

Amazing Progress 2013



LIVING WATERS INTL

May 2013

**Living Waters celebrates 5 years at the feeding center
Living Waters Intl becomes a 501 C 3 non-profit organization**

It's Official

After 1 1/2 years of working through the IRS application process, Living Waters Intl was officially granted IRS non-profit 501 C 3 status effective April 2012. We praise God for this significant distinction.

Living Waters Feeding Center

A major celebration took place on May 16 with a special meal that served over 200, guest speakers, distribution of new uniforms and 35 pairs of new shoes given to children who had no shoes at all.

Over the past five years Living Waters Feeding Center has served approximately 166,000 meals, 330 new uniforms have been made and 65,000 direct care man-hours have been spent caring for our children. Over 500 medical referrals and treatment have been provided to the children. Our 3500 square foot free standing feeding center provides space for these services. 1 1/2 acres of gardens and fruit trees help supplement the nutritious diet. A medical clinic and guest house have been built. Living Waters is the longest standing foreign supported NGO program on Rusinga Island. This is a true testament of Gods hand in this project. For all of this we say a huge thank you for your support. But, the real question: "is your sacrificial giving really making a difference?" We leave this up to you to decide. Early in the feeding center project, approximately 75 children lived in child headed homes. Due to the direct impact that the center has had on these children by way of nutritious food, school uniforms, blankets, and medical care, there is not a single child attending Living Waters Feeding Center who is now living in a child headed home. All of the children have been assimilated back into family units with either grandparents, relatives or neighbors! Because the financial burden of caring for these children has been eased by the food, clothing and medical they are receiving at the Living Waters Feeding Center, every child lives in a family structure again. We were told that "the children who attend Living Waters are the happiest and healthiest children on Rusinga". For Mary Jo and I the above question has been completely affirmed with a resounding "YES!".



"the children who attend Living Waters are the happiest and healthiest children on Rusinga".

Mary Jo and Daryl arrived in western Kenya as the season of "the long rains" extended much later than usual. As we drove the final 25 miles of our journey across Kenya we were met with torrential rains. We were traveling on unpaved roads that had as much as two feet of water (in places) flowing across the road. Fields and homes were being washed away and two people drowned in the flooding. God's hand of mercy continued to care for us and we arrived late at Rusinga Island in the evening May 4. The local people tell us they do not remember ever seeing this much rain and I noticed the level of the lake has risen approximately 75 feet. This now brings the lakeshore into shops and homes. There has been no normal harvest due to drought for three years and now many of the crops have been either washed away or will not produce because of excessive water. All of the vegetables in our garden were lost, but Julie the manager did plant over 400 pineapple plants that have fared well.

One of our best experiences was to go into the bush and visit the children and their guardians in their homes. Margret (Living Waters Case Manager) took us on miles of trails from the lakeshore to the mountain tops. We were warmly greeted and spent time learning about each family. One thing that we saw over and over was that most of the time children from multiple families were living in each home. It was usually the grandmother who was caring for her grandchildren because she had lost all of her children. So it's become a way of life with Grandparents raising their grandchildren, something most cannot afford to do financially.

We are blessed with a new security team which is Danson, a Seventh-day Adventist Maasai warrior and our Alsatian, Obama.

The Living Waters compound is now complete, the medical clinic is functional (though needing some equipment and supplies) and the guest house is ready to accept those desiring short term mission trips.



Same children at feeding center



Obama and Danson



Living Waters continues to rely on God impressing individuals to contribute to this worthy cause in order to continue operations.

Living Waters is a faith based organization providing humanitarian evangelism/aid and supported by donors



Mary Jo and Daryl Ofi



Living Waters INTL

1107 S. Beeline # 4

Payson, AZ 85541

928-472-3388

dofit@LivingWatersIntl.org

Living Waters is operated by contributions of people just like you. One hundred percent of your gift goes to support the Orphan Feeding Center.

Please consider giving a tax deductible donation to Living Waters as we all do our part in alleviating some of the suffering in our world.

Please visit our web site for additional updates and information.