



Supporting orphans and vulnerable children

Dear Friends,

As we prepare this update for all of you who support Bakhita Charities, we reflect on the months since we returned from our visit to South Africa just last March. My what changes and challenges these months have brought to everyone, most particularly the children assisted by Bakhita Charities.

Through text messages and email we've been able to work with our partners on the ground, the Sacred Heart Sisters, who have done an amazing job of continuing the mission of caring for vulnerable children.

Even as life changed for all of us in the United States, many services for our Bakhita girls had to be re-imagined and sometimes it seemed like an impossible hill to climb, but our team held together and cared for these children who need us now more than ever.

We're planning to make our 20th trip to South Africa in April 2021, providing there is a vaccine available. COVID-19 has changed many aspects of our lives, but it hasn't changed our commitment to these children. We are deeply grateful to all of you who have continued to support them. Your generosity is a reflection of your compassionate hearts. Thank you.

Maggie & John Williams

Congratulations, Malebo

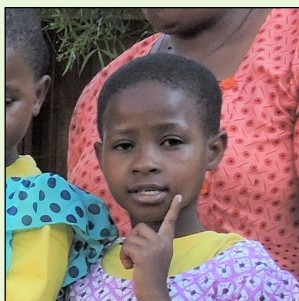
We are so proud of Malebo Modyela who will graduate, with high marks, from St. Brendan's Catholic High School in November of 2020. We met her many years ago when she first came to live at Bakhita Village. Her life has been full of serious challenges, but she has persevered through them all.



Malebo had no parents to care for her and she suffered with ill health when she first arrived at Bakhita Village. She needed dental work and had poor vision. Through the generosity of many people, Bakhita Charities was able to provide the help that she needed. When she reached grade eight, we were able to pay a full scholarship for her to attend St. Brendan's. And she's been an amazing student.

Last year, Malebo decided that she would like to enter the Catholic faith and requested to be baptized and confirmed. The Sacred Heart Sisters helped her through classes, she was baptized in a beautiful ceremony, and has embraced her faith whole-heartedly.

We look forward to helping Malebo decide her future direction and assist her in achieving her goals. Not only is she an exceptional student, but she is also an exceptionally kind, caring young lady.



COVID-19 for Bakhita Girls

The pandemic has created many hardships for the children supported by Bakhita Charities. Although the cases in South Africa remain at a relatively low level, there are grave financial problems for caregivers and families already living in extreme poverty.

The virus and accompanying lock-down have made life difficult. The Bakhita Outreach Team is delivering food parcels, helping with at-home schooling, and even helping the children to obtain water from distant wells

For these youngsters, the gradual return to school, which includes at least one daily meal, has provided some relief, and needed structure in their lives.

A few of the children and the Sisters who work with them have contracted the virus but, fortunately, all have recovered. We pray that good public health practices, instituted by the government and supported by the majority, will help keep them safe.



Thanks for Your Donations

Our work in Africa is made possible by donations from family and friends. We personally pay all expenses, so 100% of each donation goes directly to the children.

In the upcoming year, Bakhita Charities will support:

- seven primary-aged girls with food, clothing, education and housing expenses
- twenty-two girls in St. Brendan's Boarding School with full scholarships covering all expenses
- fourteen girls pursuing a tertiary education with some living expenses

The cost of one full scholarship to St. Brendan's is \$2,500 per year, so every dollar that you can give is needed and appreciated.

Bakhita Charities is a 501c3 charitable organization and all donations are tax-deductible. You can donate by check, credit card or PayPal through the mail or website. You can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your 401k or IRA. Bakhita Charities is also able to accept a stock transfer as a donation. When buying on Amazon, find us on smile.amazon.com.

