



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

<https://ahadifamilykenya.org>

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The Boston Marathon is just around the corner on Monday April 15, which is Patriot's Day, a holiday in Massachusetts. For the seventh consecutive year, **Cara Hehn, who is now a physical therapist, will be running 26 miles from Hopkinton to Boston, to raise funds for Ahadi Family Kenya.** (See photo from 2017). **This is an important fund-raiser for us** because it typically raises enough to pay second term school fees and helps to pay operating expenses for the next few months. Also, the Children's Department officer is preparing documents for the court dates that will clear us to accept **8 new boys**, which

we hope will take place soon, due to the kind of condition these boys are living in meanwhile. **Taking in all of these boys with just the clothes on their backs, and getting them enrolled in school will substantially raise our need for income, along with the fact that we will be transferring 6 of our boys who are in 7th and 8th grade to a better (and more expensive) school in hopes that they will have a better foundation for high school. We are hoping to raise \$17,000 this year which is \$6,000 more than we have ever raised before!** The photo on the right shows 2 of the 8th grade boys, Innocent and Andrew, preparing for the entrance exam at the new school. Thankfully, all 6 boys passed and were accepted, with none of them needing to repeat a grade.





As I have mentioned before, most high school children go to inexpensive boarding schools in Kenya because there are very few local high schools, and the few that do exist often have very poor facilities and unmotivated teachers. When a child finishes primary school (8th grade), they wait for a calling letter to a high school which determines where they may attend. One of our boys was “called” to a school with a very good reputation, but it is far away in western Kenya. I think this is due to the government attempt to break up the disunity caused by tribalism. He must get to Nairobi 35 miles away, and then take an overnight bus through the night to get to school. By the time he arrives, he is exhausted. This also means that “visiting day” is very inconvenient for our house parents and/or social worker, so it doesn’t usually happen; but our manager/social worker “bit the bullet” and went for a visit recently. In this photo, you can see that Vincent has had a growth spurt and now towers over

the social worker. Also, often when boys come to us, they may have been out of school for some time or had to repeat because of poor living conditions that complicated their school attendance, so our boys are often several years older than their classmates.

We are trying something new this year. Gilbert, the Ahadi boy who has been our Junior Staff for the past year, has now gone to a nearby **Youth With a Mission (YWAM) base, and is taking a 5-month Discipleship Training class/outreach program.** We hope that this will give him a good foundation for his upcoming university studies in September. **However, I still need to find a sponsor for him to begin a bachelor’s degree in Criminology at Kenyatta University where he has been accepted in that major.** University education is much cheaper in Kenya than the US, so costs are approximately \$6,000 per year, split up in trimesters, or approximately \$4,000 if he goes for 2 semesters with a break in between (like the US system). Please consider this if the Lord has blessed you enough to share that much per year. Our graduates are making an impact on the Kenyan nation, and I’m sure the ripple effect will go far. Also, **Proverbs reminds us that “The generous prosper and are satisfied; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.”**



Phyllis Masso for Ahadi Family Kenya.

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