



MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to empower some of the poorest and most disadvantaged children in Kenya, primarily through education, to become contributing members of society and leaders of the next generation.



Red Rhino

OUTREACH PROJECT

2020 NEWSLETTER

All smiles made possible by your support.
You make a difference!



WHERE WE WERE WHERE WE ARE WHERE WE ARE HEADING

This year we all celebrate 10 years after having opened our doors and hearts to the children at the Red Rhino Children's Center when they first arrived on the property in July of 2010. A decade of direct care of these young fellow humans was made possible only because of your amazing, unwavering, and sustaining support.



Where We Were

In the years leading up to the opening of Red Rhino it was deep trench work, quite literally. It was a gritty beginning but one that expedited the necessary critical learning curve. In the US we formed our RROP non-profit, told the story, and received your steadfast support which has been the bedrock of the effort to allow everything else to happen.



Where We Are Now: The 4 Areas of Red Rhino

Red Rhino Kids: As you are reading these words, over half of the Red Rhino kids who were adopted to us so many years ago are sleeping at Red Rhino. They have been quarantined on the Red Rhino property since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. They continue with their studies daily, have their daily chores, and as they are all teenagers now, drive the housemothers a bit crazy as teenagers do. The rest

of the children have been placed with living family members – or friends of family members – found through our backbreaking Reunification efforts. Your help over these years has allowed for this to happen which is truly a miracle for these children.

Community Schools Project: Over 60 children are now involved in our outreach program which provides school fees, uniforms, meals for the entire school (around 140,000 meals in a year) supplementary food for local village children previously unable to afford to attend school. The local community is very important to us and we have grown together over the years. We try to remain behind the scenes and help those who fall within the scope of our mission. Several of our employees are from the community and we remain dedicated to helping the poorest of the poor in the area.

Prison Ministry Program: Sister Agatha has been a longtime friend of Red Rhino and Sister's incredible work continues inside the prisons in Mombasa. As you will read on page 6, Sister continues despite the pandemic to serve the needs of the children, who are required to live with their incarcerated mothers inside the prisons, caring for, teaching, and supplying them with essentials to have a semblance of the dignity they so deserve.



Kibera Slums: We are lending help to a desperately underfunded orphanage deep within the slums of Kibera, the largest slum in Africa and the second largest in the world. We have started by outfitting and repairing the Day Care Center (plumbing, electrical, roof repair and furnishings) which has now been completed, transforming a space with no running water nor electricity and a leaking roof into a nice usable space. Please see the White Paper by David Saunders on page 9 to learn more.



Where We Are Heading

Our commitment to our kids has always been to see them through until they are self-sufficient and contributing members of Kenyan society whether that is through university or a trade school skill based program. We envision that our Outreach Programs will continue to grow as we use our experience, relationships, and base of operation to help in other areas such as helping orphans and other extremely poor children in the slums of Kibera.

The past has been rich with love, life, and possibility. The present remains vibrant. The future remains unknown but it is certain we will continue to walk in the direction of living our mission which has been a guiding light on this journey we have all been on together: to empower some of the poorest and most disadvantaged children in Kenya, primarily through education, to become contributing members of society and leaders of the next generation.

Thank you for your support over these years as we journey onward into the great unknown.

Greg & Susan Traverso, Founders, RROP

ANNOUNCEMENT

FROM ~~ORPHANAGE~~ TO OUTREACH

As discussed in other newsletters, the board has been considering changing the name of the project to the public from the **Red Rhino Orphanage Project** to the **Red Rhino Outreach Project**. Well, we have done it! The reasons include:

- It is against the Kenyan government's national policy to use the word 'orphanage' for a home for kids (that is why in Kenya the facility is called the Red Rhino Children's Home as the name of our NGO there).
- The word orphanage has certain connotations especially in Africa and we feel it is best for the kids to not have the stigma.
- While we are completely committed to our Red Rhino children for the long haul, we have phased out taking new kids for a number of years. We have instead focused our resources on helping more kids through our Outreach Program and this will be the area of our growth.
- Outreach represents the long range vision of Red Rhino more distinctly.
- Please Note: Legally our 501(c)(3) name will remain Red Rhino Orphanage Project (at least for some time to come) and you will continue to see it on our materials and online while we make the transition.
- Outreach conveniently fits the "O" slot in RROP!

