



OLALO of ...
(Luo)

June 2016

DARAJA of ...
(Swahili)

BRIDGE of...
(English ☺)

HOPE

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16

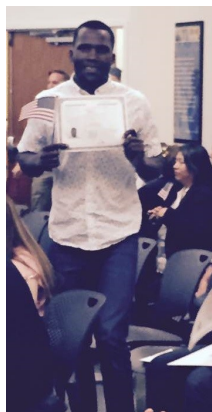
Nang’o! Hello from Olalo of Hope – Kenya!

The Olalo of Hope-Kenya family expanded these past few months with a new addition to the Omondi family.

Malia Eloh Omondi was born on February 4, 2016 – all 10.5

pounds of her!
Malia in Swahili means ‘queen of’ and Eloh in Luo means ‘joy’. She is the Queen of Joy!

Just a few months later, on June 6, her daddy, Sonko Omondi, was sworn in as a U.S. Citizen. It’s been quite the exciting few months around here for all of us.

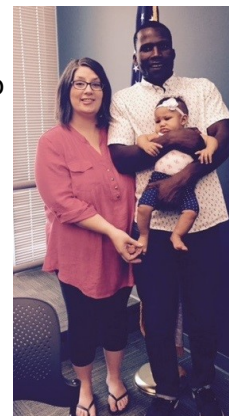


Citizenship for Sonko allows the family to spend more time in Kenya ministering to the people of Oyugis and coordinating our medical and education programs on the ground. The Omondi’s will set up the vitamin distribution program and get the computer lab running.

They are excited to get back to Kenya and get things rolling. With God’s direction and your prayers and support, the new life cycle of hope continues in Oyugis, Kenya!

Thank you for partnering with us!

Nyasaye Ogwedhi! (God Bless)
Merry & Pete



Kids for Kids....

Remember our 7-year-old Super Star from our last newsletter who raised over \$200 for Olalo’s Medical Fund for “his Kids’ in Africa? Well, he has struck again!

On Olalo’s FaceBook page back in May, we asked for help to purchase shirts, pants, shoes and a mattress to replace items destroyed in a dorm fire that housed several of our students. We needed \$225. When our Super Star heard about it, he told his mom he thought he had about \$10 saved up and wanted to donate it, after all, these are his kids!

His ten dollars was actually \$73.45. Mom Cheryl decided to challenge her FB friends to match his donation. In no time over \$500 in donations came through to replace the items. The excess funds will be used to help another student attend school.

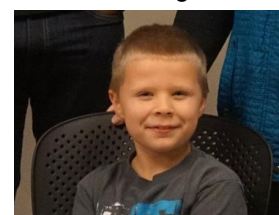
A month later, mid-June, our Super Star donated an additional \$110.56 toward the purchase of a van for Oyugis through a special bonus day by GlobalGiving

where they matched Olalo donations at 40%. I asked his mom how he collects all this money?

“People know he collects money for his kids in Africa,” she said “because he tells everyone he does!” People just come up to him and give him all their change. Our Super Star plans to become a teacher – somewhere between 6th and 7th grade – and then go to Kenya to help teach kids in our computer lab. He already let his parents know it’s too expensive for them to go, so if they could just put him on the plane, then Corinne and Sonko can come get him when he lands in Nairobi.

I’m not too sure about his teaching credentials coming through in the next few years, but I am starting to think he’s going to need a regular column in our upcoming newsletters.

He is an amazing young man!



Education

Almost Put on Hold!

Thanks to lots of prayer and the generosity of our supporters, two young men who were about to put their education on hold, possibly forever, will now be able to complete their Secondary School education. Both were in Form 4, their last year of school, but they were out of money. It would have been a tragedy to come this far and not be able to finish. Here's their stories....

DOUGLAS

Douglas lives with his parents, but they have no money for school.



For his first three years of Secondary School, (like our H.S.) he worked small contracting jobs to earn money for school fees. He wanted an education!

Imagine this—most students walk 40 minutes to school 6 days a week, class time begins at 7am and ends at 6 pm, walking home, dinner, chores, homework.

Then Douglas, for the privilege of getting an education, found small contracting jobs to put himself through school. He wanted an education!

Form 4 Secondary School is an intense year of preparing for the national tests that determine a student's future. It got to the point where Douglas just couldn't do it all anymore.

Supporters stepped up and by combining donations, Olalo was able to cover the fees. Douglas is in school for his final year!

Douglas is getting his education!

FREDRICK

Our second young man, Fredrick, also wasn't able to attend school any longer.



Following the death of his father, Fredrick left school owing school fees. His mum wasn't able to raise the funds to pay what was owed nor pay for his fourth year.

It looked like he wouldn't be able to finish his final year of education.

One of our amazing Olalo donors, who already sponsors several students, called me to ask if I knew of anyone who needed financial help to complete their final year of school. She felt very prompted to do this for a student.

Recommended by a school official, due to Fredrick's dedication to his studies, we were able to cover the back fees owed plus pay the fees for his final year. Fredrick is in school and will complete his education!

Many thanks go to our generous donor who was prompted to do this and made it all possible!

What a blessing it is to see firsthand how lives are being changed.

Lives steeped in the cycle of poverty are changing into a new cycle...a cycle of hope.

We thank God for His provision through our donors as they reach out to help others around the world.

It's not unusual to walk into a classroom and find a wide range of students ages all in the same Form (grade) - 18 or 19-year-old students are mingled in with much younger students in their first or second year of Secondary School.

