



FRIENDS OF  
NAIVASHA CHILDREN'S  
**SHELTER**



# 2020 GENERAL UPDATE

NAIVASHA CHILDREN'S SHELTER



# A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

KRISTEN LOWRY & EUNICE  
MURAGE

While 2020 has been a difficult year, together we have accomplished a lot—in no small part due to your generous gifts through Friends of Naivasha Children's Shelter.

Because of your generosity, we have been able to rescue children living on the streets, provide them with the counseling, education, drug rehabilitation, medical care and life skills they need to re-enter society, and reunite them with their families. Many of these boys were able to return to school in January. A few are pursuing technical courses at home. All of them will remain under Shelter support until they turn 18. Our goal is always to see these children succeed and keep families together.

Thank you for believing in our vision, and helping us to rescue, rehabilitate and reunify more children with their families. With your continued support, we are aiming to reach 100 children in 2021. We are so grateful for your partnership, and for the ways you are supporting the most vulnerable children in Kenya!

# NEW YEAR, NEW APPROACH

We started 2020 with a new and unique approach to our program.

In the past, we have held one rescue in the beginning of the year, and reintegrated any boys who were ready at the end of the year. However, as we learned more about working with street-connected children and families, we adjusted our program so that no child stays on the street or in care one day longer than necessary.

This new approach brought some changes for our program:

- **Multiple rescues during the year** - when a boy is ready to leave the street, we bring him to Shelter immediately.
- **Reintegration as soon as the boy and his family are ready.** - As soon as a safe and healthy reunification is possible, the boy will return home. For some, that may be just a month or two; for others, longer. But each case will be assessed individually.
- **New roles for the social work team** - Each social worker took on a more specific and dedicated role to better serve the boys and families in our care.

*Our first rescue  
group of the  
year, January  
2020.*



# COVID-19

Our new approach was working well - we rescued 20 boys through smaller rescues from January to mid-March. However, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, we had to make some changes. Per the government directives, we sent all children home for which it was safe to do so, including our school-going boys and those taking a course.

Due to government restrictions regarding the pandemic, we had to take additional measures to rescue boys from March-December. To ensure the safety of all boys and staff, we had to isolate our current residents away from Shelter for two weeks each time we brought in a new group of boys. We worked with the national government to conduct two emergency rescues in 2020.

Unfortunately, due to an inability to do street work during the early days of the pandemic, we had a higher relapse rate than during normal operations.

Shelter social workers also continued follow up on all the boys we have reintegrated, and their families, through weekly phone calls. They identified food insecurity as a problem among many families, and Shelter was able to provide monthly food aid for 24 families who lost work throughout the pandemic.



# 2020 SHELTER UPDATES

## IN 2020, WE...

- rescued **70** boys from the streets.
- reunited **43** boys with their families.
- trained **12** boys in a skill and placed them in a job.
- supported **24** families with monthly food distribution.
- continued follow up of **more than 100** families where we have reintegrated children.
- grew our team by **5**, adding a counselor, a teacher, 2 house parents, and a utility staff member (part-time house parent, part-time kitchen)



Our August rescue group (above) and our ever-growing staff (left)

# CAPITAL PROJECTS

Despite the challenges of 2020, Shelter was able to complete a number of capital projects to improve our operations.



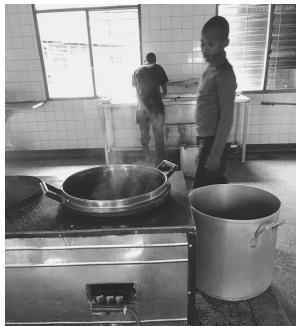
## BEE HIVES

Two of our staff were trained in beekeeping. We now have 4 bee hives at Shelter and we will begin harvesting honey in the next 1-2 months.



## HANDWASHING STATIONS

To encourage better hygiene and prevention of viruses, we installed handwashing stations throughout our campus.



## GAS STOVE CONVERSION

Our stoves were converted from wood-burning to gas, creating a much more environmentally friendly cooking process.



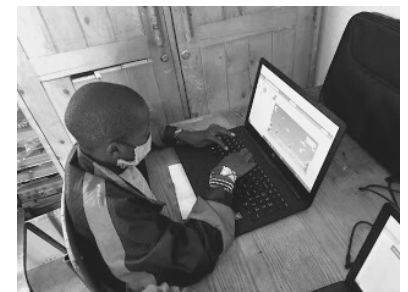
## WASTE MANAGEMENT

We are in the process of installing a grey water management solution that reduces water consumption in our sewage system.

