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*Back to School*

*October 2020 Newsletter*

***Schools to Open Soon!!!!!!***



Dear sponsors, donors and friends of Living Hope High School,

We are very excited to tell you that the government will announce the plans for reopening the schools in the next few days. We hope to be in full swing soon. That will be such a blessing to the whole country! During the lockdown, we have been having secret school for 15 kids. They stayed to help the school keep running, take care of the crops and animals, help with maintenance and have classes for half the day. I had two teachers who volunteered and they have kept things moving. We also had 5 grads who came to teach too. The kids that are here will be far ahead of the kids who stayed home.

All of us here at Living Hope, would like to thank all sponsors, donor's friends for your continued and faithful support. A lot of our expenses have not gone down. We have paid teachers full salaries, paid their deductions, all the support staff have been working. We have spent a lot in maintenance, fencing and repairs. Because of your faithfulness and hard work of students and grads that have stayed, our school is in good shape. The government inspected our school last week, and said we were the best school and we are the most ready to be re-opened. Praise the Lord! We couldn't do it without you and God. We are waiting for the government announcement about re-opening. The government has given us a list of things we have got to do to qualify. We had to buy a thermo gun and test kits to test all the kids when they come back. Once we test them we have to pay for their treatment. We had to put in the extra hand washing stations and expand the nurse's hours.

God is at work, Marilyn

P.S Please pray for new Form one sponsors, we need **15** more sponsors.

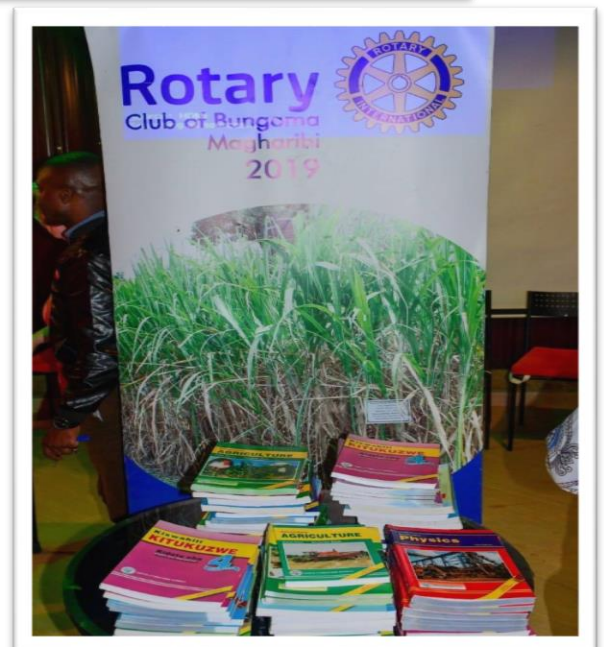
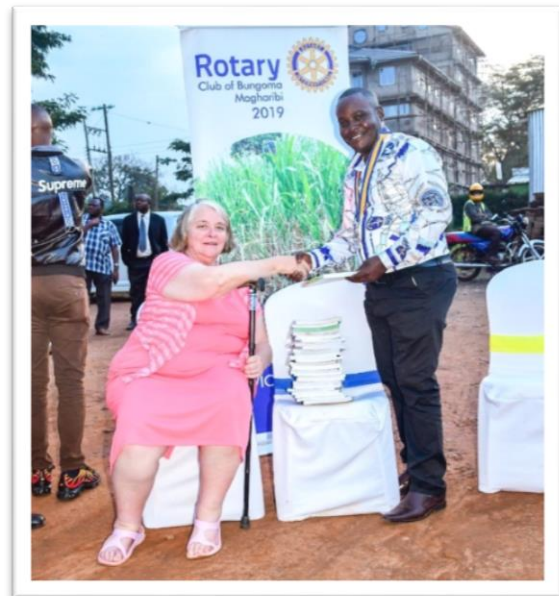
UPDATE: School will be open next week on Monday, October 12, 2020. Nurse Catherine has been busy getting test for HIV and pregnancy for the students. New Thermo gun and hand washing stations and disinfectants are all ready to go. Desks and chairs have been repaired and varnished with locks installed on them. Rooms have been cleaned, walls scrubbed, windows cleaned and floors mopped. Carol and the cooks have inventoried the food, and cooks schedules are all worked out. Students who stayed at the school during the lockdown have taken their exams and will get their report cards soon. They have all done well and worked hard on the farm. Living Hope was a blessing to them by giving them a place to stay and food during lockdown. Praying that all the students who return come back healthy and well. Please continue to pray for the school and students. **Update** October 14, 2020, School did not open as planned due to the Government. Praying it will open soon! Form 4's will return to LHHS for two weeks and see how that goes.