Kids in Kenya know the importance of an education...but far too often they are forced out of school because life changes happen and money for school is no longer available. Jobs lost, illness, death of a parent(s). But that doesn't mean their dream of an education ends.

Some kids find a way to continue. It may take years to earn enough money to get back in the classroom or maybe a sponsor steps in to cover the costs. That why there's such age differences.

When and if they get the chance to return, these students are ambitious and serious about their education. Unfortunately, not everyone is able to earn their way back or find someone to help with fees. The cycle of poverty continues.

If you would like to help students like Douglas or Fredrick, consider a donation to our education fund.

It isn't necessary to commit to sponsor a particular student long term, but we wouldn't turn you away if you did! :) Donations accumulate and help to pay for several kids eager to learn. Consider donating today!

MEDICAL—Change for Change is Making a Difference!

You might say, “What a coincidence!” I’d say, “It was a Divine Appointment!”

On his recent return trip to Kenya, Sonko was chatting with the pharmacist about our vitamin distribution program when a woman ran in and pleaded for something to help her breathe. She struggled for breath after each word as she explained she had asthma and needed help.

Though wanting to help, the pharmacist couldn’t give her anything without a written prescription. In desperation she explained she had no money for a doctor to get one.

Sonko immediately got her a ride to a local hospital knowing Olalo could cover the cost. He decided to follow up and got himself to the hospital to find no one helping her as she sat there struggling to breathe, waiting.

Not waiting any longer, they left and went to the Matata Nursing Hospital where she was helped immediately.

Many **Thanks go to You**, our many supporters of our medical Change for Change program for making that possible. Olalo paid for the cab, the hospital, doctor, and the medication.

Everybody was at the right place at the right time.

Coincidence? I don’t think so....

We recently heard there were several cases of rabies/deaths among the people because of a rash of dog bites by rabid dogs that roam the streets.

Olalo was called upon twice within a month’s time to cover the cost of treatment for a young boy and an adult woman who had been bitten by a dog, neither of which could afford the series of shots needed to stop the progression of the disease.

The World Health Organization reports an estimated 2000 people die annually of rabies after being bitten by rabid dogs in Kenya.

“The medical costs associated with treatment after a person has been bitten by a rabid dog is estimated at US\$170.00 in Kenya,” says James Macharia, Cabinet Secretary for Health. “This represents considerable financial hardship to a poor household.”



This is a true statement...it is a hardship on poor households and many times unattainable, so they go without treatment with dire consequences.

Olalo has established good working relationships with local doctors and hospitals, and the cost for rabies shots has been much less than \$170.

Thanks to you, You are making life better in Oyugis!

Sonko was back visiting Oyugis for just 18 days and numerous people were able to find much needed medical relief through Olalo.

Malaria, typhoid, arthritis, diabetes, asthma, injuries, intestinal viruses...all diagnosed and treated in May, and most are on the road to recovery. **None of this would have been possible without the generosity of our supporters...without YOU! Thank you....**

Computer Lab – Providing Education and Jobs!

We have just moved one step closer to a functioning computer lab in Oyugis and we're excited!

We have purchased RACHEL Plus – a two-pound server produced by Intel that can accommodate up to 50 computers at a time. It has 300GB of preloaded educational material and an additional 200GB which can be used by teachers to add classroom lessons and materials.

RACHEL stands for **Remote Area Community Hotspot for Education and Learning**. It is currently being used throughout the world...even right here in Oregon!

RACHEL Plus includes copies of educational websites as they existed in the recent past. By storing copies of websites directly on RACHEL Plus, no internet is required and there are no monthly subscription costs.



Olalo can connect RACHEL to the internet to download all the latest information from all the existing sites...at no cost.

Preloaded websites include an encyclopedia, hundreds of lectures by MIT and Khan Academy. There are thousands of educational videos covering all areas of math, science, medical, technology, computing, health guides, agriculture, music theory, career planning, Office and more. Amazing!

Our next step is to purchase at least 5 laptops for the lab (although 10 would be better) and get the classes started.

We will gladly accept donations for the purchase of the laptops
(and even accept donations of newer, gently used laptops.)

*****Transportation to Medical, Education and Employment*****

We are fund raising for a van which is needed to reach those in need of urgent medical help, deliver food to the poor and get our students to school when the rain is coming down in buckets.

Those with urgent medical needs who live outside of town often requires Olalo renting a vehicle to get them to the hospital and returned home. In most cases, the rental cost far surpasses the cost of the entire medical expense!

Eliminating rental expenses means more resources saved to help others with needs, not fees. The van will also be used to help support the Omondi's while employing local drivers to use the van to transport community members to neighboring towns. Win-Win for all!

How to find us....

On the Web: www.olalo.org

FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Olalo-of-Hope-Kenya>

Email: Olalo.of.hope@gmail.com

Mail: Olalo of Hope-Kenya
PO Box 1476
Clackamas, OR 97015

Olalo of Hope-Kenya is a faith-based nonprofit working in the east African country of Kenya.

Our Mission is to help break the cycle of poverty by building strong communities by working with various partners and communities to empower individuals and families with opportunities for the furtherance of education, healthcare and skills needed to affect life change within their communities.

Olalo Programs include:
School Tuition, Uniforms, School Supplies
Change for Change Medical Fund
Community Support
Orphan Care
Missionary Team Support.

If you do not wish to receive our newsletter, please ask to have your name removed from our mailing list.