## OFFICE AND COMPUTER LAB RENOVATION



- Provision of laptops and updated network and connectivity for social work office
- Office remodel, including new desks and office chairs for staff
- Furnishing of student computer lab, including 12 laptops for student use.



# GROWING OUR TEAM



Our team:

Kneeling - Benard, Dennis

Standing - Paul, Nicholas, Mary, Isaiah, Francis, Joy, Elphas, Grace,  
Michael, Peter, Daniel

Not pictured: Chacha and Ann

## Joy

Joy joined our team as a full-time counselor. She will be working not only with the boys at the Shelter, but also with reintegrated boys and families.

## Nicholas & Michael

In February, we added two full-time house parents, Nicholas and Michael. They care for the boys in the evenings/overnight hours.

## Ann

Ann began her time at Shelter as a teaching intern and was added as a full-time teacher in 2020. She engages the boys in academic work Monday-Friday so that their educational gaps can be addressed prior to their return to home and school.

## Dennis

Dennis first joined us as a part-time house parents and also working several days a week in the kitchen and greenhouse.

# 2020 SUCCESS STORIES

Jacob\* came to Shelter in October 2019 to pursue a carpentry and welding course. He did well at his skills training and was well-liked by his trainers and peers. He was even voted to be the Head Boy by the other residents at Shelter.

## JACOB



In March, per the government restrictions around COVID-19, Jacob returned home, along with all of our carpentry and welding students. He was unsure about his next steps, so we encouraged him to spend time discussing it with his family and come to a decision. He ultimately decided that he wanted to pursue a barber course, and he recently completed his training. Our social worker, Isaiah, even tested his skills on a recent follow-up visit! We are so proud of Jacob and his drive to succeed.

## JAMES

James\* is a boy that we reintegrated in 2019. He was doing well at home and had returned to school. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, his mother struggled to find work, and was unable to provide food for her family.

Thanks to dedicated follow-up from our social work staff, we were able to identify the need and add James and his family to our monthly food distribution list.

His mother says that our support has truly allowed their family to survive in these difficult times. Joseph will resume school along with his classmates in January 2021 and continues to succeed thanks to our partnership.



\*At Naivasha Children's Shelter, we respect children's right to privacy. So while their stories are true, client names and images may have been changed to protect their privacy. Thank you for understanding.



# 2020 SUCCESS STORIES

When Titus\* was a young boy, his parents separated and while he first went to stay with his father and stepmother, after some time his maternal grandmother removed him from the father's home and cut all contact with family members on his father's side. While living with his grandmother, Titus began to be influenced by older boys near his home and eventually went to the streets, where he was picked up by police and referred to Shelter by the children's office in November 2019. After our social work team diligently traced Titus's family, they were able to connect with his paternal grandparents and in February 2020, Titus visited with them for the first time in years. They knew where his father was staying and promised to arrange a visit soon.

## TITUS



When we began implementing the government directives regarding the coronavirus in March, Titus was absolutely thrilled to learn that he would be going to spend time with his grandparents. Upon arrival to the home, his grandfather informed us that Titus's father was traveling from another area of Kenya so that he could see his son for the first time in almost 8 years. He arrived shortly thereafter and Titus and his father were both grinning from ear to ear.

Titus is now living with his father and will start back to school in January 2021. He and his family continue to be grateful to Shelter for reuniting them.



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# LOOKING FORWARD - 2021

*We are already gearing up for a busy 2021. Here are a few plans and goals we have for the upcoming year!*



## Rescue

We plan to rescue at least 100 boys in 2021.



## Skills Training

We anticipate 20 boys will be trained in a technical skill and placed in a training program to prepare them for future opportunities.



## Continued COVID precautions

We plan to continue our programs despite the ongoing pandemic. We will ensure our operations adhere to the government guidelines as we rescue, rehabilitate and reunite.



## Counseling Centre

We plan to open a counseling centre on campus that will serve street-connected children in their families in Nakuru County.

**A very special thank you to all of our 2020 donors who made this important work possible.**

- Amy Becker
- Amy Eardensohn
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- Anthony Corrigan
- Baptist Global Response
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- Becky & Jamin Carter
- Brandon S. Stiver
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- Carol Watts
- Cassandra Frost
- Pete & Catherine Nelson
- Cathy Sizemore
- Chad Patrow
- Chazz Douglas Clevinger
- Chosen & Dearly Loved
- Christena Dowsett
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- Christy Newton
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- Coy & Jeleta Sullivan
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- Dan & Amy Meadows
- Daniel Heneghan
- Danielle Webb
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- William White