

# Bakhita Charities for Southern Africa

www.bakhitacharities.org

*Supporting children orphaned by HIV/AIDS*

August 2015

## Greetings from Bakhita Charities

Dear Family and Friends,



Fifteen years ago, we began a seven year volunteer assignment working with impoverished people in several southern African countries. During that time, we taught at a poor high school out in the bush in South Africa and we also developed programs in Botswana and Lesotho to help people combat the AIDS pandemic that was sweeping across the region. During our time there, we were especially touched by the plight of children who were orphaned as their parents died from AIDS. We saw small children first caring for parents as they became more ill, then burying their parents when they died, and then trying to carry on their lives often with no help from anyone.

To help these most vulnerable children in a concrete way, we began working with the Sisters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart to found Bakhita Village, a home for the most vulnerable girls in the area. Since the founding in 2002, Bakhita Charities has helped to provide food, clothing, shelter, medical care and education for more than 100 girls.

We hope that this newsletter will raise awareness about the young girls at Bakhita Village. We know that we can't save the world but it is our goal to help the girls at Bakhita Village have an opportunity to make a life for themselves.

### Favorite Photos From Our 2015 Visit to Bakhita Village



*Maggie & John Williams*

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## Phillipine — A Bakhita Success Story

As a young and vulnerable child, Phillipine was brought to Bakhita Village in the hope that she could find the care, love and nurturing that she did not have living as an orphan in a poor village. The sisters and care-givers at Bakhita Village gave her a stable and secure environment filled with love and attention. Phillipine was able to attend grade school where she did well and then enter high school at St. Brendan's Catholic High School where she will be part of the graduating class at the end of this year. She has already been accepted at a university where she will continue her studies.



But there is more to Phillipine than just her educational success to date. She is also extremely kind, genuinely caring and always happy and joyful. We witnessed her helping her little Bakhita sisters with homework, housework and the type of learning that only an older sibling can give. Bakhita Village gave her the hope for a brighter future. Having walked in the shoes of hopelessness she can give back an invaluable gift to others who are in need. We are so very proud of Phillipine and the lovely young lady that she has become.



# Dilemma: Grade 7 Girls

Bakhita Village is a charity organization and with all charities there are always challenges often associated with funding. When we helped found Bakhita Village in 2002, it was set up for girls to live there through elementary school and when they reached grade 8 they would move next door to St. Brendan's High School, which is a boarding school. Unfortunately, the donor organization that always paid tuition and boarding fees for the Bakhita girls has withdrawn funding due to their own financial difficulties, leaving the girls with a very uncertain future.



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Charities committed to pay all costs associated with sending the girls to St. Brendan's from the time they reach grade 8 until they graduate. We have committed to this for the next 12 years. We are not sure where the money will come from but we are committed to educating these girls and giving them hope and opportunity to break out of the cycle of poverty, early pregnancy and disease. There are currently five girls in grade 7 who will need tuition next year to begin grade 8. The cost for each girl is \$2,500 per year. Each girl has a unique story and each girl deserves a chance to make a better life for herself and all the others they may help later. If you, or a group that you belong to, would like to sponsor one these girls, please let us know. It is a donation that would very directly change the life of a girl in a positive and perfect way.

## More Photos from Our 2015 Visit



## Thanks for All Your Support

In order to facilitate our ability to raise funds in the United States to support these most needy children, we initiated a 501(C)(3) charity named Bakhita Charities so that you are able to make a tax-exempt donation. You can donate by check, credit card, or PayPal through the mail or the website. It's also straightforward to set up a regular monthly donation. We pay all our own expenses and we pay all administrative costs so 100% of your donations go directly to helping these girls. We deeply appreciate the donations received from family, friends, churches and others. We assure you that the need is great, the cause is worthwhile, and your donations are stretched as far as possible.

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