

Building for the Future Update

We are continuing to improve the facility and operations. The latest addition is a freezer. This will allow our staff to make fewer trips to the market and give them the opportunity to purchase in bulk so that they can get a better price. Thank you to our friends in Carroll, Iowa for donating the funds needed to purchase the freezer!



Adoption Update

The blessings continue! Two more couples have stepped forward to start the adoption process. We pray that all will go well for them and the children will get a great family and a happy home here in the U.S.A.



Update on the Children:

You can see that they are healthy and doing great!

Patrick – 15 years old.

John – 14 years old

Elijah - 13 years old

Devine - 6 years old

Joseph – 5 months old.

There is an opportunity for Cornerstone to have more children at the orphanage. We continue to wait on the government to provide additional children. We trust that the Lord is in control of this process, and that our patience will be rewarded soon!

Staff Updates:

Looking to hire a driver for our new van and a security guard this spring.

Upcoming Events:

Back by popular demand, “The Night Under the African Stars!” If you didn’t make it to last years event, you missed some great performances! We had African children dancers, fantastic singers, live painting, authentic African food, and much more!

Last year we had some difficulty with the date. This year we have the location locked in! We would be honored to have you Save the Date and prepare for a **great time** while helping to **raise money** for the children.

Save the date!

Saturday
August 20th

3rd ANNUAL
NIGHT UNDER
THE AFRICAN STARS

For more information:

Email: Eric@thehopeorphans.org

Call: Paula (515.491.0737) or

Eric (515.321.2807)

visit website

www.thehopeorphans.org



Your Donations in Action:

Currently, Eric's brother is transporting the children to school and home every day. We have been looking to purchase a van that can hold all of our children and more for later. Just this month, we have found a 1-ton 12-passenger van that would be perfect for this need. Through the generosity of our donors at the Gala event we were able to purchase the van! This van will greatly improve the ability to transport the children safely. This is also a piece of the puzzle to help us be able to add more children at the orphanage. We purchased the van here in Iowa and will ship it to the Orphanage within a short period of time. To really give the van a make over and help get the word out, ABC Sign and Display in Urbandale donated a vehicle wrap. The pictures of the van show the transformation. We think that it will be a one-of-a-kind in Benin City!

Before the wrap



After the wrap



Notes from Eric's Trip:



It is with great pleasure and excitement that I talk about my recent trips to the orphanage. I was in Nigeria in October 2010 and January 2011 and had great time with our children - **Patrick** (15 years), **John** (14 years), **Elijah** (14 years), **Devine** (6 years) and **Joseph** (5 months). Our children are well and healthy. Patrick, John and Elijah are in high school while Devine is in elementary school. Joseph is a very cute baby. I spent some time with him on both trips.

Everything I experienced was good but the joy and peace that radiates from the faces/smiles of the children supercedes all joy and understanding.

The staff is happy and well. They (children & staff) love the gifts that were donated to them.

There are immediate needs at the orphanage, a van driver - to take the children to school.

We still have some finishing touches to complete on the 2nd floor of the orphanage. It is my great hope and prayer that we will provide these needs as soon as possible.

2011 will be a great year for our organization with growth and accomplishments. We will be having more children accepted into the orphanage home and many children will be adopted from the orphanage. Please read more about our 2011 projects and other updates in this newsletter. I hope you will continue to support our ministry as we serve the children of Africa and around the world.

I wish you all God's blessings,

Eric Idehen

Send donations to: Cornerstone of Hope Orphanage 1430 Locust Avenue Des Moines, IA 50309
www.thehopeorphans.org