

NEWS FROM THE DR. LEON G. SMITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOUNDATION



HOPE FOR LIFE KENYA



With the strong financial support from its donors, the Smith Infectious Disease Foundation recently made a donation to Hope for Life Kenya. Dr. Smith wanted to share the reaction for the financial support and thank everyone for making this possible.

The following is a note that Dr. Smith received from the orphanage and information on the organization:

Dear Dr. Smith

It is with great humility and gratitude that we send this thank you note to you. We feel so honored to have such kind of a facility that helps our growing children realize who they are and how valuable they are. They were once without hope to live the next moment, but now they have become agents of living hope.

The services they get at the facility have opened their eyes and mind such that they make decisive choices before they engage themselves into activities that make them prone to HIV/AIDS. We are impressed by the leadership roles they take in their institutions of higher learning. These children, some of them guardians of their younger siblings, are very helpful. They act as very good young parents to the young ones.

Those who are HIV+ve get treatment of opportunistic sicknesses at the clinic; as such they view life just like any other child. What amazes us is that they forget that they are orphans and take each other as their own family members. When the next phase of construction is complete, we shall be able to hold camps to teach them more on behavior change, as well as on how to take measures in prevention of illnesses. Those who need continuous care will be maintained in the hospital for continual check-up and treatment.

It is a life-saving facility, a holistic, nurturing one, and we salute you for your financial assistance. The children's lives are safe because of the facility and we honor God for this.

Once again, thank you so much for your contribution and for making us who we are. God bless you.

Josephinekiariu

Hope for Life Kenya Orphanage

The following is an email sent to Dr. Smith with the note:

Dr Leon, here is a letter to you from Josephine, the amazing Kenyan lady who runs the "Hope for Life" orphanage. I've heard from several sources that your gift not only met a significant physical need, but it was such a great encouragement to those who spend their lives caring for children who have lost loved ones to HIV/AIDS or who suffer the illness themselves. May God bless you richly for your generous gift, your passion for helping others, and your kindness to all you meet. I value your friendship and certainly treasure the memories of our times together. Do keep in touch for we love you, Scott

Jonathan Scott Gration is an American retired Major General of the United States Air Force, who worked as a policy advisor to President Barack Obama. On March 18, 2009, Gration was named, and served, as the United States Special Envoy to Sudan.[1][2] He subsequently worked as United States Ambassador to Kenya from 2011-2012. He is a friend and supporter of the Smith Foundation.

About Hope for Life



Hope for Life Kenya is an NGO (non-governmental organization) whose purpose is to stimulate sustainable community transformation through healed relationships. This ministry focuses on the physical, spiritual and emotional care and development of children and older youth who have been victimized by HIV/AIDS. The organization is led by founder Josephine Kiarri and is located in Kiungururia—just outside Nakuru, one of Kenya's largest metro areas. Ministry partners have helped Hope for Life Kenya build an orphan care center, a medical clinic, and their own borehole for water.

Hope for Life Kenya (HFLK) is committed to maintaining the strong family bonds that characterize Kenyan society and so to that end the 145 children continue to live with their family guardians. Seven days a week, however, the center supplements with a healthy hot lunch along with loving, Christ-centered teaching and counseling.

To ensure ongoing education, HFLK tutors the children and supports the guardians in paying the tuition and fees required for students to continue in school. For the older youth HFLK offers eight vocational training courses. The center also provides club programs, Christian Rite of Passage (CROP), seminars, a Sunday afternoon fellowship, along with individual counseling and mentoring. Adult education and vocational skill training are offered to the guardians.

Since 2001 Hope for Life Kenya has been launching HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children into society by giving them a foundation of love, dignity, and hope. Their primary goal has been to help children find their hope in a relationship with Jesus Christ, to grow in their faith and character, and be useful in Christ's Kingdom.

These children through contributions to the financial needs of the Hope for Life Kenya center—for food purchase, security for the center, and help with the cost of wages for the director, vocational skills teachers, and cooks. The greatest need is for school fees for the 31 teenagers who recently qualified for high school at the end of 2014. High School in Kenya requires a significant tuition/boarding cost, please consider helping one of these high school students. The school fees



cost is \$97.00/month per student.