



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

<https://ahadifamilykenya.org>

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I have just returned from my trip to Kenya, and there were so many highlights, it's hard to know where to begin. I got acquainted with the six new boys who joined us a month ago. Our youngest new boy, Stephen, a 7-year old is very friendly and excited to be in pre-school. We enjoyed many good times together, reading Berenstain Bears, etc. with him and his Ahadi buddy, 9-year old Morgan, who used to be the "baby" of our Ahadi Family. Stephen and his 2 brothers had been in a crowded rescue centre for 3 years without going to school after being abandoned by their mother and reported by neighbors to the Children's Department! It amazes and encourages me to see how quickly the boys acclimated to Ahadi Family. **I think our family atmosphere has a lot to do with it.** I shared dinner

time with the Ahadi Family (enjoying Kenyan foods again) and led devotions from the Gospel of John for 5 of the 6 evenings that I spent at Ahadi Family. I discovered that after-dinner devotions put the younger ones to sleep. They at least learned that I value the Bible as the Word of God, and that I love them. It was very difficult for me to say "Good-bye" when the time came, but **Lord willing, I will continue to return for future Trustee Meetings and stay at Ahadi each time.**



Another highlight of my stay was meeting with our Trustees, once for a Special Meeting with the Kenyan consultant whom I met last month in the US, and once for our regular Trustees meeting, joined by the Board of Directors for lunch and a brief joint meeting during which time we announced our new organizational structure. Instead of a Board of Directors, we will have three **Advisory Committees**, each chaired by a Trustee, with the previous Directors and other volunteers assisting in areas of Ahadi **Programs**, **Financial** affairs, and **Alumni/College/University** issues. We will begin rolling it out as soon as necessary paperwork and new Advisory Committees are constituted. **I am especially excited that Christine Karimi, one of our Trustees, has agreed to replace me in the position of Executive Director.** Her passion for Ahadi, as well as her home being located within walking distance of Ahadi, makes her very accessible as well as knowledgeable of the neighborhood and community. It also makes it possible for her to easily monitor, on behalf of the Trustees, the programs at Ahadi. **I will continue as a Trustee, focusing more on the donor/sponsorship end of things in the US, but staying in close contact with the Manager and Executive Director.** This step of having a competent and passionate Kenyan as Executive Director has been my prayer for several years, so I am very relieved and excited that Christine has consented to take this position. Her degree in Psychology from Daystar University and experience as a mother of 2 high school children and 1 college-aged daughter, means she is very much in touch with needs of this age group. I thank God so much for her willingness to serve. **PLEASE PRAY FOR CHRISTINE AS SHE ADJUSTS TO THE NEW LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY AND FOR THE TRUSTEES AS THEY ESTABLISH THE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.** I failed to get photos of her, the Trustees, and the Board! I'm so sorry.

Our decision to create Advisory Committees also will encourage more Kenyan involvement in the areas of Ahadi Programs (Spiritual, Educational, Medical/Nutrition, Social, etc.); Fund Raising/Finance; and Alumni concerns. Several of our Ahadi Alumni are facing hardships due to learning to live as adults; finding jobs; budgeting; finishing college/university, etc. We hope to do a better job of preparing our boys for the challenges of being grown up, but not having the family backing that other kids their age have. If you are a Kenyan, willing to get involved in one of these Advisory Committees, please e-mail the Manager at ahadifamilyk@gmail.com.

Currently, the Ahadi boys in boarding schools (those in grades 7-12) will arrive at Ahadi for a brief stay at the end of 2nd term, and then will be sent to visit a relative. Then, end of August, we will need funds to pay school fees for third term (Sept-Nov). **That means we need an additional \$3,000 (300,000 Kes) for school fees alone, plus all the transportation costs getting the boys to relatives and back to Ahadi and then back to boarding schools and the normal expenses of food, salaries, utilities, etc. for those living at Ahadi. Since we don't have a special fundraiser at this time, we are counting on some large donations to meet this extra need. Your extra help is needed and appreciated! THE FUNDS RAISED BY THE BOSTON MARATHON EVENT HAVE BEEN USED UP FOR THE SECOND TERM NEEDS AND THE COMING OF SIX NEW BOYS. NEEDS OF AHADI FAMILY ARE ONGOING AND URGENTLY NEEDED TO CATER FOR THE THIRTY (30) CHILDREN DEPENDING ON US! Proverbs 11:2 reminds us that "those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed."**

Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support to date.