



kidsalive
INTERNATIONAL

KENYA, Karundas Children's Home

Karundas Children's Home, located about three hours north of the capital city of Nairobi, is a 50-acre farm where more than 40 children between the ages of 4 and 18 live and thrive. In four separate houses, we provide loving care for these children who desperately need a stable home.

Some of the children come to us as infants, often orphaned or abandoned by parents due to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. We also take in vulnerable girls from surrounding communities who would otherwise face cultural and social challenges such as underage marriage, sexual abuse, and lack of education.

Our youngest girls live in the House of Joy and the Rebecca House, where there is a warm, family atmosphere. And for girls who have graduated, the Deborah House is dedicated to caring for and protecting older, at-risk girls. These girls not only receive a good education but also the reassurance that they have inherent worth to us and to God. And for girls who have graduated out of our regular programs, Esther House provides them with safe transitional housing as they prepare to re-enter society as adults and experience bright futures.

This year we completed successful staff training to more effectively and holistically nurture our kids. We saw 13 of our post high school girls graduate into the independence program, and we rejoiced as 11 children accepted Christ and were baptized. Our immediate goals include building a new kitchen, designing more effective landscaping, and rescuing at least 10 more vulnerable girls. God is at work at Karundas!

Hope Changes Everything...

AT KARUNDAS CHILDREN'S HOME!

Jane* is a sweet girl we rescued after she had experienced devastating tragedy. She was just a baby when her father died from HIV/AIDS, leaving her already sick mother to care for nine children on her own. After they moved in with grandparents, Jane's mother finally succumbed to her illness and died. Living with poor, elderly grandparents in a dilapidated structure made survival nearly impossible, and when Jane was also diagnosed with the same disease that took her parents, she needed medications and a carefully balanced diet. Though her grandparents loved her, they were unable to provide the care she needed. Her plight was brought to the attention of Kids Alive, resulting in Jane and two of her sisters entering our program.

Though Jane is HIV-positive, she is responding well to treatment and her health is improving. Gradually she began adjusting to her new environment, making new friends and learning to express herself. When she was first rescued she rarely smiled, but now there is always a smile on her face. It's amazing how hope changes everything! We can't wait to see what God has in store for Jane, and we feel privileged to walk this road with her.

*name changed to protect privacy



*"Be strong and take heart, all you who **hope** in the Lord."*

Psalms 31:24 (NIV)

What's happening...

IN KENYA?

Kenya is home to nearly two million orphans, many orphaned because of the tragic HIV/AIDS epidemic. Malnutrition and malaria plague hundreds of thousands of children, and one million primary-school aged kids are not in school at all. Extreme poverty means that more than 25% of Kenyan children work in forced labor, often in dangerous situations. These realities are heartbreaking, and we want to bring the hope of the Gospel to each child.

Kids Alive is currently serving more than 400 precious children. Half of those are in residential care, living in family-style homes with loving house parents. We also reach out to community kids in many ways, through education, nutritious meals, medical care, and sharing the love of Christ. And our Keeping Families Together program is always working to strengthen families and communities.

The academic growth among our children has been exciting to watch. This year, 46 students graduated into either high school or vocational colleges, and 35

finished high school and entered college. We offered these graduates transition training, equipping them to live successfully outside our direct care and support. And we saw two alumni graduate from college, one with a mechanical engineering degree and one with a diploma in social work. God is at work in our students in Kenya.

Just a few years ago, more than half of the kids in our care didn't know who or where their relatives were. We've been able to reduce that to just 10 students, and our goal is for the number to soon be zero. We're also working to fulfill new and often stressful education requirements from the Kenyan government, including retraining all teachers, purchasing expensive IT equipment, and building required facilities.

Though there is still work to be done, we remain committed to bringing hope into the life of each Kenyan child we encounter. As we care for their physical, emotional, and educational needs, we will also share with each one how much Jesus loves them.

God is working at Karundas! Please pray for:

- Resources to complete all needed repairs and improvements
- Wisdom to lead our vulnerable children as they mature into adults
- God's protection and wisdom for children and staff

Partner with us in prayer...

