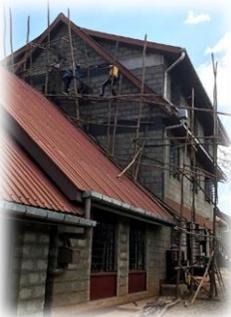




A Christian Children's Home in Kenya for Vulnerable School-aged Boys

<https://ahadifamilykenya.org>

## UPDATE FEBRUARY 2019



Wow. It seems like I just got here, and it's already time for me to leave this Friday, 1 March. It saddens me to think of it. I enjoyed being with the high school boys who were here

for one week for mid-term break. Several of them helped some of our Ahadi alumni with a painting project at Ahadi, painting the peeling fascia boards, pillars, borders, etc. using home-made scaffolding made of tree poles, clear up on the 3<sup>rd</sup> story (2<sup>nd</sup> if you count stories like they do in Kenya). Experienced workers constructed the scaffolding. Thank God there were no major injuries, and the houses look great now with their fresh paint. One boy who was so fearful when he started helping, ended up being the one to paint the highest point without fear.

A highlight of my stay was the Ahadi Alumni Reunion on 16 February, when 25 of the now-grown-up alumni



came to enjoy a feast with their "little brothers," who entertained them with a dance. We even had a last-minute show put on by Peter Omwaka, one of our alumni, known as Guardian Angel, who last year won the Groove Award for the best Gospel Recording Artist in Kenya for 2018. Besides singing along with one of his recent recordings, he gave us a very moving testimony of God's faithfulness in his life, and some of the challenges he encountered during his rebellious years. Another of our alumni used his drone and cameras from his studio to

take some interesting snaps that he hopes to use in producing a short video soon to help us raise the best-ever donations from the Boston Marathon fund-raiser in April. **Our expenses are going to soon sky-rocket as 8 new boys will be coming to us as soon as court dates can be arranged (5 from an over-crowded**



nearby rescue center where they have over-stayed for years without being in school). We also plan to transfer our 6 upper primary school boys (6 - 8 grade) to a school with better facilities and educational opportunities since they are not doing well at the over-crowded government school with an average of 60 pupils in each class. Since they will need serious tutoring, we are putting them in a boarding facility. It will cost about \$200 each for the new boys to get

clothes, uniforms, etc. and \$550 each to put the 6 upper primary boys in a boarding facility. The initial costs are high, but ongoing costs will not be as bad. If they do poorly in the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade exam, it seriously affects their whole future, so we believe the extra cost is worth it to give them this boost.

We completed the audit a couple of weeks ago and last week met with the auditor who was impressed with our record-keeping. Now we need to renew our tax-exempt status in Kenya and update our registration as a Trust. That requires tons of paper-work, so our Senior Management team (the Manager, the Board/Trust Treasurer, and me as Executive Director) are working hard to gather all the necessary documents.



On Saturday, we had a meeting with the Board of Trustees and a joint meeting with them and the Board of Directors. It was an enjoyable time as we worked on clarifying who does what in our organization. In the photo, starting on the bottom left and going clock-wise are the Manager, Humphrey Chegome; Treasurer, Christine Karimi (a neighbor of Ahadi and university graduate in Psychology); Vice-Chair, Nderitu Macharia (an architect); Executive Director, Phyllis Masso; Chairman of Trustees, Gilbert Ngaira; and Secretary of

Trustees, Vincent Ouma. Gilbert and Vincent are Ahadi Alumni, actively working to make Kenya a better place in the Children's Rights and Health Sectors. Sadly, some board members were unable to attend due to illness or other obligations.

**Two of our alum are facing health problems that seem to be neurological. We would appreciate your prayers as Ken and Rickson try to find solutions with the doctors here.** Several others of our college/university students are facing challenges because courses that they took in the past are not showing up on their transcripts. This has been a problem nation-wide, and students at some campuses are rioting. One of our alumni has taken 2 years trying to straighten out his records and finally graduated 2 years after he had finished! He had to retake exams; others even need to retake courses! This is upsetting for the students and costly for the sponsors. On a positive note, two more of our alumni are working on master's degrees (3 have finished Master's, and 1 is almost finished with a PhD). None of this would have been possible without your generosity in supporting Ahadi Family Kenya. **We are so grateful to you and hope you are as happy to be a part of Ahadi Family Kenya as I am.**

*Phyllis Masso for Ahadi Family Kenya.*

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