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A Christian Charitable Children's Home in Kenya for School-aged Boys at Risk

HISTORY AND MISSION

This Christian children's home in Kenya (East Africa) for school-aged boys who are at risk, began informally in 1999 in Nairobi, in the home of missionaries from the USA, Jon and Phyllis Masso. By December 2000, they relocated to a rental home of their own in the capital city of Nairobi and were known as SCREAM--Kenya. In December 2006, it was officially registered, with a name change and a new board, as Ahadi Family Kenya.

All these boys are vulnerable and in need of care and protection due to many factors such as parental death, neglect, abuse, abandonment, mental illness, incarceration, etc. Most of the boys are orphans who currently have no relatives able to care for them, and some were street children.

"Ahadi" (pronounced A-ha'-dee) is the Swahili word for "Promise." We believe these boys have promise, that is potential, and we promise to do our best to help them recognize and develop that potential, and to care for them and protect them. The boys also promise to be obedient and responsible. In November 2012, God blessed us with a permanent home in a rural area on the Kapiti Plains, about 30 miles East of Nairobi, where zebras, giraffe, gazelles, ostrich, impala, wildebeest live nearby. In

2017, thanks to generous donors, we were able to build a second house for staff and for high school boys during school breaks.

LEGAL REGISTRATION: Ahadi Family Kenya is a Children's Charitable Institution (CCI), registered with the Department of Children's Services in Athi River Sub-county, Machakos County. Certificate number 000054. After the Sub-county Children's Officer and our Social Worker have verified their need to be cared for outside their own home, the boys are legally committed to our care through the Mavoko law courts.

CORE VALUES

CARE AND PROTECTION: At Ahadi Family Kenya, boys receive not only basic physical needs such as food, clothing, shelter, and medical care, but are also given Christian nurture; educational opportunities; social guidance and correction; love; and stability. They are cared for and protected by Christian, qualified staff who agree to the tenets of the Children's Act which are incorporated into our Child Protection Policy. If more than one child in a family needs care and protection, we take in the boy siblings, and at times assist in finding appropriate care for the girls in the family.



It takes a village to raise a child, and so we make sure the boys interact with the community. In this way, they are not fearful when moving around outside the compound, and learn how to relate to the "outside world."

FAMILY STYLE ATMOSPHERE: The boys make life-long, deep friendships in the family-style environment that is provided for them, where we attempt to make them not to feel institutionalized. At any given time, we have 20 to 30 boys in our

care and assist with educational needs of others in the community who live with a relative who can't afford their schooling.

The boys in grades Pre-school to 5 go to a nearby public school, and middle and high schoolers go to inexpensive boarding schools, as is the custom in Kenya; they attend church in the community; play with neighbour children; go to a dentist's office, clinic, barbershop, etc. At Ahadi, they sleep in a bedroom, not a dormitory; eat in the sitting room or dining area; and play games outdoors in a spacious play area. Soccer is their favorite game.

Our social worker, in conjunction with the Sub-county Children's Officer and local chief, also monitors their extended families of origin and makes every effort to reunite them with relatives when possible. During school breaks, three times per year, they usually go visit relatives so they don't lose touch with their family of origin. Once per year, they attend a Christian camp.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: We educate our boys through college level, if they qualify. Some of our boys are head-boys in their schools, are scouts, play on the school sports teams, are active in drama, singing, etc. **Ten of our "alumni" are currently in several different universities and colleges in Kenya**, and 35+ have already graduated—several with Master's Degrees, and one PhD. They study a variety of majors, including engineering, medicine, food and beverage preparation, communication, management information systems, community development, business management, economics, finance, social work, psychology, public health, logistics, computer science, international relations, etc.

Some of our older alumni have married and started their families after completing their formal education and have responsible jobs in business, environmental health, banking, IT, engineering, video production, accounting, etc. (Others, are still searching, in a nation with 50% unemployment.)

SPIRITUAL NURTURE: The staff, who are all believers in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, nurture the Ahadi boys on a day-

to-day basis in a Christian setting. We acknowledge Jesus Christ by the way we live, as summed up by Him in loving God with all our hearts, souls and minds, and loving our neighbours as ourselves. We also acknowledge Him by giving thanks; making our needs (and others) known to Him in prayer; singing praises; by informal worship; special devotions on Saturday evening, and on Sunday with fellow believers in the community at a local Christian church.

GOVERNANCE AND STAFFING

An Executive Board comprised of Kenyans, an Ahadi alumnus, neighbors, and a Kenyan Executive Director, makes major decisions in consultation with the Social Worker/Manager. Property is owned by Ahadi Family Kenya Trust which was registered in 2017 and is comprised of Kenyans and the Founder.

House-parents, a social worker/manager, and cook are the major staff, assisted by a junior staff who is an alumnus of Ahadi Family (finished high school) and who helps with care-taking of the house. A night watchman is also employed to provide security, and a grounds-keeper to maintain the 2-acre compound including a vegetable garden and greenhouse.

FUNDING

God uses well-wishers as channels of His blessing, to make this Christian ministry possible. Most of our supporters live in the US, but have visited Ahadi Family Kenya, and are impressed with what they see, or are friends of the founders. They spread the word to their friends. Some of them have become sponsors of the boys who qualify for college or university and assist with building projects. To join these well-wishers:

**In the US, make checks payable to SCREAM USA and send to:
31 Benson Rd., Northbridge, MA 01534 USA**

OR

<https://ahadifamilykenya.org/donate> to give directly to our Unibank account.

All donations are 501(c) (3) tax-exempt and will be receipted at end of the year.

In Kenya, use the mpesa account for Humphrey Chegome, manager. 0706-344024 or deposit in the Ahadi Family Kenya account at NCBA bank.

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