THE SCHOOL'S DINING AREA & KITCHEN PROJECT



The School's Dining Area & Kitchen Projects was made possible by Gautam Doshi of Kennedy Wilson, Mark Northey, and an anonymous donor. The funding they provided went towards the construction of a dining/studying area in our neighborhood school, where over 60 of our Outreach children attend. The overhang allows the children to have a place out from under the sun and to be sheltered from the rains to eat and to study. In addition, the kitchen will serve the 300+ children at the school with two meals per day. A huge thank you to Joy Fahy for the backbreaking effort to organize and massage the effort to make it happen. Thank you Gautam, Mark and Joy!



LIFE IN QUARANTINE

When the children who have been in quarantine at home since the pandemic began are not attending to their studies, doing their chores, or gardening they are busy driving the housemothers crazy! "Being locked up with teenagers for 7 months has been a barrel of fun," says Fiona, the childrens' Matron.

We are keeping safe by washing regularly our hands and maintaining high standards of hygiene. We are also trying to prevent it by using the local prevention by boiling some lemon, ginger and garlic.

Since the covid-19 hit our country, we have been keeping safe at home. All the learning process are going on through the media. For example, some of us have lessons on the radio. To keep ourselves busy when we're not studying, we have started a farm project that people grow little garden all over the compound. I have grown, beans, potatoes, onions, pepper and coriander.



We are reading at home so that we cannot forget what we were taught at school. To make ourselves busy we are farming here at home. We have farmed: coriander, kales, pumpkins, calabash and many others.



This pathetic covid 19 pandemic ruined my plans of even participating in school sports which is what I love most. The exciting thing about this year is that I was chosen as the school sports captain.

The kids are keeping busy at home, social distancing outside when friends come to play and learning how to wash hands properly.

On sunday we attend online mass on the television. We pray the Holy rosary and before going to bed we pray for you and sometimes we mention each and every sponsors' names. You are always in my prayer. I am very glad to write this letter to you. In the meantime, know that I am thinking of you.



The corona virus in kenya is raising rapidly because people are refusing to adhere to the rules set by the government. So the government has place curfew hours from 7:00pm if not followed the law breakers are placed in quarantine. Besides the corona virus there have been many cases of heavy rainfall that is causing landslides, flooding and misplacement of people.



Here at home I slash the grass and some of the times I usually pump the water.

When I am free I play basketball with my brothers and sisters.



SISTER AGATHA

The Covid Pandemic has not deterred Sister Agatha's work as she continues to care and minister to women and their children in three different prisons. The children are forced to grow up in the prisons alongside their mothers who are doing their jail terms. Now more than ever, personal hygiene is a major concern as is continuing to receive adequate nutrition for the children. Sister Agatha's work is vital and Red Rhino provides her main support.

Convicted mothers must keep their young children with them in prison until the age of 4. After that, the children must leave and stay with a relative or well-wisher if there is one to be found,

until the mother is released from prison. The burden on these families and/or well-wishers, if they can be found, is enormous.

Through the monthly support from Red Rhino, Sister has been able to continue to provide such essentials as eggs, milk, fresh fruit, to supplement their daily diet of corn and beans. Sanitary towels, diapers and toilet paper are also provided.

When the mothers are released from prison, Sister Agatha follows up as much as possible to ensure the mothers are reunited with their children - many of whom we have been sponsoring in foster homes. Sister also works with the women to help them create businesses or find work so that they do not fall back on old ways and end up back in prison.

A RECENT UPDATE ON SISTER AGATHA'S WORK DURING THE PANDEMIC:

- She has been continuing with the visits to the three prisons that she has been working with.
- The government has been working on an alternative ways to deal with offenders other than imprison them to try and contain the spread of covid within prisons, as a result no more women or children were added into the program (she has worked with the 40 that have been in the prison since the beginning of the pandemic).
- Visits have also been restricted during the Covid pandemic so there were times she was not allowed in, like in September when one of the prison wardens was reported as having contracted the virus and as a result no visits were permitted.
- During such instances she made arrangements with one of the other wardens to deliver supplies to the women and children in her program even though she could not meet them in person.
- During the pandemic prison visits were restricted hence the women could not be visited by any of their relations, which meant that no one brought them any supplies anymore, therefore the rations/supplies sent in by Sister Agatha went a long way to sustain them.
- Her visits are now restricted to Wednesdays and Sundays (days designated for church fellowship and service) and she gets in on those days to do both a church service with the women and give them supplies.
- On her visits she is expected to provide the women who participate in her program with masks and also carries a bottle of sanitizer with her as the prison does not cater for or provide these necessities.

