



## A Year of Helping Children in Kenya



December marks one year since Pearl S. Buck International announced its partnership with two Montgomery County-based mission-oriented entities—the non-profit charity Chariots for Hope and Bethlehem Baptist Church in Spring House, whose senior pastor, the Reverend Charles W. Quann, is a Pearl S. Buck International Board member—to extend our international outreach to children in need living in Ogada Children’s Home in Kenya. In that year, thanks to the generous support of child sponsors and project donors, Pearl S. Buck International began child sponsorships, raised funds for a playground for the children, and began raising the money needed to buy and install solar inverters to serve as a backup power source for office equipment and security measures at the children’s home. The staff at Ogada continues to guide and support the children living in the home and help them prepare for life once they leave. There are currently about 90

children at Ogada and nearly all are sponsored. At the end of June, Chariots for Hope organized a retreat for 14 of their students from their six children’s homes, including two from Ogada, who were going to be starting university. During this time, the students met with guest speakers to be better prepared and equipped as they go into university. The program was a mix of indoor sessions that focused on knowing oneself better, career planning, the labels that people place on each other, and leadership. This program was also infused with some fun outdoor team building exercises. The students had a lot of fun as well as received practical tools they can carry with them to their university experience. Those children who were heading to high school completed the Gallup Strengths Explorer assessment. It gave them their top three talents or personal strengths. The children really enjoyed this and it boosted their self-esteem as they became more self-aware. The students were encouraged to continue thinking critically

as they entered high school at the end of July.

In October, the children had a short break between their school terms. Some alumni visited the home for a day, encouraging staff and children and donating clothes and other necessities. Ogada’s Annual Home Health Assessment was performed by Chariots for Hope leadership as well—this tool measures the home environment and how well the home is doing in providing holistic care for the children. Thank you to all our supporters for your generosity and kindness in extending Pearl Buck’s legacy of bridging cultures and changing lives to the children living at Ogada Children’s Home, and for making this first year of partnership with Chariots for Hope a success.



# Support a Specific Need

BRIDGING CULTURES  CHANGING LIVES

## Give the Gift of Hope This Holiday Season

The holidays are once again upon us, a time of gathering with loved ones, giving thanks, looking back on what was another difficult year for many, and looking forward to new beginnings, happiness and hope. Thanks to all our generous child sponsors and donors, the children served by our international programs made it through another year of Covid. At a time when we are giving thanks for all we have and thinking of gifts to give each other, please consider giving the gift of hope to a child, a family, even a community in need served by Pearl S. Buck International.

For just \$25, you can provide diapers to orphans with physical and developmental disabilities. The orphanages operated by Pearl S. Buck International Vietnam serve children who have been abandoned, children whose parents cannot afford to raise them, children living with HIV/AIDS, and children living with disabilities. They are cared for with love and compassion by the housemothers, but meager government support must cover the costs of food, clothing, shelter, and in these times of Covid-19, medication, cleaning supplies, and masks—leaving little left over to buy enough diapers (more than one a day per child) for these children in need.



For just \$11, you can provide a family in the Philippines the seeds and soil needed to start their own backyard garden, providing twofold support—alleviating hunger and providing a source of fresh, nutritious food as well as providing a potential source of additional income for families who grow enough to feed themselves and have extra left over to sell. Especially during this pandemic, having both a source of fresh food and the ability to supplement income lost due to quarantines and loss of work can provide an entire family with hope this holiday season.

These gifts and more can be found in the Gift Catalog at <https://pearlsbuck.org/help-children-in-need/gift-catalog/>

Project funding can provide hope to not just children and families, but entire communities. In Kenya, just \$25 can support funding for a project at Ogada Children's Home, where they are in need of solar inverters that will help run computers in the office, security lighting at the home, and serve as a power backup for new staff and guest living quarters.

This project and others like it can be found on our website at <https://pearlsbuck.org/help-children-in-need/fund-a-project/>

We are so grateful for everything you already do year-round for your sponsored children and all the children and families served by Pearl S. Buck International. You give hope to these children and families every day and this holiday season, we are so thankful for that—and for you!