



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

<https://ahadifamilykenya.org>

## AHADI FAMILY UPDATE JUNE 2020

Greetings from the boys and staff at Ahadi Family Kenya. The manager is full of good news and sent lots of nice photos to choose from for this update. I get teary-eyed (while also smiling broadly) as I see these guys growing up and looking so healthy due to their wholesome environment. **I remember so well seeing where they came from, and the contrast is amazing.**



**The governor's wife of our county of Machakos surprised us once again with a donation of food staples** (110 lb. rice, 200 lb. beans, 100 lbs. of maize flour, 5 gal. cooking oil, 110 lb. sugar and a carton of soap) which will cut down on our grocery bill in the coming months. On top of that, we harvested 88 lbs. of yellow (dried) beans from our garden (see photo of boys drying the picked beans in the sun), and we are soon to harvest fresh maize for githeri (maize and beans) and later dried maize to mill into flour for ugali (like stiff grits, kinda). **THANK GOD!** These amounts seem huge until you divide by over 30 people being fed 3 meals per day. Still **we are grateful, and it helps compensate for the fact that our neighbor is no longer able to supply us with free water. (Town water is not available). She supplied us with free water for many months, and that was such a boost since we use about \$100 + worth each month.**

**We have reached \$18,000 of our goal of \$20,000** (2 million Kenyan shillings) for our **2020 Annual Boston Marathon Fundraiser** (which got canceled because of COVID-19 restrictions). **This is 90% of our goal showing that your heart is with Ahadi Family, not just the Boston Marathon. I expect a few donations may yet come in.** It is personally so encouraging to me when I learn of each of your donations, because I know the good being done, because of you, for these vulnerable boys who have been rescued from pretty hopeless conditions. Special thanks goes to members of the 2 Christian Reformed Churches in my

“hometown” of Whitinsville, whose members chipped in so heartily. **(There’s still time to donate.)** See <https://ahadifamilykenya.org/donate> . If you didn’t get a chance to watch our video in the previous months, check out this link: <https://youtu.be/VWcfDxntmRo>



The boys who were newly elected “Representatives” of Ahadi Family are showing good leadership ability and helped organize another Fun Day (which they now have decided to do monthly) including a volleyball

tournament between Ahadi teams using our new net and balls (requested at their meeting last month), as well as a Debate tournament which showcased their ability in public expression and speech. One of the house parents served as Speaker, and 3 of the university boys were Judges. (See photo.) There was also a talent show, and the boys in the photo really enjoyed one of the jokes being told.



**A special guest, Vincent Ouma, one of our Ahadi Trustees who works with several governors of Kenya in water and sanitation projects sponsored by Sweden, came to explain to the Ahadi boys and staff, the details of the COVID-19 virus, using various charts and Power Point illustrations. Since Vincent was one of the original Ahadi boys from 20 years ago, he serves as a wonderful role model for the younger Ahadi boys and college students.** Due to

his possession of a special pass given to him because of the nature of his employment, he was able to get past the road blocks set up to keep people from entering and exiting the city of Nairobi, because of the virus restrictions in this densely populated hotspot. The virus testing has increased in Kenya, so the total reported cases is now reaching 5,000. The demographic of African countries has a much higher percentage of youth than the Western world, so they are typically not hit as hard by COVID-19 which is especially critical to the elderly population. **We still haven’t heard the decision about when schools will open. We are happy that none of our boys are affected except that they aren’t allowed to travel to visit their relatives.**

One of our boys, named Jannes, would like to continue on to university for a Bachelor’s Degree, now that he has finished the Diploma level in Public Relations and completed his attachment at World Vision. **Please contact me ([phyllismasso@gmail.com](mailto:phyllismasso@gmail.com)) if you can sponsor (or co-sponsor) this worthy young man’s university education at approximately \$6,000 (600,000 Kes.) per year including all fees.** *Phyllis Masso.*