## Books! New Books!

Gordon Howard joined the mission team this past January to journey to Living Hope High School. There is no doubt that God picked him to go! Gordon is a part of the Tully Rotary Club in New York.

While in Kenya he met with the Bungoma Rotary and they formed a relationship with his rotary and theirs. What happened is that they will be working together to get new books for Living Hope High School. Since the opening of the school the students have had to share books. This will be the first time that each student will have their own books. Five thousand dollars was donated so this could happen. What a blessing for the school. Each year as the books got used they became a little worn, to say the least. Pages came off and to keep them intact contact paper was applied so they would stay together a little longer. When teams visited Living Hope many would spend days putting it on the books, it was a task but something that was needed. The school is thankful beyond words for this gift and so appreciate their blessing for without books how can you learn?

October 9<sup>th</sup> there was a Google Meeting via Internet with The Bungoma Rotary and NY Rotary Marilyn shared during the meeting about how blessed they were to get the books.



## \$\$\$\$ How the School is Run Financially \$\$\$

First we would like to thank Lavonne Hammett (US side) and Doricas Wegulo (Living Hope side) that work so hard to keep the finances and funds running smoothly. It is not an easy job! God Bless You Both!

Many people are wondering about their students and how sponsorship works. For each person, church or others that sponsors a Form 1, 2, 3 or 4 – (grades 9-12) student, monthly funds are sent into the school and they go into a pot per say for all the students attending Living Hope. Those who are sponsoring a student in those grades **must** send in their funds to Living Hope through Riverton UMC. You will receive a tax credit for the sponsorship. LaVonne, the treasurer then wires the funds to the school around the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month. Living Hope is audited yearly and when the GBGM (General Board of Global Ministries) came, they said the books were in great shape. The thanks goes to those who work so hard to keep it that way and those of you who donate to keep the school running so well. Those Funds go for many things which include:

### **Food**

**Farm Expenses**

**Student Personal Items**

**Firewood**

**Marilyn's Expenses**

**Medical**

**Support Staff**

**Payroll taxes**

**Teachers Salary**

**Payroll taxes**

**School Supplies**

**Kerosene**

**Gas (Cooking)**

**Office Supplies**

**Phone/Internet**

**Postage/duties**

**Auto Repairs/Insurance**

**Bicycle Repair**

**Bank Fees**

**Transport/Gas/Travel**

**Gifts**

**Chickens**

**Cows**

**Electric**

**Games/Coach**

**Legal Fees**

**Audit Fees**

**Vaccinations**

**Computer Maintenance**

**Repairs & Maintenance**

**Textbooks**

**Casual Wages**

**General Expenses**

**Rental Land**

**Furniture and Fitting**

For sponsors who want to send their student additional funds for something special, like shoes, flashlight, whatever, you can send that to them by earmarking it when you send in the funds to Riverton UMC. That money will go into a line item for the student. It will be separate from the tuition funds you send in Monthly. Doricas at Living Hope will put it into their account.

For those who sponsor a **College Student** you can send in your funds to Living Hope, via Riverton UMC to get a tax credit. If you do not need a tax credit then you can send it directly to your student using a money transfer. You would have to contact your student to see if they have a bank account to do this. Make sure your student is committed and responsible to keep track of what and how he/she spends the funds. They should be willing to send you a report of what they use the funds for and their grades. Many of the students use the Diamond Bank. There are many ways to do this, Pay Pal, Western Union and I personally use [www.remitly.com](http://www.remitly.com)

If you have any questions please contact Sandy Binotto- [yashe4jc@hotmail.com](mailto:yashe4jc@hotmail.com)

I will try to get your question answered. We greatly appreciated all those who sponsor a student and who donate to the School. God is doing amazing things there.

