



## Supporting orphans and vulnerable children

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Bakhita Charities. We have just returned from our annual trip to southern Africa where we continue our mission of caring for vulnerable children who have been orphaned or abandoned and are living in extreme poverty. Because of our generous donors, Bakhita Charities is able to support three main initiatives:

- Caring for 12 primary-age girls living in area villages through the Bakhita Outreach Ministry
- Supporting 18 secondary-school students at St. Brendan's Boarding School
- Assisting 15 young women to gain tertiary education at universities or vocational schools

As we left the Bakhita girls this year, many tearfully expressed their deepest gratitude to all the people who don't even know them but care for them. They are astounded again and again at the generosity of our donors. You give them hope for a future that is so much brighter than the past they have known. Thank you!

*Maggie & John Williams*

### You're Invited!

Our annual Bakhita Charities Appreciation and Awareness Gathering will be held at 7:00 pm on March 25, 2020 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.

### Molatelo's Smile

We met Molatelo when she came to Bakhita Village at age 7. She and her sister were living on their own after the death of their mother. They were brought to Bakhita Village and Sr. Nancy welcomed them and gave Molatelo a reason to smile.

That miracle was short-lived, however, as the Bakhita Village home closed in 2017. Molatelo and her sister were taken to live with their legal guardian who had no intention of caring for them. We visited them in the shack where they lived, and it was a very sad day.

The Bakhita Outreach Team engaged the local social worker, found better living arrangements for the girls and worked to keep them safe until they could enter St. Brendan's.

Thanks to the team and our wonderful donors, Molatelo experienced another miracle last month when she became a new grade 8 boarding student at St. Brendan's. Here, she is safe, surrounded by caring people, getting three meals a day and has an opportunity for education. Again, she can smile.



2015



2018



2020



2020

## Hero Grannies

The heroes of this part of the world are the grandmothers. Full stop. The stories of grannies taking care of the children left behind after the death of parents abound.

One of the little girls that Bakhita Charities Outreach Team looks after is Thandi. She is a bright shining star living in deep poverty with her bright shining granny. After the death of her mother, Thandi lived at Bakhita Village until it closed in 2017. Her granny then came forward and invited Thandi to move in with her and other extended family members.



Thandi at Bakhita Village 2015

The home where they live has no electricity or water and the roof seriously leaks when it rains. The family grows most of their own food in a garden that surrounds the home. Despite the lack of material things, the



Thandi, Granny, Outreach Team 2019



Thandi, Granny, Outreach Team 2020



Thandi 2020

family is happy to have Thandi with them – and Thandi is the happiest of children. Each day she walks several kilometers to school and did not miss one day last year. She does well in classes and is sure to pass grade seven enabling her to join her Bakhita sisters at St. Brendan's next year. All due to the happy and joyful life that she lives with her happy and joyful granny, a real hero. And here are a few more heroes . . .



## 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.

After food, clothing and shelter, we focus on education. We are helping many girls at all levels of education and nowadays we struggle to keep up. We really appreciate each and every donation.



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](https://www.smile.amazon.com).

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