

Letter from the President and CEO

Greetings from Kenya!

After much preparation and anticipation, three days of traveling by air, and an overnight layover in Dubai, I arrived in Kenya on Sunday, February 16. I came to find that life is full of pleasant surprises. I hadn't been at the Children's Centre since last August and I can honestly say I see the Lord's work everywhere I turn. Elma Kamonong High School welcomed its first incoming class on Monday, February 17. I was overwhelmed by the warmth of Richard Keter, the new EKHS principal, and impressed with the classrooms.

With Valentine's Day in the month of February, I'm reminded of God's love for his children, especially since we have received five new children at the home, ranging from four to twelve years of age. I'm in awe how the other children and staff welcomed them with open arms. They are truly accepting and full of unconditional love.

Lastly, I want to convey my sincere gratitude to all our donors. After being here for just a few days, I can say with 100% confidence that the staff and missionaries are being good stewards of the funds you are sending. God is working through them as they serve these wonderful children. Grace and Peace be with each of you today and always,

Jill I. Weller

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Jill Weller, President and CEO

Our Vision and Mission

Like many of you, Walindwa has a New Year's resolution. Our resolution for 2014 is to complete our first long range planning cycle. One of the early steps is to confirm our corporate Vision and Mission Statements (yes, we're actually a corporation). You won't find anything "newsworthy" here, but we're pleased to present to you our formal statements, as approved by the Board of Directors in January. You'll also find them on our website, under the About Us tab.

Vision Statement

Children of the Rift Valley Province in Kenya are raised to reach their full potential in a supportive environment of love, health, and education anchored in the teachings of Christ.

Mission Statement

The mission of Walindwa Charitable Corporation is to model God's love and compassion by working to improve the quality of life of the children of the Rift Valley Province of Kenya, particularly those at Elma Barnett Children's Centre Kamonong. Walindwa raises funds, donates goods, and volunteers our services in partnership with Kenyan organizations to effect improvements in the essentials of daily life, in education, and in healthy living practices, thereby bringing hope to these children and their families. Our actions empower children and youth to become adults with integrity and Christian values; adults who are self-sufficient, responsible members and leaders of Kenyan society.

Director and Officer Elections for 2014

At Walindwa's first Executive Board meeting of 2014, two new Directors were elected. Walindwa would like to introduce Kevin Keller and Carole Ericson as the newest members of our team. Kevin is one of the initial people who visited Kenya in 2008 to determine if EBCK was a viable mission for The Village Church in Rancho Santa Fe to sponsor. Kevin's leadership role encourages us to expand our services while maintaining our focus on the children. Carole is a member at Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church who visited EBCK two years ago and fell in love with the children and the mission of Walindwa. She has become an asset to our organization as our wonderfully organized Secretary.

Two other members were elected to continue their positions as Officers of Walindwa. Jill Weller and Terry Norwood were confirmed as President and Vice President, respectively. Both the Directors and Officers will serve two year terms.



School Supplies



Last summer the Reverend Jan Farley and two families from The Village Church in Ranch Santa Fe, California attended the Dedication Day for Elma Kamonong High School located at the Elma Barnett Children's Centre.



This January the congregation of The Village Church donated a mountain of supplies to help the students start school with the supplies they need. From the dedication to the opening, The Village Church sends their love and prayers as this wonderful new school begins teaching the next generation of Kenyan citizens.

Sponsorship Update

We are praising God for bringing us four new sponsors supporting a total of five children since our last newsletter! There are currently sixteen Primary and Secondary age children still awaiting sponsorship, and five Higher Education students in need of sponsors.



Sharon L

In 2014 we will be working diligently to establish a new protocol to simplify Higher Education Sponsorship, which can be challenging due to varying costs of the educational programs and internships these students enter. We believe this new protocol will raise interest in sponsoring these young men and women who are ready to complete their education and enter the workforce as self-supporting adults.

In a recent email to Jill, one young man expressed his joy at learning he had just been sponsored:



Vincent

"I opened school a month ago. Am doing good. I'm doing mechanical engineering. Kindly pass my warm greetings to my sponsor and tell her am so happy for her. She is a blessing to me. I think no amount of words can express the joy in my heart. And for you, all I can say is wooh! You've really done me good, I say thank you. Were it not for you, I don't think all that could have materialised. Goodbye. Lots of love, JK"

We at Walindwa thank each and every one of our supporters for helping bring hope and a future to children who began their lives with difficult circumstances and few options. God bless you!