

# Bakhita Charities for Southern Africa

www.bakhitacharities.org

*Supporting orphans and vulnerable children*

November 2017



*Dear Friends,*

*Greetings from Bakhita Charities. We are sending this newsletter to thank our kind and generous donors and to raise awareness about the young African children who count on all of us to help them survive and thrive. The newsletter is also an opportunity for us to give you an update on our main projects: Bakhita Village for elementary school girls, St. Brendan's for high school girls and other initiatives.*

*Early next year we'll make our annual visit to Africa to reconnect with the children and their caregivers and to check on the situation there. We keep in contact with African friends and colleagues throughout the year, but we have learned that there is no substitute for a first-hand visit. We aim to ensure that your donations are used where the need is greatest, usually for orphaned and vulnerable children with a focus on education as a key to their future.*

*Thanks for all that you do. You're making a difference in many lives.*

*Maggie & John Williams*

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## Changes at Bakhita Village

In 2002 at the height of the AIDS pandemic, we helped open Bakhita Village, a home for orphaned girls in South Africa. Since then, more than 150 girls have called it home; receiving food, clothing, shelter, education and love when they needed it most. Bakhita Village has been run by an order of sisters, the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, who have ministered in Africa since 1925. But like many orders, their numbers are shrinking, and they are unable to staff all their projects.

We are deeply saddened to learn that the sisters have decided to close Bakhita Village at the end of the year for an indefinite period. It was a difficult and painful decision for the sisters, but they decided that there was no alternative. They will reevaluate the situation in about a year and are hopeful that they can reopen.

Each girl is going to live with a relative or guardian. We will visit the girls in January and make sure that they are enrolled in a local school and have all that is necessary for school start-up. They will go to their new places with a generous food parcel that we will restock when we visit.



When we took the first step to help open Bakhita Village many years ago, we could not foresee how it would unfold. We were unsure if it could possibly work but it did, and over the years many girls have received life-saving care. It began because we wanted to help the girls that God put in front of us. Today, the girls are not the same, but the needs remain, and we still care. So, a new phase of Bakhita Charities will begin by transitioning to an outreach program, so that the current Bakhita girls can be cared for in their new environment. With faith, determination and your support, we will continue to reach out to these girls and do the best we can to help them.

As in previous years, we'll take a gift bag to each girl; if you'd like to prepare one, please let us know.



## St. Brendan's Boarding School

Bakhita Charities funds the high school education at St. Brendan's Boarding School for all girls who have lived at Bakhita Village. The school provides a quality education giving these vulnerable girls the best possible chance for a bright future.

These girls at St. Brendan's receive a full scholarship, which provides all boarding fees, school fees, clothing and school supplies.

There are currently nine girls attending St. Brendan's. In 2018 Mapula will join them as she begins Grade 8.



## University

Bakhita Charities is providing assistance to two girls who were raised at Bakhita Village, attended and graduated from St. Brendan's, and are now students at South African universities. Both aspire to have careers in the caring professions.

## Nursery School

For young children living in crushing poverty in remote villages, a nursery school can provide much needed early education, food, social interaction and structure. Bakhita Charities is supporting the community-based preschool in the village of Ga Phasha where more than fifty children receive daily care in a loving atmosphere.

## Bakhita on Television

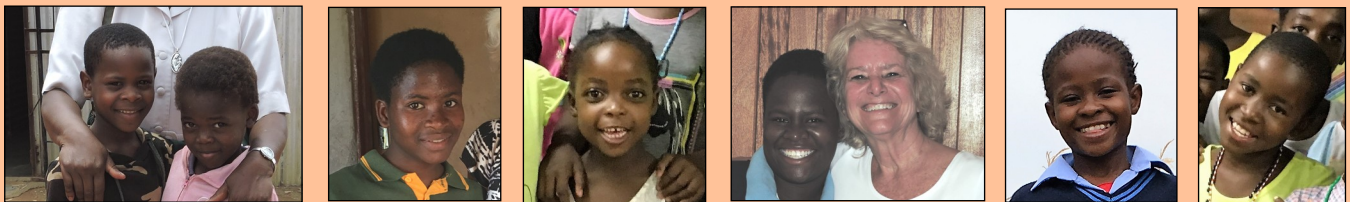
We were recently interviewed on Orion Neighbor Television and it was a great opportunity to raise awareness about Bakhita Charities. The interview is available on YouTube; search "Bakhita Charities" or use the link on our website.

## Thanks for Your Support

Bakhita Charities is the charitable organization that we initiated for supporters in the United States to make tax-deductible donations in US dollars. The work of Bakhita Charities exists thanks to the compassion and generosity of all of you. We pay all our own expenses and all administrative costs, so all your donations go directly to helping these children.

As you think about your year-end giving, please consider a donation to Bakhita Charities. Bakhita Charities is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and all donations are fully tax-deductible. You can donate by check, credit card, or PayPal — through the mail or the website.

We are grateful for each and every donation—from the few coins of a raided piggy bank to the \$2,500 that pays a full scholarship to St. Brendan's Boarding School. We are especially humbled by many who give on a regular monthly basis. We assure you that the need is great, the cause is worthwhile, and your donations are stretched as far as possible. It's guaranteed to bring some great smiles!



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