

Dear Janis:

Ted and I just returned from 6 months in Nairobi and we want to take this opportunity to share with you what the generous donation granted to the HanneHowardFund in May 2008 helped us achieve.

We have learned how to blog and invite you to go to our website to get a full picture of our progress. www.hannehowardfund.org

Thanks to your grant, our 26 resident orphans not only enjoy proper accommodation in the form of a boys and girls dorm but, for the first time in their lives, they have a place they proudly call "home".

Upon our arrival in January 2009, we immediately commenced work on the relocation and renovation of the 2 room shack we called "The Hostel".

Our first step was to secure a five year lease that would grant us the use of the entire compound (9 shacks in total). HHFL had been renting 3 tin shacks in the compound since February, 2008.

The second step was to make the place habitable. Severe flooding is a continuous problem in the slum as the whole place sits on a swamp. During the rainy season mud and stagnate water take over, creating the most unhygienic environment imaginable. Loads and loads of fill had to be spread in order to create a level, flood free surface. The mud flooring in the shacks had to be raised and cemented (most slum dwellers simply live in over 1' of water during the entire rainy season as cement flooring is very expensive). Extensive repairs had to be made to the roof and a new kitchen had to be built. The existing outhouses also needed repair, but due to lack of funding only the most urgent repairs were undertaken. Last but not least, electricity was brought in, another luxury these orphans had never had!

By the end of March, just in time for the April break when all kids come home for the entire month, this incredible transformation had taken place. The entire place had been painted, cleaned and a new kitchen built.

Six rooms have been turned into the new "Hostel". Two, house the Tiny Tots Early Childhood Development Center and 1 the administrative office. All kids have their own bed, bedding and even storage space.

The girls were overjoyed when asked to help with the decoration of the dorms. They chose pink for the girls and blue for the boys and the new rod iron beds look very smart indeed! They were absolutely incredulous when they realized that space had been set aside for a sitting/library area. They chose a Masai theme to decorate this room (some budding decorators/designers were born during this assignment). The boys turned into little Picassos when asked to pitch in with the exterior painting and their creativity turned wild! But, I must confess, the wonder and happiness I witnessed the day they flicked the

electrical switch for the first time was beyond words!

This is how we spent your generous grant:

One year lease of Hostel premises (2009) @ \$200 p.mo	\$ 2400
Electricity Installation	\$ 2500
Compound fill	\$ 800
6 rooms cement flooring and sidewalls	\$ 2800
Rooms renovation (taking out partitions, creating storage	\$ 650
Roof repair and painting	\$ 450
26 iron bunk beds @ 150 each	\$ 3900
Bedding for 26 (mattress, pillow, sheets, blankets) @ 100 each	\$ 2600
Other furniture (desks, drawers, hangers, shelves, chairs)	\$ 500
Library shelves	\$ 250
Outhouses minor repair (needs extensive work/no showers)	\$ 500

TOTAL **\$ 17,350**

Everybody, but especially our resident orphans, join me in this heartfelt thank you. Without your help we could never have done it! The children are very, very happy in their new home. Not only do they now live in adequate conditions but they are safe as well. ASANTE SANA!

We would like to take this opportunity to seek additional funding for a proper water supply for hygiene and sanitation purposes. Presently we have no shower facilities or running water. If at all possible, a second chance for a presentation would be much appreciated.

Thank you again for your help.

Hanne Howard & Ted Horton
Hannehowardfund
