



Kenya Thriving

WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Acceptance, Opportunity, Hope

Should a child's past define who they are today or who they can become? The following describes the past, for one child at Otacho Christian Children's Home, but a similar story is repeated over and over:

Born in a village in rural Kenya, the third child of an ordinary couple whose lives did not differ greatly from the lives of their parents and grandparents. Theirs had been an arranged marriage whilst they were both still young and the new baby girl (we will call her Edith) had been helped into the world by the village widows. Living off the land and rearing a few goats and chickens they bobbed along the poverty line, waiting for the next harvest. Three years later and another birth without medical assistance claimed the life of the mother but the baby survived. The father, unable to cope, left his children with their grandmother and has never returned. For a while, the grandmother scraped by but grew too old and tired to farm her land; she could no longer take care of her grandchildren and relied on the good will of others in the village. Poverty is a harsh taskmaster. Edith could only dream of being able to eat well and of going to school. She had been born into poverty and was sure she would remain there.

When she was eight years old, Edith and her siblings were given a place at Otacho Christian Children's Home where they received a place to stay, regular meals, an opportunity to go to school and most of all they were loved and cherished. Edith proved a bright student and even though she had to begin in Class 1, she worked hard and showed promise. Last year Edith passed her examination at the end of primary school and was offered a place at a Secondary School. Kenya Thriving has been able to sponsor secondary school education for three of the Otacho children. Edith is one of these. Edith's hopes of a good education becoming her highway out of poverty now blazed brightly before her. She does not know the people who have made this longed for opportunity possible, and who want to encourage her to reach her full potential, she only knows that she is overwhelmed by what has happened to her and says that being offered a place at the orphanage has changed her life.

Kenya Thriving Project 51

*Providing holistic care
for orphans*

A Home

*Equipping the five houses which
make up Otacho Christian
Children's Home with furniture,
bedclothes, mosquito nets,
kitchen items.*

Personal Hygiene

*Sanitary protection, soap,
disinfectant, washing powder*

Food

Supplying food for our 51 orphans

Education

*Providing resources to enable
each child to attend school*

Woolly Warmers

Providing knitwear for orphans

Light & Water

*Providing and maintaining a water
harvesting system and solar lights*



**Your compassion
today is changing
their tomorrow.**

Coronavirus

Currently there have been 700 cases of Covid-19 in Kenya resulting in 33 deaths. The impact of government shielding measures have been challenging for Otacho Christian Children's Home, especially as Kenya Thriving is their only source of income.

In addition to the normal monthly needs, extra supplies of soap and disinfectant have been required. Also, a 20% increase in the cost of maize, beans, and rice, since January, has put more pressure on. These commodities are daily staples. There are no foodbanks in rural Kenya and any additional help from the local community is limited because of poverty. To our faithful donors... **we salute you...** because without your support, life would look quite different for every child at the orphanage.



Kenya implemented school and college closures on 15th March and will not re-open until 4th June at the earliest. Whilst the Kenyan education authorities are promoting on-line learning, rural communities will find this almost impossible due to lack of electricity and affordability of technology. This situation may cause a greater inequality between urban and rural communities and further disadvantage children who are already marginalized.



Four of the current orphanage staff who are dedicated to the care of each child. The three ladies are house parents and live with the children: each being responsible for a house. The gentleman volunteered for two years, spending a part of each day on site with the children. He clearly has a rapport with them which is heartwarming to see. Recently he applied for a vacant watchman's post at the orphanage and was delighted to get the job. Now he is paid to do a job he loves.

Kenya Thriving is partnering with an existing Kenyan organisation to enable orphans to thrive within their own culture and community. There are fifty-one orphans being cared for at Otacho Christian Children's Home which is a small community within Otacho village, comprising of five houses. Each house is home to a houseparent and up to ten children, all of whom are from the Otacho area. All aspects of their care, education and practical needs are funded via Project 51.

Please visit our website www.kenyathriving.com for more details of all our projects.

You can keep up to date with our news by following us on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.

Kenya Thriving forms part of Epaphras Trust, a registered charity. Registered No: 1125989

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