

Katuba Sponsors' Newsletter

Happy New Year !

It's been awhile since we sent out a newsletter and maybe you have been wondering "How's it going on with our partnership in Katuba?" "Whatever happened with the goats & pigs we raised money for?" Well I certainly hope this edition answers these questions and many more!!

The Back Story: Haven Church's partnership with Katuba, Uganda is a huge blessing and opportunity that God has bestowed upon us!. This partnership is facilitated by the Katuba CarePoint through Children's Hope Chest. To better understand the goal of this partnership, please read the mission statement [below] extracted from the official [CHC Katuba Website](#):

"Katuba CarePoint is located in Mukono District roughly 22 km from the capital Kampala. It is a semi-urban area. Subsistence farming is the dominant source of food and income in the area. However, many families do not have enough food to last between harvests due to a limited access to land, which has resulted in the majority of the children in the area receiving poor diets. HIV/AIDS continues to be a significant challenge in the area. This has resulted in a large number of children being cared for by their grandparents, who struggle to provide for them. Children's HopeChest is coming along side Reach One Touch One (ROTOM) Ministries to provide support for the community. The focus of ROTOM is on supporting the elderly in the community with CHC caring for orphaned and vulnerable children. Partnership with CHC will lessen the burden of care and support on the elderly. Through the partnership with sponsors the CarePoint will help meet the children's medical, nutritional, emotional, educational, and spiritual needs."

For more information about the Katuba CarePoint and the children YOU sponsor, please visit their website at <http://katuba.hopechest.org/> While you're on their website, you may want to [write to your child](#) as well! All children LOVE to receive letters!! Be sure to scroll down on the web page and review the Do's & Don'ts of letter writing.

God's Love, Grace & Mercy in the Midst of Tragedy: Many of you may recall hearing of one of the sponsored children, Fahad, that was very sick. He was receiving medical treatment that his family would otherwise not have been able to afford, if it were not for this sponsorship program. Fahad was getting better and "on the road to recovery". However, to get the necessary treatments, it meant traveling back and forth a good distance on a regular basis with his father and/or mother (by motorcycle) to the medical facility. It was during one of these trips that they were involved in an accident. His mother was injured and sadly, Fahad did not survive.

And now, the rest of the story...

Below is an encouraging update regarding this situation conveyed to us in the words of Lynnae Supplee (Haven's Hope Chest contact). I think you will agree that even in the midst of tragedy, God's great love and mercy shines bright!

"There was a burial of the project child (Fahad) and all the activities were done by the CarePoint staff and management. All the arrangements were successfully carried out. The emotional, physical and spiritual and financial support was given to the family. The family was impacted, being a Muslim family but later after the burial, they received Jesus Christ as their personal savior. The mother plans to get baptized as a Christian. May the soul of Fahad R. I.P. All thanks to CHC for all the medical treatment, feeding and spiritual impact because he died when he had accepted a Jesus as his savior."

Sponsors Newsletter - continued

Story Update [from Lynnae]: Fahad's mother is doing better but still recovering after the motorcycle accident this past summer and Fahad's sponsors are now sponsoring his younger brother Fred.

Goat & Piggery Project: Last Spring, Haven Church partnered with the Katuba CarePoint on a fourth project which was to purchase and distribute a goat or pig (determined by their faith) to the families of all 132 sponsored children. The animals were all vaccinated and tagged for identification from the community animals for easy monitoring of the progress of the project animals. It has been reported that out of the 132 animals distributed, four have died from disease and one was hit by a motorcycle. Several of the animals have given birth. At some point (not sure of the specifics), the newborn pigs and goats are returned to the CarePoint to be redistributed as needed.

Ongoing activities for this project: Monitoring and evaluation on the progress of the project; home visits and follow up is ongoing. There is an official report on the project which we have not yet received. Hopefully we will have the report soon and we can pass it on.

Katuba Projects Recap: The Goats & Piggery project was the fourth major project funded and completed as a result of the partnership between Haven Church and Children's Hope Chest. The first project was a freshwater well. The second was a community latrine (a.k.a. bathroom). The third project was the classrooms and office space. All of these projects were completed by local workers in Uganda and funded solely by donations from loving people like yourself through Haven Church.

Educating You About Education in Katuba [as explained by Lynnae]: Education in Uganda has a structure of seven years of primary education, six years of secondary education (divided into four years of lower secondary and two years of upper secondary school) and three to five years of post-secondary education. It is related to ability rather than age - they take exams every year to pass onto the next level.

Some children pursue secondary school and then university, others pursue vocational training, and our [Hope Chest] staff decides when a child is ready to be launched from the program. For those who complete vocational training, they are given start-up tools and three months' rent to start their own business.

FAQ's : Below are a few **Frequently Asked Questions** regarding the education program(s) that your sponsor dollars are used for:

Q. *Why are some children going to boarding schools?*

A. Children's Hope Chest is funding the further education of children who want to further their education and show potential. There are also vocational schools for children who want to learn a skill. The sponsorship is funding this education.

Q. *How do I find out which education level my sponsored child is in?*

A. There are a couple of ways. First, you could [write to your child](#) and ask this as part of a bigger conversation! Second, the Katuba Team at Haven Church has access to this information. Contact Ann Kuiper for more information (contact information at the end of this newsletter).

Q. *When does a sponsored child age out?*

A. It depends on how much education the child is pursuing. Once they have successfully completed the educational level they have pursued and our staff views them as ready to be self-sufficient, their sponsorship ends

Katuba Trip 2019: The upcoming Katuba trip departs on May 6th and returns May 17th. Below is the list of the trip team members. Please keep them in your prayers as the trip date approaches.

Meet The Trip Team:

Ann Kuiper
Jason Nieboer
Wyatt Nieboer
Kevin Platte
Jan Hutchinson
Chantal Catrice

Nanette Kokmeyer
Emma Beckwith
Libby Vroegop
Cindy Luyendyk
Deb Peterson
Karen VanMeekeren

Contact Information: If you have any questions or concerns regarding Katuba, the Katuba trip, Haven's partnership, or anything please don't hesitate to contact us.

Ann Kuiper

Katuba Team Leader, Haven Church
Email: akuiper@nulty.com

Lynnae Supplee

Community Partnership Manager, Children's HopeChest
Email: lsupplee@hopechest.org

Haven Church Office : office@haven-church.org

[Kalamazoo To Katuba Facebook Page](#) | [Katuba Website](#) | [Haven Church Website](#)