



A Christian Children's Home in Kenya for Vulnerable School-aged Boys

<https://ahadifamilykenya.org>

## MARCH 2018 UPDATE



The big event coming up here is the **BOSTON MARATHON on Patriot's Day, 16 April**, (which in Massachusetts is a holiday). This is our 16<sup>th</sup> annual fund-raiser for school fees for second term, and is being run once again by Cara Hehn, who is a Physical Therapist and niece of Brandon Hehn, who was the first to run the Marathon for us for several years. The (mostly) primary school boys are holding a poster they made for Cara, thanking her for running (and you for sponsoring her to run for their benefit). *The Marathon typically raises enough money for us to pay*

*school-related expenses for second term (costs of getting the high school boys from and to boarding school and to visit their relatives--several hundred dollars; cost of food to send with them to help their relatives feed them—and for Ahadi to feed everyone when they around (\$800); school fees and any other incidentals needed before they return to school for second term in May. We hope to raise \$8-10,000 again this year. Please help us to meet our goal. <https://ahadifamilykenya.org/donate> (Control + a mouse click will connect you to our website).*

I have renovated the Ahadi Family website with a new software program, and it is now a secure site and even allows you to donate directly from the website, using your credit, debit, or PayPal account (only 2.2% fee + \$.30 is withdrawn from your donation to pay for the convenience—and that remaining amount is tax exempt in the US). Check it out and encourage your friends to donate, too. There's a brochure they can read on the [Publications](https://ahadifamilykenya.org/publications) page to learn more about us <https://ahadifamilykenya.org/publications> . Also have a look at the bottom of the [Alumni](https://ahadifamilykenya.org/alumni) page to see the photos of our Ahadi Alumni Reunion/1<sup>st</sup> anniversary memorial of my husband, Jon's, entrance to his eternal home 26 Feb. 2017 <https://ahadifamilykenya.org/alumni>.



Heavy rains recently gave us opportunity to start planting crops of maize (corn), beans, etc. in the garden as well as trees

around the perimeter. At the same time as there was so much water from the sky, our water pump failed to work (we found out it was full of silt from being submerged in the water tank), so until we could make arrangements to replace it (it couldn't be repaired), the staff and boys had to manually draw water from the outside underground tank. They are very relieved to have the new pump, and this time we have one that is outside of the tank and now surrounded by a cage (to make it harder to steal). I'm sure drawing water by hand for a household full of boys was not fun in the interim.

## **CASE IN POINT**

When I was still at Ahadi in January and February, I was chatting with one of our newest boys, who is about 10 years old and in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. I asked him where he used to live before he joined Ahadi Family, and he told me he was in a rehab home with his brother in a nearby town. I asked him where he was before he was taken to rehab, and he said, "...in jail." That would have been when he was about 8 years old, and he was a runaway! Before that, he was in an abusive home. What a sad beginning for him and his older brother, who is also staying at Ahadi, but you would never guess it if you met him today. He is cheerful, quite intelligent, very funny and affectionate—loving every minute of visiting with me after school and sitting close to me while we ate dinner. (I loved every minute as well.) The rehab home got him off to a good start but was not a permanent place. We are happy to be part of his positive growing up experience. He loves his Ahadi friends, his school, eagerly participates in evening devotions at Ahadi, and easily chatted with me in English. I am glad that God gave us the opportunity to be a blessing to kids like this, and to give them the opportunity to have a better life. They have a lot of promise. "Ahadi" is the Swahili word for "Promise." We promise to give them Christian care.

I am writing this on Good Friday, and I attended a very moving Maundy Thursday church service last night. Maundy Thursday is the night before Jesus was crucified. It was the night he was betrayed with a kiss by one of his disciples! Yet "Maundy" means "Command" because on this same night, Jesus washed his disciples' feet, and commanded them to love one another as he loved them. While he washed their feet, he knew very well that he would soon give up his life not only for his disciples, but for all who would come to believe in Him. That's the kind of painful at times, and uncomfortable and inconvenient, self-sacrificing love he commands us to do unto others as he did to us. Wow. That's some command! Thank you for loving the Ahadi Family boys like Jesus does and sacrificially giving. Happy Easter. I'm so glad that Jesus's story didn't end on Good Friday. He has risen and gives us new life, too. Indeed.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS THAT MAKE THIS MINISTRY POSSIBLE.**

**Phyllis Masso for Ahadi Family Kenya.**

**IN THE US, to make tax-exempt contributions: SEND CHECKS TO: SCREAM USA, 31 Benson Rd., Northbridge, MA 01534**

**Or, USE A DEBIT CARD TO MAKE A TAX-EXEMPT DONATION THROUGH ORPHAN'S JOY <http://orphansjoy.revtrak.net>**  
**Select "Ahadi Family Kenya Orphanage" and choose "running expenses."**

**IN KENYA: Send to our m-pesa account: 0706-344024** (Humphrey Chegome Olindo's name--our social worker/manager--will appear in your confirmation message.) **OR, DEPOSIT AT NIC BANK, NIC HOUSE BRANCH Ahadi Family Kenya account**