserving students who wanted a chance to continue their education?

Let us share their words with you

Rahab *"Change Lives Now was my driving force. It moved me forward to being able to achieve my goals. They empowered me to know I was needed somewhere, and gave me the hope that I could advocate for the rights of poor children. My goal is to see my life changed and to change other lives."*

Catherine *"Every time I think of Change Lives Now I am speechless. I was someone destined to live on the streets forever. I never dreamed that one day I would go to a wonderful Kenya University. I feel full of courage and like I matter in society. I want to make a difference in the life of another."*

Kevin *"Many dreams of fellow youth have I seen shattered because of the absence of someone to demonstrate love to them, guiding them to pursue their dreams. These children need someone to deliver them from shame and poverty. I have seen people lose hope, come to a dead end in their lives. Then I have seen them, through Change Lives Now, be encouraged, transformed, empowered to choose life! They have become bankers, engineers, nurses, teachers, social workers. They have been enlightened to be responsible in this society. I am so very grateful to Change Lives Now. It has brought me beyond my expectations."*

We want to live up to our name. We want to change lives. If we make a difference in the lives of just a few, is it any less worth it? Dear friends, there are some amazing young men and women who have taught us a lot. We embarked on this college adventure with our western ideas, and very little understanding of the college experience in Kenya - unaware that every test or printing of a paper for a project has a cost at the local schools. We came to learn that, often, the students didn't eat the day they had that expense, as one example. Here are some other things we learned:

1) Some of these kids were walking 5 miles ONE WAY to school. Rain or shine, they walked.

2) Someone HAS TO BE on the ground, available for their questions, willing to be a liaison with the school etc.

3) Every now and then someone will disappoint. Give anyway.

4) Overall, WE were the ones most blessed by watching these kids grow and become amazing citizens who truly understand the need to pay it forward.

We have just sent the year's final donation of \$2,500 to be put to good use at Mogra, and we are looking forward to change we can be a part of in the coming year.

Friends, when we pool our resources, we can do much to effect change—real change; life giving, powerful change lives, one life at a time. More kids would give anything to be able to pursue college. Another huge need is mentoring beyond college for that first job. Slum kids have no idea how to write a resume, dress for an interview, look for a job.

If you would like to make a tangible difference in the lives of kids like Rahab, Catherine and Kevin, there is an endless supply of kids who'd like a chance to break free from the hopelessness of Mathare slum. We'd love your help. No donation is too small. And every large donation will go to good use.

One day when we all stand before our Father, I believe He will ask us how we loved with our lives. There are many, many ways to do that. And Change Lives Now is just one. But we're here committed to the kids in our care, praying that the investment we make in each life will build Godly leaders who will then go forth and do the same. One life at a time we are making a difference. You are a tremendous part of that. We thank you. We ask God's blessings on all you and yours, and we ask you to continue to partner with us on this journey.

*May every blessing of this season be yours.
Thank you so much!*

**Anne Trufant, Jan and Forrest Pommerenke,
Ashley Gautier, Gillie Roberts & Sarah Trufant**

Check us out and DONATE online
at www.changelivesnow.org !

Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!