

HOPE!

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOPECO



SEEKING JUSTICE FOR VULNERABLE GIRLS

“Seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.” – Isaiah 1:17 (NIV)

Throughout the Bible, God provides a clear command to His people: seek justice for the vulnerable, the orphans and widows, the refugees, and the marginalized in society. And it is this call that drives HopeCo as we reach out with God’s love to defenseless children, helpless women, and broken families facing extreme poverty, suffering, and despair in the communities we serve in East Africa.

This year we took a huge step of faith by expanding our work into Kenya, opening the House of Farajah. Here young girls, who face sexual abuse, trafficking, and child marriage, are safe, protected, and given the love and high-quality care they need to heal from the trauma they have been rescued from. One of these precious girls is 16-year-old Elizabeth*, whose story reflects the danger many children in East Africa live with every day.

Elizabeth was horribly abused by a man from her community and became pregnant as a result. Then the unthinkable happened. When the police began investigating the matter, Elizabeth (the prime witness and evidence to the crime) was kidnapped by the abuser and his family. She was “imprisoned” in an

abandoned house for a year with barely enough food to stay alive. When the time came for her to deliver, she gave birth with minimal assistance and then was left to care for her baby on her own.

Miraculously, Elizabeth finally managed to escape with her baby. HopeCo found out about her situation, and she is now safe at our new House of Farajah! Elizabeth is receiving trauma-informed care and experiencing God’s healing love. She and her baby are well cared for, so Elizabeth has been able to go back to school.

Pursuing justice means more than caring for the victim. What happened to the abuser of this precious young girl? HopeCo is partnering with the police, courts, and other nonprofit organizations to bring the perpetrators to justice. In the past year, we have secured three convictions – including Elizabeth’s abuser – who has just been imprisoned for twenty years.

Please pray for Elizabeth and the other children HopeCo is caring for in Tanzania and Kenya – that their traumatic scars would heal and they would flourish as they discover the good plans that God has for them!



*Name changed to protect privacy



Our Commitment to YOU

Stories like Elizabeth's – and the hundreds of other children we serve at City of Hope in Tanzania and House of Farajah in Kenya – demonstrate why we must continue to seek justice for orphaned, abandoned, and abused children with compassion and excellence.

In this pursuit, we make **THREE** unwavering commitments to YOU, our friends and partners in this vital work:



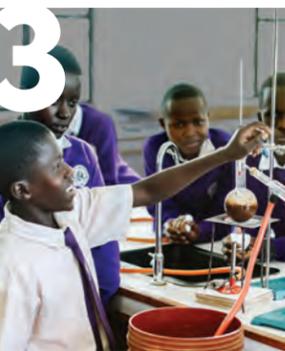
1 We will keep Christ at the heart of all we do

It is Christ alone who transforms lives forever. We will keep Him at the center of our children's homes, schools, medical programs, and community initiatives. He will be at the heart of every plan we make and each decision we take. We recognize our call to serve Him faithfully as we allow Him to guide and lead us.



2 We will relentlessly pursue excellence

We are committed to excellence in our care for vulnerable children, providing them with a top-notch education and helping them make a healthy transition into adulthood. As we partner with you, we will manage your gifts with integrity, and communicate the impact of your generosity. We will pursue excellence because God deserves nothing less – nor do the children and young people that we serve!



3 We will grow our impact

Our vision is to see hundreds more children rescued and given hope in our children's homes, schools, and community programs. We are committed to seeing the children and young people we serve today become future changemakers in their families, workplaces, churches, communities – and their nations!

As we remain Christ-centered, pursue excellence, and grow our impact, we are grateful to YOU for the part that you play in creating transformed lives and flourishing communities in East Africa! Thank you!

Raising Leaders in East Africa

Leadership is one of our core values at HopeCo. Identifying and nurturing capable African leaders so that they can flourish and lead with excellence is happening. Cynthia (pictured below), who is on our leadership team in Tanzania, shares her reflections:

"Being at the City of Hope has brought me so much good in the last year. I have seen myself grow and have learned to be a servant leader through the leadership workshops we have had and as I have watched how others lead."

I have also grown spiritually. The prayer meetings, church, and weekend challenges have opened my eyes to how God is working and changing me!

God has taught me to care for these children and nurture their dreams. It needs a heart full of love to serve at City of Hope, and my mindset has shifted from just being a teacher to being a caregiver and a friend to these kids. I have learned to become a mother to the motherless!"

Our secondary school also doubles as an "Institute of Leadership" where students are taught our leadership values: being Christ-centered, living with integrity, having compassion and courage, and pursuing lifelong learning.

Most importantly, they are given opportunities to live these values out in practical service by "giving back." This includes visiting and serving those who are widowed or elderly in the local community. One student shared: *"City of Hope has made me realize that I don't need to be rich to help those around me!"*

Nurturing Christ-centered leaders who pursue excellence is essential to our commitment to grow our impact across East Africa.



Even MORE: Growing our Impact in 2023

This has been an encouraging year! We have given life-saving, life-sustaining help to more children in 2022 than ever before – and we have made significant progress in pursuing our vision of transformed lives and flourishing communities. But our work is far from finished!

These **FOUR** exciting and attainable goals will help move us forward as we continue to pursue our vision in 2023:



1 Educating MORE Vulnerable Children

There are many children in the community that still do not go to school. We intend to purchase a bus to bring more children to school each day and give them the precious gift of education.



2 Supporting MORE Young Moms

Young moms in the community need quality medical care during pregnancy, while giving birth, and as they care for their babies. We will continue to expand this specialized area of our medical center.



3 Empowering MORE Traumatized Girls

As we expand our work of rescuing, protecting, and caring for girls who have experienced abuse and violence, we will offer counseling to more children and advocate for their needs to governments, police, judges, and other community groups.



4 Helping MORE Families Flourish

We will build relationships with more families in the communities we serve, providing support that keeps struggling families together. We will also begin developing a more family-style model of care for the kids in our children's home.

As you can see, there are many ways you can partner with HopeCo. Find out more by scanning the QR code or going to www.JoinHopeCo.com/overview.

Thank you!





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Two big ways to give children what they need...right now!



Equip a library and computer lab at Destiny Primary School

Quality education is critical to helping children break out of poverty and reach their full potential. In 2023, we will continue to expand facilities at Destiny Primary School, improving the quality of teaching and learning. This means equipping a new library and computer lab. We have the space, but now we need to furnish it with desks and chairs, bookshelves, books, computers, and other vital equipment. This will cost **\$25,000**

These vital projects can only be accomplished with your support. Please stand with hurting children today by making a generous gift – for whatever amount you can share – to help them heal and provide them with hope for a healthy future. You can mail a check, or give easily and securely online by scanning the QR code, or by going to **www.JoinHopeCo.com/2022**

Thank you for caring!



Help children heal from trauma

The needs we face are overwhelming. That's why we opened the House of Farajah for abused girls this year. In 2023, we must do even more – rescue and protect more girls, **provide more trauma-informed care** to hurting children like Elizabeth, and work with local schools to raise awareness about child abuse and prevention. To meet these critical needs, we must raise an additional **\$15,000**.



OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

At HopeCo, we recognize our responsibility to steward the financial gifts received from you with integrity and accountability. We are therefore committed to:

- Using your gifts wisely and effectively, and in the ways you intend
- Being truthful in all our communications
- Reporting with transparency about how your gifts are used
- Praying for you

This promise to you is reflected in our accreditation from the Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability (ECFA). We have also been awarded a Platinum Seal of Transparency from from Candid (formerly GuideStar).

When you give to HopeCo, you can trust us to act responsibly, truthfully, and with integrity!

