

Bakhita Charities for Southern Africa

www.bakhitacharities.org

Supporting orphans and vulnerable children

November 2018

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Bakhita Charities. We are sending our bi-annual 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. It is also an opportunity for us to give an update on the main initiatives of Bakhita Charities: Bakhita Village for elementary girls, St. Brendan's for high school girls and university for those who qualify.

Last year, with heavy hearts, we told you that the Sacred Heart sisters decided to close the Bakhita Village home due to their inability to staff all their projects. At that time, it was their hope that they could find a way to re-open. After lots of conversation between us and the sisters, they have agreed in principle to re-open the home. Many details remain to be worked out, but we believe that it will happen. We are grateful to all of you who prayed for this good news.

In January, we'll make our annual visit to South Africa to reconnect with the children and their caregivers. We'll see first-hand how the elementary girls have managed during their year away from their home at Bakhita Village and we'll help with work required to re-open the home. It is a task that we'll treasure.

Thanks to all of you for making a difference in the lives of these children who have so little.

Maggie & John Williams

Gift Bags

For many years, thanks to a wonderful cadre of generous people, we have been able to take a personalized gift bag to each girl supported by Bakhita Charities. If you would like to prepare a bag for our next visit to South Africa, please let us know.



Bakhita Outreach Team

At the closing of Bakhita Village last year, the elementary age girls were taken to live with guardians. During our visit to South Africa last winter, one of our main missions was to develop an Outreach Team to look after the well-being of those girls and provide whatever was most needed.

We are heartened by the hard work that the Bakhita Outreach Team is putting forth in attending to the girls. Sr. Amaka, a Sacred Heart sister, is a true delight. She works tirelessly with Dinah, a local woman and a former Bakhita Village staff member, to visit the girls, check on their well-being and do their best to help. Whether the need is food, beds, school supplies, assistance with school work or in a few cases a new place to live, the team manages to help. Most of all, they provide hope as they let the girls know that they are loved.



We stay in constant touch with the team and they report frequently on the status of the girls. It is our goal to bring the girls, who do not have adequate housing and care, back to their Bakhita Village home when it re-opens. In the meantime, the Outreach Team is doing all they can to look after the girls.

Congratulations, Makoma

Through the generosity of many people, Bakhita Charities was able to provide full St. Brendan's High School scholarships to nine girls who are now completing another year of school. The girls all formerly lived at Bakhita Village during their elementary school years and moved over to St. Brendan's Boarding School when they reached grade 8.

Makoma Mashao, our only Senior student this year, will graduate in December. She moved to Bakhita Village as a youngster when her mother died, and she's now managed to complete her high school education. Makoma is very talented in the IT field and has already begun the process to attend a nearby technical college. Bakhita Charities will continue to support her in the coming year. Congratulations Makoma – we are so proud of you!



University

Some girls raised at Bakhita Village have progressed through elementary school and high school and now, thanks to your kind donations, are attending university. One is Phillipine Matlou, whom we first met as a five-year-old girl at Bakhita Village standing in the back of a pickup truck.



Following are excerpts from a letter that she recently sent to us, stressing her gratitude for your kind support:

I sincerely appreciate the great work that you all are doing in my life . . . There was a time when I thought it was the end of everything, especially education, and you gave me purpose and hope . . . I am now studying law at the University of the Free State, doing my third year.

Thank you for making it possible for me to be where I am today . . . One day I will be an attorney and be able to help others as I was helped.

*God bless you all,
Phillipine*

St. Brendan's High School

The 2019 school year begins in January and seven Bakhita girls will enter grade 8 at St. Brendan's. They are all girls who were placed with guardians at the closing of Bakhita Village. For them, the past year has been very difficult with a couple of them having to be moved around to safer environments and others living in extreme poverty just getting by with help from the Bakhita Outreach Team. Even so, they persevered at local schools and will now be able to join their Bakhita sisters at St. Brendan's.

We will be so delighted to see these girls safely living in the boarding dormitory and attending classes at St. Brendan's. Thanks to all the donors who make it possible for these girls to gain the education that can help them to survive and thrive.



Thanks for Your Donations

Our work in Africa is made possible by generous donations from our family and friends. We are grateful for each donation. Every dollar helps. \$2,500 pays a full scholarship to St. Brendan's Boarding School. We personally pay all expenses so 100% of your donations go directly to the children.

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