## Helen Markwell Steps Down, Sandy Binotto to Take Her Place



Sandy Binotto will now be taking over the job of Helen Markwell. She will be helping to get students sponsored and all the other items that goes along with sponsoring a student. Sandy will be able to help you with that process. Along with that she will be there to answer questions and keep everyone updated with the Newsletter and Mission teams' information to Kenya. Because of the Coronavirus and churches being closed most of the information will be done virtual. If your church or organization would be interested in hearing more about Living Hope and sponsoring a student Sandy and other past team members will be happy to share with you. A list

will be coming out as to who will be covering what areas. When possible we will do it in person. Videos can be sent to churches and individuals to view during church or at church events.

Sandy has traveled to Africa many times and had lead 8 teams to Living Hope High School over the years. She has a love for Africa and compassion for its people and the school. Her husband Paul in the picture has traveled with her as well and has the same love that she has! She looks forward to working with everyone.



We also thank **Helen Markwell**, Marilyn's sister who has worked so hard at that job, traveling miles and miles, speaking to so many about her love for Living Hope and the students. She would wake up in the middle of the night with them so heavy on her heart praying for the students who needed a sponsor, or for their health or just being their Mum. When she traveled to LHHS with a team she went into action with her teacher instinct and taught the young girls and boys how to live a Christian life. Although Helen will be stepping down she won't be out of the picture! God Bless You Helen!

## Reuniting Families

Living Hope has been very busy with building homes that were destroyed during the past flooding. They have also been helping families with crops, Buckets of Hope and building latrines. One student's family lost their home and the marriage of his parents was on the rocks.

The parents decided they wanted to get back together but they had no home for it had been destroyed by the weather disaster. Living Hope and its students went into action and built them a home so they could start over. The home is almost done and the family is united with its parents and many children. We pray that the Lord will be in the midst of that family and that they will put Christ in the center of their marriage!

## Sammy Update



Sammy Wakoli- form 3, was in a motorcycle accident and as you can see from the first picture he was pretty banged up. He has now healed and doing well. Many of the past mission team members remember him fondly and his love for the crackers we shared with him. Please continue to pray for the students as they have to deal with many challenges as they grow up. Living Hope is a refuge for many of them who don't have parents or who have home situations that are tough. We praise the Lord that Sammy is doing better and the smile has returned to his face!

In closing please keep these items in your prayers:

- 15 form 1 students need sponsors
- That the school opens soon
- Crops do well for the school and the community
- Everyone there stays healthy and safe
- Marilyn stays healthy

**Sponsorship: If you sponsor a student and for some reason you cannot continue to do it please contact Sandy Binotto. I know things come up and situations arise where sometimes you can't keep the commitment. When that happens it puts a strain on the school and they will need to find the student another sponsor.**

**Sponsorship is \$110.00 a month. If you can do it individually that is wonderful. Joining together with several others, or a Sunday school class or a group of people does make it easier. The commitment is for 4 years for a form 1 student. Each other form is less, for 2-three years, form 3-2 years, form 4 one year. Most of those students have sponsors. But sometimes sponsors can't continue. It is a serious commitment but really worth it!**

If you would like to donate to Living Hope, you can mail your donation to: Riverton UMC , Box 23, Riverton, WV 26814  
If it is for a special item, like Buckets of Hope, Disaster Relief or for a student Please make sure you earmark it on your check or send a note with the donation.  
We thank all those who sponsor a student or donate to the school!



It has been suggested that if you want to send something to your student for Christmas send them some money via their account to Riverton. With the Coronavirus mail might be delayed or not be received. The donation will be put into their account. Just make sure you earmark it for Christmas gift on the check or in a note to treasurer. Christmas is just around the corner!



**U.S. Coordinator/ Mission Team Leader and Newsletter**

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