

PROVIDING CHILDREN
IN KENYA WITH HOPE,
HOMES, AND A FUTURE



Photo by Mike Harrold

Volume 3 Issue 2

Fall 2018

Live for Today, Hope for Tomorrow

Spotlight on Paul Orlando



by Shravan Joshi

Paul Orlando is a rising star on the futbol pitch and in the classroom. This 13 year old recently took the KCPE exam and is putting 100 percent of his effort into not only making his future, but also being an inspiration. Another 100 percent goes to helping his younger brothers and sisters live comfortably, and the last 100 percent is left on the pitch every time he steps on it.

Paul, along with his sister Angelina, has been in our home since 2009. He has

made this home his own in achieving so much with every opportunity. Paul is at the top of his class. If he does well on the KCPE, he will be able to go to a secondary school of his choosing, with, of course, support from all of us!

Motivated by all of the new construction around Meru, Paul aspires to become a civil engineer. Like any other engineer-to-be, he loves mechanics and finds the ins and outs of any product.

When you first meet Paul, you may have to look twice. He will be in the back of the room, observing and thinking. He's not a dancer or a singer, but he will stand out in ways that will make you remember him forever. He is soft-spoken and gives out

the warmest of vibes, which is how I got to know him so well.

The first day I met Paul, he was the only one not playing futbol. He sat on the sideline and observed the others play. I sat next to him, said two words, and the rest of the time we sat in silence, watching. He reminded me of my younger self. We truly connected in silence.

Ever since then, Paul stood out to me, and we bonded.



Why you should come to the
DOUGLAS J. MCDONOUGH
PASSION FOR
EDUCATION GALA

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Back in the States, I decided to sponsor him at the first opportunity I got. I have watched him grow over the past five years, and it feels incredible to have a younger brother that is not only close to me, but also close to the rest of my family. Without saying much, he shows how powerful a simple act of kindness can be. He inspires me to return to Meru year after year to not only see him, but to see all of the other kids that he calls his brothers and sisters.

We've gotten older and stronger, busier and taller—well, Paul has. He is no longer a kid and is now a young adult. To see him progress in his own life, with little help from me, and show his brothers and sisters how to make their lives their own is the greatest gift in the world.

Kindred Spirits from Worlds Apart



Paul and his mentor, Shravan Joshi, first met when Shravan was on a high school trip to the orphanage.

Shravan Joshi is listed as Paul Orlando's mentor through Hope Children's Fund's mentorship program. The paperwork states that Paul, who was born in 2003, came to the home in October of 2009. It fails to state that Paul and Shravan have been kindred spirits from their first encounter, when Shravan was a high school student traveling to Kenya with the Manns as his in loco parentis.

Shravan and Paul share a love of futbol and a deep commitment to caring for others. They bonded so closely during that trip that the departure day was traumatic for them both. Only one knew that the goodbye was really until we meet again.

Shravan and his family made sure that Paul became a part of the family. He later returned to Kenya on his own. Shravan's mother, Nisha, traveled to the home to meet the boy who had made such a huge impact on her son. While there, Nisha Joshi introduced the children to Chit Yoga and even sponsored a futbol (soccer) club.

Shravan will be returning to Kenya in June to

continue his efforts with Technology Partnerships, a non-profit that gives technological assistance and resources to orphanages.

What started as a chance meeting while on a high school mission trip has blossomed into a lifelong relationship between kindred spirits. Both Paul and Shravan feel blessed by the friendship. These are the types of relationships that we seek to foster.

Paul and Shravan have many exciting chapters of their lives ahead. While young in years himself, Shravan has wisdom, compassion, and knowledge well beyond his chronological years. What started as a chance meeting one day in Meru will be a lifelong story unfolding, as time does, over many, many years to come.





News from Hope Children's Home Jerusha Mwiraria Children's Home

The slogan of our home is EDUCATION IS THE KEY! It is never more appropriate than in October and November.

In October, three of our youth took the KCPE-Kenyan Comprehensive Primary Examination. The national test determines if and where a student can attend secondary school (high school). Scores, class rank, and grades during one's primary career (grades 1-8) do not matter. The KCPE is a three-day test measuring aptitude in mathematics, English, science, Kiswahili, social studies and religious instruction.

From November 5 through 11, eleven of our youth took the KCSE-Kenyan Comprehensive Secondary Examination. The KCSE includes mathematics A and B, chemistry, English (functional skills, comprehension, literary appreciation, grammar and creative composition), and Kiswahili (verbal and written). It is also a nationally-ranked exam determining where and if one can go beyond secondary school. Like the KCPE, only one's scores on the KCSE matter. The pressure to perform on this exam has led to an increase in

suicides on the day scores are posted.

On the positive side, the home has a wonderful tradition. On the day scores are posted, the high scorers on both the KCPE and KCSE are carried up the hill to the home with great fanfare. Let us hope our youth score well.

Betty Gakii Kathurima, assistant director, has agreed to stay on. She will continue her studies part time in order to serve the children of the home. Betty has her teaching credentials already but must complete further studies due to increased government requirements to maintain teaching certification.

Betty serves as a role model to the children. She was a member of the first group of youth at the home, completed a college degree, taught school, married, had twin girls, and now works as an assistant director. Betty is truly a success story and a wonderful woman we can all be proud of.

