



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

<https://ahadifamilykenya.org>

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20 YEARS OF ASSISTING VULNERABLE BOYS IN KENYA

I just realized that it was a little over 21 years ago that my husband, Jon, and I began assisting street boys in Nairobi by contributing to the support of a Christian who worked with street boys—never expecting God to soon turn it into an organization of its own about a year later, named at first SCREAM Kenya, an acronym for **Street Children Reconciliation, and Assistance, and Ministry**. Eventually, we realized there were also many other boys living with elderly grandparents or relatives who couldn't afford to pay the minimal school fees, and the boys were idle, not getting proper attention, getting into trouble, roaming the neighborhoods, sniffing glue and stealing. My husband and I were both working at Daystar University at the time and had no intention of starting a children's home, but God had other plans, and after I resigned my position in the library at Daystar, I began getting more and more involved with the kids we were helping and realized how committed I had become to seeing them have opportunities for a better life. **GETTING TO KNOW THE BOYS PERSONALLY WAS A TURNING POINT FOR ME. They were no longer a category, they were real kids whose stories I knew, whose "home-lives" (or lack thereof) I had seen.**

Five years later, we realized the need to get more formally organized as a children's home, and at the suggestion of the boys we were helping at the time, we even changed the name to **Ahadi Family Kenya**. ("Ahadi" is the Swahili word for "Promise.") The boys didn't want the name to include anything about street children or a children's home because of the stigma; they insisted that we were more like a large family. We then registered with the recently reorganized Kenyan children's department as a Charitable Children's Institution (CCI) in 2006, and by 2012, the Lord provided funds through many of you to build our own place. Sometimes people ask how many boys we have helped, and I honestly do not know. Sometimes the boys do not stay with us for long, especially if we manage to locate a relative who can be trusted to care for them. Other times, they may run away because they don't appreciate the behavior that we expect of them, and sometimes we need to send them away if they are over 18 and prove to be a danger to the other boys—something that rarely happens. The thing I do know is that more than 20 boys are cared for at a time, and that they are safe, receiving wholesome care, education, and spiritual guidance, in a family-type atmosphere. If you haven't had time to look at our website, at least have a quick look at this 5-minute video: <https://youtu.be/VWcfDxntmRo>.

The Covid-19 virus has affected life in Kenya drastically, though the number of cases and deaths are comparatively low. Schools and colleges closed, and Nairobi, the capital is closed to traffic coming in and out. There's a curfew from 7 pm to 5 am, and police have been known to severely beat curfew offenders. In fact, deaths from police beatings are greater than the number of deaths from Covid-19



Most Kenyans do not have access to the technology that the Western world enjoys, so many children are currently really losing out on their education. At Ahadi, five of the college/university boys are staying there due to the closing of campus housing, so in addition to keeping up with their own studies through the internet, they are helping the boys do their homework. Collins is helping the middle school boys in the photo on the top left.

Like many places around the world, churches are prohibited from gathering, so the older Ahadi boys are also organizing and leading at-home church services. Here, Jannes Omondi, who recently completed his college studies and awaits graduation, is leading a lesson from the Gospel of Luke.

The boys are also learning some indoor games that they never used to have time for and have more time for soccer as well (when it stops raining enough). In the photo below, they are learning to play Monopoly.



We haven't heard yet how much longer the schools will be closed, or how the school terms will be divided. They had only had 2 months of school this school year which began in January, before they were sent home. When the second term begins, however, there will be school fees again. We are usually dependent on funds raised by the Boston Marathon (which has been post-poned to September). **We are requesting you to still make contributions in anticipation that the marathon will eventually happen, but probably long after the next school term begins. Follow this link to see how you can contribute <https://ahadifamilykenya.org/donate>.** We now can offer online giving within the US, using your check number and routing number on a secure site that was set up by Unibank, our bank in the US. Check out this link <https://ahadifamilykenya.org/donate> to either make a one-time donation for the Marathon runners and/or set up recurring payments.

Thank you in advance. We are hoping to raise \$20,000 in the year 2020 as we celebrate our 20 years of helping vulnerable boys. So far, about 1/3 of that amount has come in. The funds raised from the Marathon typically enable us to also top up the amount we need for operating expenses May to August. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY EVEN IN THIS TIME OF STRETCHED BUDGETS. GOD BLESS YOU.