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LOHA LETTER

APRIL 2024 EDITION





WHATS INSIDE

Letter from Health Director Current Wellness State World Health Month What's Ahead

GOD CHOSE US

I can not begin to write about how important this letter was for me. I needed to collect and organize my thoughts. And it grabbed my very soul.

They were so sick. And lost. And forgotten. They were unwanted and a burden. They were given African names of misery and problems.

The children were empty. They couldn't even fear anymore. But, when all seemed lost. They were found

I will never fully grasp the why in this. But I know The Who.

And God chose us.

All of us.

THE GREATEST OF ALL POVERTY

Written by Jae Ewing, RN, Director of Health & Wellness

"The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest of all poverty." - Mother Teresa

You don't have to travel far into Zambia before you meet them. They stand alone on the Great North Road. They're under-clothed, underfed, abandoned, and defeated. You may see a bystander toss food or clothing at them. Their reactions are patient and slow as they draw the offering close. Their big dark eyes are not timid, as their stare penetrates deep into your soul. God loves them—all of them—all 1.4 million of them—the orphaned and vulnerable Zambian children.

It's the street children you meet first. You watch them scouring over heaps of simmering filthy landfills. It is there that Davis Daka met Wisdom and his little brother Jonathan. They would become two of the first eight orphaned children to live at Land of Hope Africa.

As you drive two hours north to the bush of Africa, you will pass by hundreds of little lives visually more desperate than the street children. Your heart begins to break for the mothers, the fathers, and the children.

Poverty is the robber:

It steals away basic human needs.

It takes away food, water, shelter, clothing, and sleep.

It lifts away protection, removing safety and security.

It leaves children with a loss of connection, love, and belonging.

It hides away confidence and a sense of achievement.

It fades away the top tier of basic human needs: Self-actualization.

In the heaviness of the drive through Zambia - what can you possibly do?

APRIL IS WORLD HEALTH MONTH



"IF YOU CAN'T FEED 100, FEED JUST ONE."

-- Mother Teresa

Land of Hope Africa exists to feed just one. To give these little lives a chance to build on each tier of basic human needs. 100% of our 31 children came to LOHA underweight, stunted, and unhealthy. Pre-entrance into LOHA initiated their health check-ups and completed needed treatments.

Within the first four weeks at LOHA, our children's weight increased by 16.8%. Within four months, the combined weight and height increased 38.56%. By year one, the children at LOHA collectively increased their BMIs by 61%. Every child has a house mum, a bed protected by a mosquito net covering, a shared home with other children, clothing, shoes, and bedding. They sleep behind the protection of walls and locked doors. They have indoor plumbing and showers with CLEAN water and soap. They are taught to care for their new belongings and surroundings. They have delegated responsibilities and assignments. They all attend school and wear the coveted school uniform that every African child dreams about.

PJ's Diner (named after our beloved Pastor John Colyer) is the commonplace of fellowship. It is here that our collective family meets. We eat together, worship together, and open God's Word together. LOHA exists to point our children to Jesus. The leadership at LOHA loves Jesus. Our Sunday morning worship and teachings are open to everyone In the surrounding villages.

Land of Hope Africa is grateful for the partnership of <u>UNICEF</u> and <u>WHO</u>. The rural clinics of Kayoshya Health Center and Kapila Health have cared for and treated our entire family at LOHA. Although the travel for healthcare is far, each child and staff member at LOHA is up-to-date on immunizations. The Rural Outreach Team was able to administer the Malaria Vaccine to every person at LOHA. Our HIV, malaria, cholera, and typhoid checks have all remained negative. Praise the Lord.

Our children will know of the top tier of basic human needs. They will know acceptance, experience purpose, and have meaning to their God-given potential.

MY PRAYER

"I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you with joy and peace because you trust in Him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit."

-ROMANS 15:13

2024 GOALS

- Continued daily English discussions, reading proficiency, scripture study, & memorization.
- Team trip in May to weave God's word and teach the Importance of physical fitness through Olympicthemed friendly competitions.
- · Miss Medi leads the Memory Project, a series of private interviews in which each child will be asked questions to answer. This data will be added to the child's entrance interview and kept safe for the children in the future. LOHA strongly believes that every child must remember their origin, that God saw them in their need and rescued them. Our heart at LOHA is to raise Africans. Not Americans.