DEAR RED RHINO FAMILY,



Two years ago I began my continued journey in medicine and my childhood dream of becoming an orthopedic surgeon. Covid has indeed had a huge impact as far as continuation of my studies is concerned although I was allowed to take my second term exams and finish my second year in May. But now

there has been a delay since that time. With the closure of borders and restriction of inter country movements I have not been able to visit my family. I will be starting my Third year whenever school resumes officially.

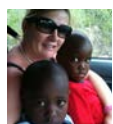
Of note and more importantly I want to take this time to thank all of you for your continued support and prayers and especially thanks to Daniel & Renaye and John & Lynette for making this dream of becoming a first rate orthopedic surgeon a reality. May God continue to bless them, their loved ones, as well as the entire Red Rhino Family. I can not thank you enough for your prayers and for what you do to support Red Rhino. —Wilson

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to La Madre de los Pobres for their grant for our Community Outreach Program's feeding program and Sister Agatha's work in the prisons in Mombasa. *The San Francisco based non-profit charity was established in 1982 by the late Franciscan Father Alfred Boeddeker, founder of the famed St. Anthony's Dining Room. His dream was "feed the poor of all faiths worldwide, their bodies and their souls." La Madre raises funds and sends the money directly to Missionaries and Volunteers who will see that every penny is used to feed and care for the poor in impoverished countries of the world.*

- **Special Thanks to Shamrock Charities** out of Seattle who funded the home for our Matron and have been in partnership with us for over a decade.

- **Special Thanks to Carol Bielejeski** who has funded a scholarship program enabling Red Rhino to send our Community kids on to secondary education.



- **Joy Fahy** has volunteered on site in Kenya for a decade coming to Kenya from Dublin, Ireland where she's from. Joy has been a vital part of our success over these many years.



- **Sheryl Beverett** joined the Red Rhino Team in 2014 as our Administrative Assistant. She continues to be a great asset to the Project, and we are so fortunate and happy to have her on board.



- **Annie Hunt** has designed the RROP newsletter for a decade. Thanks for your hard work on behalf of the kids!

RIP SOBOBO

There is an edginess to life in Kenya and for obvious reasons I stand out a bit.

I felt the need for some protection when driving around during the construction phase and on my trips to and from and around gritty Nairobi. As was and is the case with so many aspects of the project, it was our connections back to Stockton that provided the solution to my desire to have more protection. That answer ended up being Sobobo – my trusted friend, confidant, and fiercely loyal and protective canine. Through our connections back home I learned of a man named Jeff near Naivasha who was a friend of one of our supporters. Jeff had a security company and trained Dutch Shepherds. The fully-trained dogs cost around \$10,000, which we could obviously not afford. So I wrote a letter to Jeff jokingly saying that if he had a dog with three legs and was going to get rid of him, I'd take him. As luck would have it, Sobobo was that dog. He had four legs but one of his testicles didn't drop, so Jeff couldn't keep him and gave him to me on the condition that I would do one week's worth of paramilitary dog training onsite. There were simulated car-jackings, training with other Dutch Shepherds where they had to lay on top of each other and not move, and intense regimens that we followed while we bonded.

Dutch Shepherds are sought around the world for military and police use, as well as personal-protection dogs. They are loyal, highly intelligent, and can sense trouble intuitively. They are also very good with kids.

I custom fitted a portal for Sobobo to go back and forth from the enclosed bed of the truck to the front seat. On more occasions than I can count, some guys next to me stuck in traffic would be looking at me, but when Sobobo jumped in the front seat they'd disappear as quickly as they could. When I came to a police checkpoint Sobobo would jump into the front seat and I'd be waived through.

