



November 2023

Supporting orphans and vulnerable children

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Bakhita Charities. We are preparing for our annual visit to South Africa in February. This visit maintains our commitment to personally know and stay connected with every child being helped by Bakhita Charities. We make that commitment to the children, to the Sisters who help care for them daily, and to you our generous donors.

We are grateful to all of you who support Bakhita Charities. You make it possible for orphaned and vulnerable children to receive food, clothing, shelter, health care, and education. We ask for your support through this one-page newsletter, twice per year.

We recently woke up to a WhatsApp message from one of our Bakhita girls.

"Good morning Mama Maggie and Papa John. I woke up today feeling so great. I am where I am and have what I have today because of you and all the people supporting you. I really can't thank you enough. I wanted to remind you that I love you so much and I'm grateful to God for you. If you someday wake up and feel down, remember me and how you took me from nothing and now I'm a very confident young lady who's a qualified social worker."

Every time you donate to Bakhita Charities, you contribute to another uplifting wake-up story.

Maggie & John Williams

## Gift Bags

Each year, we take 125 pounds of gifts with us to South Africa. A very special part of the visit is giving a personalized gift bag to each child that we are supporting. They know that it is especially for them and has been purchased and packed with love by someone who really cares.



If you would like to prepare one of these gift bags, please let us know. We'll give you a name, size, and the items needed such as clothing items and a toy or book. We will take the gift with us. In return, you'll receive a photo of a very happy child.

## Please Support Bakhita Charities

The work of Bakhita Charities is made possible by individual donations from family and friends. We are so grateful to each and every one of you. Your sharing does incredible things.

You can donate by check through the mail. You can donate by credit card or PayPal through the website, from a computer or a phone. We've improved the donation process on the website so it's now more friendly and can be accessed by clicking on this QR code.



It is our privilege to personally pay all expenses so 100% of your donation goes directly to the children in need.

We appreciate donations of any amount. \$1 per day provides food for a girl attending primary school and living in a village. \$7 per day provides full support for a girl attending secondary school at St. Brendan's and living there.

## Congratulations to Our Graduates!

Two young girls, who came to Bakhita Village several years ago, are in grade 12 this year and are on the threshold of graduation from St. Brendan's Secondary School. Each has a unique life story but share many similar experiences. They were living in extreme poverty with little or no adult support or parenting. They were welcomed with life-saving food, shelter, and health care along with education, love, and guidance.

### Shanty



2015



2023

When we first met Shanty, her mother had recently passed away and there was no relative who could care for her. We drove to the home where she was living and found her sitting high up in a tree picking mangoes for her only sustenance. Shanty thrived at Bakhita Village and became a super-star student at St. Brendan's. She's the leader of the debate team, an altar-server at church, and a lead singer for all school and church occasions.

We recently received this note from Shanty: "When I lost my mom in grade 2, you took me in. I was helpless but you and the sisters fed me, clothed me, and cared for me. You have always stood by me. I just want to thank you. Even if I spoke a million tongues, it would not be enough to thank you."

### Precious



2017



2023

Precious moved to Bakhita Village in grade 5. Her mother passed away when she was a small child. Relatives looked after her for a few years, but when they could no longer care for her, she was brought to us. She fit in nicely with other Bakhita girls and was a big help to the house mothers. She cleaned, polished school shoes, and attended to studies. Precious is bright and has done very well in school.

Both of these girls have become strong and confident young ladies, and they are grateful to everyone who has supported them through Bakhita Charities.

## Bakhita Charities Initiatives

Bakhita Charities maintains a focus on education as a path to break the cycle of poverty. Our three project initiatives are structured around three levels of education.



### Primary School Girls

... are supported with school fees, school supplies, and food for their guardian family.



### Secondary School Girls

... are supported with scholarships to St. Brendan's Boarding School.



### Tertiary School Girls

... at university are assisted with an allowance to help with living expenses.

Education can change lives. For more than twenty years, your support has played an essential role in enabling this life-changing work.