



AVFP NEWS

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“Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked”

Psalms 82:3-4

By James M Opiyo (Kenya)

AVFP NEWS SUMMARY

We thank God for having guided us this far. 2012 has been a great year for the organization as it finally opened its office in the Amilo village after six years of operation. This office has played a big role in linking all of the programs being run by AVFP within the community.

AVFP is also expecting a donation of school furniture for the Early Childhood Class at Amilo Primary School. This is a positive response towards the organizations' efforts to establish an efficient Early Childhood Class within the community. These donations are coming courtesy of Virgin Atlantic volunteers who are donating enough desks for the sixty students.



AVFP Office

A small donation can make a huge difference, especially if that donation goes directly to the project and not towards high administrative costs?

We at AVFP believe in directing money to where it matters and spending it where it matters.

We are a 501(c) (3) tax exempt organization in the United States, to find out how to donate please visit our website at www.alicevisionary.org and click Donate Now.



Education Programs



Amilo Village is home to many orphans and vulnerable children brought about by the HIV/ AIDS epidemic. Most of these children are left with very little hope of ever realizing their dream as most of them are neglected by the community which finds it hard not only to feed itself, but also to educate its population. Attaining a high school diploma is a far-fetched dream to most of these orphans and vulnerable children. The community being a sugar cane growing area has created a rise in child labor as most children are assured of getting a day's meal after working in the sugar cane field. This has led to a high number of school drop outs.

AVFP started its operation in August 2005, with a vision of giving hope to these children and breaking the poverty cycle by giving them an opportunity to a much needed education. In achieving these goals, AVFP started several orphans and vulnerable children support programs which included school sponsorship, home support, a school feeding program and also putting more emphasis on Early Childhood Education.

In our school sponsorship program, AVFP identified the most vulnerable group and

through fair and specific criteria, selected children to be enrolled. Since our initial enrollment at least three new students have entered into the program every year. These children are sponsored through high school where AVFP has taken up a holistic support approach. Rather than just paying school fees, we also took care of other school requirements like shopping, pocket money, fare, text books, medical care and paid for visits twice a term for all the children that we were supporting. AVFP has ensured that most of the children we support are in boarding school as a strategy for providing food to them while in school.

In home support the organization has been providing psychosocial support where it has been involved in conflict resolution within the orphans' families and also provides moral support whenever the orphans are dealing with stressful events in their lives. The organization is structured in a way that allows open communication and interaction with our supported children, their care givers and staff.

The organization also initiated a housing project where it built houses for some of its orphans in their respective homesteads as some of them did not have a proper place to sleep or study. Necessary items like bedding and furniture for studying were provided and in some cases meals and basic nutritional needs, especially to orphans infected by HIV/AIDS.



AVFP's Education program has seen more than 10 students who have graduated with high school diplomas and are now in a variety of colleges where AVFP continues to provide support for some of them.



The organization has also been involved in the Amilo Primary School feeding program where in its first two years of operation

supplied lunch to the entire school. We then introduced the parents to cost sharing and partial provision of food for sustainability and community ownership purposes.

Most of the beneficiaries are children below the age of 12 years. This has increased the number of student enrollment in the school from 315 to more than 400 students and the program has helped to capture and retain students in school as they are assured of one meal a day.

The feeding program initiative has also led to the establishment of an early childhood education program within the school where approximately sixty children from the ages of four to six years old are enrolled.

The early childhood programs within the community are not well developed, but are a very important aspect of child development. AVFP is working together with other stake holders and well wishers to establish these important and yet neglected aspects of education.

We believe education is the solution to the problems in this community as education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another.

Glimpse of Hope

Profile: Eliud Ochieng'

By Eliud Ochieng' (Kenya)



Eliud in primary school

I was born in 1996 at a small village in Western Kenya called Amilo. Soon after my birth, my parents relocated to the city to look for employment because they found it difficult to sustain our young family in the village.

Getting employment in the city was very difficult as they did not have any academic certificate so my father had to sell a piece of land back in the village to buy a sewing machine in order to start a tailoring business. The tailoring business was not very profitable but gave my family little income to sustain itself. After a few years in the city my parents were forced to go back to the village as my father was constantly ill and getting medication in the city was very expensive. My mother was also expecting another child at this time and when we got to the village the situation got worse as we were relying on my grandparents to

provide food and other basic needs for us, but could not afford to provide health care for my sick father and my expectant mother.

My mother gave birth at home with the help of my grandmother; my little sister was named Wilkister after my grandmother. After giving birth, my mother grew weak as there was not enough food for our family and her condition got worse every day as my grandparents could not afford to take her to hospital. She passed on when my sister was five months old and my sister also passed on a month later. I did not get a chance to know my mother and baby sister well, but I can remember taking care of my father when my grandparents went to work on the sugar cane field. He later died and left me under the care of my grandparents ever since.

My grandparents have been like my parents since that time and supported me the best way they could. They took me to Amilo Primary School and encouraged me to attend school everyday even though the school was very far from our home. AVFP took me up for sponsorship in 2005 when I was in 3rd grade at Amilo Primary School. I was the youngest in the group that was accepted that year and always got support and encouragement from other older students that were with me in the program. I did not believe that one day I would be able to get out of the village and go to a boarding school for my post primary education but my dream has come true and I am currently a form one student in Naki Secondary school.



Eliud (Right) with the late Michael

Words from the USA

By Sandra Rader (USA)

As our USA Board looks back over our last 7 years, we feel blessed to be working with such a dedicated Kenya Team. With our fundraisers we have been able to maintain one minimally paid staff member with the remainder of our staff and Kenya Board assisting voluntarily. In spite of many challenges much has been achieved and AVFP continues to grow.

As a Board we would like to give you the opportunity to meet some of our Kenya Team. They will be coming to the USA from August 10, 2012 to August 21, 2012 with several events to give our supporters a chance to meet them and hear firsthand the work being completed in the Amilo Village.

Events:

- August 12, 2012 the team will be speaking at The Presbyterian Church of The Mountain in Delaware Water Gap, PA (10 AM)
- August 18, 2012 join us for our Kenya Summer Safari. This will be a picnic/pool fundraiser event at 272 Neyharts Road Stroudsburg, PA (12 PM to 6PM). Cost: \$10 per Adult or \$25 for a family. Bring a covered dish/swimsuit and AVFP will be supplying the meat and drinks.

If you are unable to attend, please consider giving a donation at www.alicevisionary.org.

For more information and current events go to www.alicevisionary.org and look under updates, then events or call Sandra Rader at: 570-242-3666.