Sobobo also helped protect the property at night. For years, Sobobo would walk the property with Sam, one of our night watchmen. Sobobo lived in the back of the property in a dog house Gilbert built for him during his semi-retirement years – sleeping most of the day, but continuing to guard the property and keeping our kids and housemothers safe. Sobobo was laid to rest on the Red Rhino Children's property in March 2020.

RIP, Sobobo. I miss you, my loyal friend. —David Saunders



2019 Walk-a-thon



Annual Walk-a-Thon Canceled

Our 3rd Annual Walk-a-thon "Walk in Africa" was cancelled due to the pandemic. The Red Rhino Walk-a-thon has been a long standing tradition and important source of the donations we rely on. The first Walk-a-thon was held in 2007 in Stockton, California but moved to Africa in 2018! Please keep posted for news as to the next walk-a-thon on our Events Page of our website: rrop.org/whats-happening



One Under the Stars

Due to COVID, we were not able

to hold our annual One Under the Stars Gala Fundraiser in person this year and had to cancel our scheduled September 12 event. We sent letters to past event attendees and sponsors and we were able to raise enough to reach and exceed what we budgeted for. Thank you to everyone who participated!

If you did not receive an invite, but would like to be on the list to receive one for our 2021 One Under the Stars Gala Event and/or volunteer for it, please email us with your name and address to Sheryl Beverett at sheryl@rrop.org

A Special Thank You to Our Sponsors:

GOLD

Michael & Lisa Crete
Ed Malloy
Patrick & Alicia Shepherd
Zeiter Eye Medical Group;
Zeiter Family Foundation

BRONZE

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Dean & Kathleen Janssen
Sherry & David Leonard
Victor & Patricia Macko
Robert & Rosemary Melrose
Richard & Louise Northcutt
Robert & Patricia Raspo
Philip & Marjo Ruhl



OUTREACH PROGRAM NEWS

Life has been very hard on our surrounding

community. We have been working behind the scenes to quietly help families as the needs present themselves to us. Many of the children in our program have left with their families for up country to live with family members. When school resumes we will be back to feeding the children of the community to the tune of around 140,000 meals per year and educating over 60 children who would otherwise not be attending school at all. Our program will continue to grow as time progresses.



I was accepted to University!

Abigail was recently accepted to university and is the first of our Red Rhino kids to do so. She will be attending Moi University as soon as school resumes. Congratulations Abigail! We are very proud of you!



White Paper on **KIBERA PRIDE** as presented to the RROP Board of Directors by David Saunders

I came upon Kibera Pride Orphanage by accident, if such a thing exists. But it didn't start by accident. It was the result of the vision of a very young woman who, by God's grace, brought it into being. As the name indicates, it is located in Kibera, one of, if not the biggest, slums in sub-Saharan Africa. In any case it is plenty big. And plenty awful.

Some of my first experiences with the crushing hardness of life in Kenya came early on, in the days that I walked into Kibera, into the belly of the beast, in the company of a couple of dedicated, fearless, Kenyan women from the Nyumbani Project.

Without overstating, it is a place that you can't readily conjure imagine. It's beyond the limits of our experience and for the most part, our imagination. But it is also a place where hundreds of thousands, or more, people live and carry on the business of daily life. Many are born, live, and die there. It's their neighborhood.

The women that I met at Kibera Pride Orphanage, Irene, and a longtime volunteer, Malaika, are no-nonsense people. Dedicated and unsentimental about the work. They remind me of medics in battle. Single-minded and focused while the world around them is on tilt. I sat with Irene in her office at our first meeting and asked her a lot of questions, more than was polite. But I was digging, looking for a

telltale sign, a peek behind the curtain, the exposed flaw that would let me go on my way. I came up blank.

I am far more hard-hearted now than when I first came to Kenya, and my bullshit sensors are finely tuned. But when I got home and hugged Ronah in our living room, I burst into tears. At the thought of what our kids, Red Rhino and others, had dodged, and what the kids I had just been with hadn't. And how the women there without a shred of self-pity, carried on with almost nothing. With so few resources.

