

# Bakhita Charities for Southern Africa

www.bakhitacharities.org

*Supporting orphans and vulnerable children*

March 2019

*Dear Friends,*

*Greetings from Bakhita Charities. We are sending our bi-annual newsletter after just returning from our 18<sup>th</sup> trip to southern Africa. We continue our mission of caring for the many girls who have lived at Bakhita Village by supporting 14 primary-school girls through the Bakhita Outreach program, 14 secondary-school girls at St. Brendan's Boarding School and 10 girls seeking tertiary education at universities or vocational schools.*

*We know that every girl who is touched with the gifts of food, clothing, education, and love will be better off than she was before Bakhita Charities came into her life. We want to thank all our donors and supporters who enable all the miracles that we see each time we visit. You are saving lives.*

*Maggie & John Williams*



## You're Invited!

Our annual Bakhita Charities Appreciation and Awareness Gathering will be held at 7:00 pm on April 8, 2019 at:

Christ the Redeemer Church  
2700 Waldon Road  
Lake Orion

We'll share information on our recent visit to South Africa, show photos, tell stories and discuss your questions and comments.

Light snacks will be served.  
All are welcome.

## St. Brendan's

Bakhita Charities is paying full scholarships for 14 girls at St. Brendan's High School this year. The scholarships cover all school and boarding fees along with other school expenses. All of the girls lived at Bakhita Village in their younger years and moved on to St. Brendan's when they reached grade 8.

During our stay at St. Brendan's, we met with the girls several times and discussed the past school year and helped them plan for a successful 2019 school experience. They remain dedicated to achieving an education that will help them in the future. There is one senior this year and she is a good student and we're very proud of her.



A notable accomplishment of 2018 was the diligent completion of everything necessary for six of the girls being helped in their villages by the Outreach Team to enter St. Brendan's. Five of the girls are grade 8 students and one is in grade 10. In addition to the opportunity for a good education they have safe shelter, the comfort of other Bakhita sisters and three meals a day. It really is a miracle in their lives. They are grateful to all the people who support Bakhita Charities.

## Bakhita Outreach Team

Last year, we were hopeful that the Sacred Heart Sisters would be able to re-open the Bakhita Village home, but they have decided against it at this time. Although we are very disappointed, we will continue to care for the girls who were at the home when it closed through ongoing and expanded outreach efforts.

Throughout 2018, Bakhita Charities has supported the Bakhita Outreach Team, consisting of Sr. Amaka, Sr. Rotee, Dinah Chabalala and us when we are there. The team has been visiting the girls and supplying them with food, school supplies, medical help, cooking lessons – or whatever was needed, including an intervention to move them to a different home if necessary. We will support these efforts again in 2019.

During our recent visit, we were able to see all 14 girls in their home villages and deliver the normal food parcel but with the added attraction of the gift bags that we brought with us. Those gift bags, provided by wonderful and generous donors, travelled a long distance, leaving from Michigan and arriving in several remote African villages. The smiles on the girls' faces as they received their gifts were priceless.



The Outreach Team brought the girls together for a weekend last December and it was a very uplifting experience. They stayed together in their old Bakhita Village dorm room and thoroughly enjoyed spending time with each other and with Sr. Amaka and Dinah. They all cooked, played, sang, and prayed together and renewed the sisterhood that they loved. Another gathering is scheduled for June.

Before our departure, the team met with local social workers and made them aware of the difficulties that some of the girls are facing and they confirmed that they would also check up on them from time-to-time.

## Thanks for Your Donations



Our work in Africa is made possible by kind and generous donations from our family and friends. 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 on the website.

Check us out on [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).



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