

Supporting orphans and vulnerable children

Dear Friends,

The year of 2019 brought many challenges and much joy to all of us at Bakhita Charities. This biannual newsletter will update you on our continued mission of caring for many orphaned and vulnerable girls by:

- Supporting primary-school girls through the Bakhita Outreach Program
- Providing full scholarships for secondary-school girls at St. Brendan's Catholic Boarding School
- Assisting with living expenses for girls at universities or vocational schools

But, first of all, we thank all our supporters. Your generosity is a reflection of your compassionate hearts to help these children who have so little. You give them hope.

In January, we'll make our annual visit to Africa where we'll work for six weeks reconnecting with all the children who are being supported by Bakhita Charities. During our stay, we'll write a blog post every couple of days to provide updates on the good that you're helping to accomplish. Check out our updated website to follow along and to learn more about these precious children.

And a big thank you for reading this newsletter!

Maggie & John Williams

One Child — One Reason

We first met Irene Letswalo when she came to Bakhita Village in 2014 at six years old. Her single mother was suffering with AIDS and was incapable of caring for Irene and her siblings.

In 2017, her mother, having been on anti-retroviral medications for a year, began to get better and felt that she could take care of Irene and that Irene could help care for other children. So, this sweet little girl went back to her home village.



We went to visit her shortly after going home and she was not doing well. They have only limited access to fresh water and little food or ability to cook. Her mother, who has good days and bad days, is not able to fully care for Irene. But she is her mother and, of course, wants her child with her.

It's the goal of the Bakhita Outreach Team to visit Irene and her mother regularly and make sure that they have food, water and medicine. The Team has visited her school and assisted her with school needs. At some point in the future, Irene's mother may not be able to care for her children again and may ultimately die from her illness. We want to make sure that there is a safety net for the children when that occurs.

Irene is one of the many children that we have encountered since we first came to Africa nineteen years ago – and she is one of the many reasons that we continue to return. And she is one of the reasons that we ask for your support.



Congratulations, Paulinah

Paulinah Shabangu, our only High School Senior this year, will graduate in December. She and a younger sister entered Bakhita Village as young children when their mother died. Another sister, only a few years older, tried to care for several siblings, but could not manage.



During Paulinah's years at St. Brendan's High School, she was a wonderful student with a positive and upbeat attitude. She is always willing to assist her younger Bakhita sisters who may be facing difficult situations



Paulinah once wrote us a letter stating that when her mom died, she believed her life also was over. She was in awe that people would provide safe shelter, food, clothing, education and love to a little heartbroken girl whom they did not know. She is extremely grateful for the opportunities that have been given to her by people like you.

Congratulations Paulinah – we are so proud of you!

A Blessed Day

October 27 was a solemn and beautiful day of celebration for three of our Bakhita girls. Malebo, Shanty and Rosina grew up living in the Bakhita Village Home for orphaned and vulnerable children.

They are now attending St. Brendan's school and all had a strong desire to be baptized in the Catholic faith. After a year of classes, discernment and loving guidance from the OLSH sisters, they were baptized and received first communion in a ceremony officiated by Bishop Joao of Tzaneen.

It was a day that they have been looking forward to and a blessed day it was.



Thanks for Your Donations

Our work in Africa is made possible by the kind donations of our family and friends. We personally pay all expenses so 100% of your donations go directly to the children.

Bakhita Charities is a 501c3 organization and all donations are fully tax-deductible. You can donate by check, credit card, or PayPal through the mail or the website.

Check us out on smile.amazon.com.



Bakhita Charities for Southern Africa, Inc.

EIN: 26-3015676
248-693-1045

www.bakhitacharities.org
bakhitacharities@gmail.com

1480 Barrwood Trail
Oxford, MI 48371-6240