



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

<https://ahadifamilykenya.org>

AHADI FAMILY UPDATE MAY 2020

I pass on greetings from Humphrey, the Manager at Ahadi, who tells me that it has become hot there (weather-wise), so the rains have shifted elsewhere. They are hoping for a great crop in the garden in another month or so. **The Ahadi boys and staff continue to experience good health as they take the precautions of mainly staying home** (at Ahadi), wearing masks when out, and studying at home as schools are still closed. They are waiting to hear from the President of Kenya when schools will be allowed to reconvene. Compared to the US, Kenya has not been hard hit with the virus, with only about 1,000 reported cases and just over 50 deaths (Kenya is about the size of Nevada). Nairobi, the capital, remains inaccessible to all but cargo and essential vehicles and people are arrested and put in forced quarantine where they must pay for their accommodation and arrange for their own meals, if they are caught without masks while out in public. Unemployment had been already at 50%, and that number has now increased, so the poor are really suffering, which includes some of our Ahadi "alumni." I fear more poverty and deaths from the ripple effect than from the virus itself.



The Ahadi staff and older boys planned a Fun Day to break up the monotony of staying at home. The Manager (Humphrey), and an Ahadi Family Trustee/CEO/Mom (Christine, who is a neighbor to Ahadi) also participated. See photo on the left. The university boys have been so helpful, too, and are getting experience at Ahadi in their field of Social Work that several of them are studying. Of the 5 university boys staying at Ahadi now, three of them have been studying social work! It is encouraging to see that they like to help others in the ways that they, too, have benefitted. The

university boys really struggled to finish the term "virtually" at Ahadi since the wifi, power-outages, and worn-out laptops challenged them all along the way.



The primary and high-school Ahadi boys held their annual elections to choose officers to represent them, and they also requested improvements at Ahadi, e.g., a volleyball court; sausage for breakfast now and then; outings once per year; replacing worn out mattresses; and uniforms for their dance team;

which the Manager will address as funds allow. We like the idea that the boys have representatives and that they feel free to tell us these things.



One project that the boys assisted with while at home was the cleaning out of our water tanks. There is no running water from the town in spite of community efforts to get it over the years, so we thank God and are grateful for a neighbor who donates water from her well, which we then store in various tanks underground

and above ground around our compound. They need to be cleaned out now and then, and the boys did a good job, even climbing inside them to do so! (See photos and notice the boy who decided to climb inside the black tank.)

We are thankful for the good response to our annual fund-raiser. **We have almost \$13,000 so far out of our goal of \$20,000!** That is incredibly good progress, considering the needs that many of our donors are facing now. Many who donated last year have not yet given, so I hope when the economy picks up, we will reach our goal. We are 2/3 there! (Last month, it was 1/3.) I know there are many other worthy organizations also looking for funds now. It is hard to decide who to give to when you have limited resources. **If you believe God would have you help us reach our goal Follow this link to see how you can contribute:** <https://ahadifamilykenya.org/donate>. There are several options for your giving: online, debit card, mailing a check or using mpesa in Kenya. If you didn't get a chance to watch our video last month, check out this link: <https://youtu.be/VWcfDxntmRo>.

The Department of Children's Services has been considering a new Children's Bill which may affect all children's homes. **Please join us in praying for wisdom of those making these decisions, that first and foremost The Best Interests of the Child will be their major concern!**

God bless you and thank you for your prayers and concerns for the boys and staff of Ahadi. I thank God for the good health He has given me, and I pray that each of you will experience the same as we do our part to contain the virus as much as possible. *Phyllis Masso*