It is what we envisioned in the green leaf, when lack of knowledge and experience were our greatest assets. When we didn't know any better: Just to put our backs to it and help the poorest of the poor. I see this as another chance to do just that, now with all that we have learned over the years at our disposal.

What would it look like for us to help here? I would envision a series of very specific improvement projects. The first being funding the necessary changes in the big room to make it a functioning daycare for the local children of single mothers. It will produce income for KP and help the women in the neighborhood.

After that, there are a host of specific things that need real help. Plumbing, electrical work, a covering between the two buildings to provide shade and weather protection so that the kids can

utilize the space outside in most kinds of weather. Plus mattresses, bunk beds, furniture, and more.

My idea is to be in control of the work ourselves—bringing our electrician, George, and our plumber, Julius, telling them what we need done so they can price out the and complete the work. By using our own tradesmen, control remains with us.

I also discussed with Malaika a jewelry making/selling project. She is extremely talented and experienced with art, fashion, merchandising etc., in the Nairobi scene. The jewelry project, in which the kids would participate in making the jewelry for sale would take \$400 to fund.

Fiona would be hands on with everything we do there. I think with a budget of \$5,000 for 2020, we could do a great deal. This year we would be feeling our way a bit and determining the scope of our involvement without committing too much, too soon. We would be able to prioritize with Irene and Malaika and budget each project in advance, with us always at the wheel.

There is plenty to do, and just like with our neighborhood outreach and with Sister Agatha, a little money goes a long way. It feels like this: let's do the good we can do, what God has set before us and led us toward with full hearts and sharp minds. Like the medics, let's keep our heads clear and stop some bleeding.

Leave a Meaningful Legacy Today!

We are eternally grateful to those who wish to include RROP in their financial and philanthropic plans. You will help open doors and change lives forever when you leave a legacy gift to Red Rhino.

Whether are a long-time friend and supporter or a philanthropist in our community or beyond, we appreciate your commitment to our mission:

To empower some of the poorest and most disadvantaged children in Kenya, primarily through education, to become contributing members of society and leaders of the next generation.

There are many ways you can support the children now and for generations to come. One of the most powerful ways is by remembering RROP in your estate plan. Gifts include, but are not limited to, bequests, charitable remainder trusts, charitable gift annuities, life insurance policies and retirement plan assets.

IT'S A WIN WIN!!

You can avoid paying taxes if you are 70½ or older with an IRA Charitable Distribution and help RROP at the same time!

Money from your individual retirement account can be donated to charity to help reduce your tax burden. If you are 70½ or older, you need to take required minimum distributions from your traditional IRAs, and you can avoid paying taxes on them by donating that money to charity. You can make tax free transfers of IRA distributions up to \$100,000. For a downloadable IRA CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION FORM and more information: RROP.ORG/PlannedGiving

Legacy gifting—which can cost you nothing during your life—allows you to leave a legacy behind to ensure that children's lives will be transformed by your generosity of spirit.

Planned giving allows you to donate at a time that is best for you and provide tax benefits for you.

Please contact us to discuss these and other giving options that will allow you to leave a legacy for generations to come.

Visit: RROP.ORG/PlannedGiving

Email RROP President, Greg Traverso:
gregtraverso@rrop.org

“BUILD-A-BRICK” PROGRAM

With your tax-deductible donation of \$1,000 or more, a brick will go up with the name you choose on the wall in the main dining area of the Red Rhino Children's Center. An engraved brick is a perfect way to commemorate a special person, occasion, a school or club, a specific graduating class, your family, or business, or anyone else to honor or memorialize.

**If you would like a brick put up at RRCC, please let us know when you send in your donation. Donations can be made online: rrop.org*

***Please note: If you have already given \$1,000 or more in the past and would like us to put a brick up at RRCC please let us know.*



CHOOSE RED RHINO ON AMAZON!

When doing your online shopping at Amazon, please consider using Amazon Smile and choose Red Rhino as your organization of choice to receive donations. It won't cost you anything extra and the The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to RROP*! On your browser, you may also want to add a bookmark to **smile.amazon.com**.

**please note as a 501(c)(3) we are still legally the Red Rhino Orphanage Project so please search for us under that name.*

RED RHINO ORPHANAGE PROJECT

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