Class 8 (KCPE)

1. Michelle Nkatha
2. Paul Orando
3. Kelvin Kiriinya

Form 4 (KCSE)

1. Lucy Gacheri
2. Edith Kanana
3. Linda Gatwiri
4. Aida Nkatha
5. Denis Murithi
6. Elias Mutuma
7. Lilian Karambu
8. Ambrose Muguna
9. Betty Kanyiri
10. Risper Makena
11. Lawrence Mwiti





From the Heart



We are an all-volunteer organization whose supporters are generous, kind, caring, and compassionate. In the last issue, we featured Barbara and Tom Lyon, who used their Golden Wedding Anniversary as a platform to help the children of Hope Children's Home. In their honor, we will be adding a new section to our publication. It will highlight individuals and groups who have gone above and beyond to assist the children of Hope.

If you would like to suggest a person or group for coverage in From the Heart, please contact Kevin Mann at kevinmannmail@gmail.com. Together we are changing lives . . . forever!



Kelvin Koome "banked" blood for Hope Children's Fund's Co-President Joseph Kirima in preparation for his recent surgery. Joseph's surgery went well, and he is on the mend. Kelvin is a physician's assistant and graduate of Kenyan Methodist University. Kelvin has been mentored by Ed Hyshiver for many years.



Shay (nee McDonough) and Sean Sevey donated \$1,500 from their wedding to the Douglas J. McDonough Memorial Scholarship Fund. Shay is Doug's niece. The funding will be used to improve educational opportunities for the children of the Jerusha Mwiraria Hope Children's Fund Home.

Jimenez Cleaners, a home cleaning company, donated funds to help support our orphans.





Gala Corporate Sponsorship

Please consider becoming a sponsor for the Douglas J. McDonough Passion for Education Gala. We offer a wide range of networking opportunities with our contributors as well as other sponsors. Your contribution will allow us to continue to provide for the children currently under our care. Our focus is on education and our slogan -- EDUCATION IS THE KEY! -- is at the heart of what we do. We also welcome any on-site advertising you wish to provide at the gala itself.

We want this to be the start of a long and mutually beneficial relationship.

We offer 10 levels of sponsorship

1. \$10,000 dinner includes 10 tickets (table) plus full page in journal
2. \$5,000 cocktail hour includes 10 tickets (table) plus full page in journal
3. \$2,500 band plus full page in journal
4. \$2,000 printed journal plus full page in journal
5. \$ 2,000 table sponsor (10) plus full page in journal
6. \$1,500 Auction/Raffle plus full page in journal
7. \$365 child sponsorship
8. \$250 full page ad in printed journal
9. \$125 1/2 page ad
10. \$75 business card ad

Yours in service,

The Douglas J. McDonough Passion for Education Committee

Laura Spillane, Stevie Micheli, Aida Mann, Heena Shaikh, Virginia McDonough, Ali Giordano, Daphny Bravo, Janelle Bravo, Kevin Mann and Peter Wunsch

GALA 2018



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Enjoy an
oustanding
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auction



From the Hope Children's Fund Board of Directors

The Hope Children's Fund Board of Directors faces the same challenge three times a year: will there be enough funds to pay the tuitions for our ever-growing secondary and post-secondary students? In Kenya, secondary schools require tuition, and the cost of education becomes increasingly expensive for those attending technical training institutions and universities.

Our biggest fear, as with all parents, is that we will have a very gifted child whom we cannot afford to offer the best educational path. At the moment, we have twenty-nine youth in secondary schools and twenty-five in post-secondary education. Those numbers could increase to thirty-two and thirty-five respectively, depending on the KCPE and KCSE scores.

The board is thrilled that Director Joseph Kirima is mending after major surgery. We are very pleased that Betty Gakii Kathurima will continue as assistant to the director. The board employs eleven other people in Meru, Kenya to care for and serve the needs of our ninety-six children.

The H.C.F. board is proud that in the United States we have no office, no employees, and an overhead of less than two percent. The overhead is for tax preparation, printing and postage. All the funds we raise go directly to serve the needs of our collective charges.

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Hope Children's Fund is a 501 c (3) charitable non-profit organization. All gifts are tax deductible. EIN: 75-3065651

Please help us help the helpless with your tax deductible donation. Make your check payable to: Hope Children's Fund, P.O. Box 387, Setauket, New York, 11733.



The Douglas J. McDonough
Passion for Education 2019 Gala



To Benefit **Hope Children's Fund**
at **The Inn & Spa at East Wind, Wading River**

Sunday, January 20, 2019
6:00-11:00 pm

Join us for an evening of music, raffle prizes, cocktail hour, a plated dinner and dancing,
all to benefit Hope Children's Fund!

Please visit **www.hopechildrensfund.org** for more information.



Volunteer Avery Friedman and HCF Board Member Kyle Spillane with the children at
Hope Children's Fund Jerusha Mwiraria Children's Home in Meru, Kenya in 2017.

Formal attire preferred. Discounted overnight accommodations available.

Please detach and mail to: **HCF, P.O. Box 1345 East Northport, NY 11731**

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

___ Will attend. Number of tickets: ___ at \$199.00 each.

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

___ I cannot attend. Please see my enclosed donation of \$ _____

___ I would like to sponsor a child. Please find my donation of \$365.00 enclosed.

___ I would like more information on how to help/donate. Please contact me.

Please make checks payable to **Hope Children's Fund** - Please do not send cash.
Please R.S.V.P. to: **HCFgala@gmail.com** by **January 15, 2019**

Early Bird Registration November 30, 2018



Our Mission

**is to provide
safety, food,
clothing, health care,
education,
and the means for the
children and young
adults in our care
to create a
productive
successful future for
themselves.**


***EDUCATION
is the
KEY!***



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- Shop by product or vendor with easy price comparisons.
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- ✓ Go to smile.amazon.com and register Hope Childrens Fund as the organization you wish to support.
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