

# Fall Newsletter 2013 – Mercy and Caring Children’s Homes

## MCCH

604-886-7736

285 Glassford Road,

Gibsons, BC V0N 1V8

\*Nov 8 Musical Benefit Concert, 7PM

in Aldergrove

St. Dunstan’s

Come and hear The Royal Heirs Sax quartet and Bond of Love Vocal Trio plus MCCH presentation, 3025-264 Street. Concert is free but an offering will be taken.

\*Powell River MissionFest–Els and Johanna represented MCCH Oct 25-26, 2013

“What impressed me most was the unity of the churches.” Els

## **CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITY:**

**Please consider a donaton to MCCH as part of your Christmas giving, whether to honour someone with your gift, have a family auction instead of doing presents, or finding another sponsor and covering their first month of sponsorship.**

**Old cars can be donated to be fixed and resold for MCCH, you can leave a percentage to MCCH in your will, or give a gift to represent your thankfulness to God for the abundant provision we have in Canada.**

**The Kenyan children will have a special Christmas meal and receive one gift. Sponsors, if you haven’t remembered to send the extra \$20 per year for the Birthday and Christmas gift, that would be greatly appreciated.**

**You could buy a cow or goat for MCCH, but that is not what we need. We need bricks, and cement to build the fourth High School classroom, toilets and the addition to the big girls’ dorm (plus ten more bunkbeds for 20 female community students.) We need to equip the science lab.**

**Ten thousand dollars would cover this Phase 2 of the High School but if more building fund comes in, we would be able to begin phase 3 and build the administration building.**

**Your gift of \$10, \$50, \$100, or \$1,000 to MCCH by cheque to the above address or by credit card (by phoning the 604-886-7736) will go so far in Kenya, and bless 130 children!**

**THANKS**

## MCCH Board News (Canada)

At the September 13 meeting we took time to share God's blessings in our lives and prayed for the staff at MCCH; we heard updates from the Home by Kristine and Will B. who led a team of 6 helping at MCCH for 3 months. The Board discussed issues related to the **finances needed** to meet the needs of the High School. Some initiatives are: asking sponsors to **find one more sponsor**, and looking at **partnering** with more churches and businesses. The Board also passed the resolution to take steps toward **career education** and life skills for the older students to help them look at their abilities and plan for their futures.

We now have 51 staff that teach and care for the children at MCCH – Besides looking after the 130 Mercy Home children, these families represent 120 of their own children who are helped by having a parent employed in a country that has 40% unemployment.

One of the team that just returned interviewed each staff member and presented their prayer requests – here are some of them. **Please pray for:**

**Mr. Anthony O. , deputy principal of Secondary School asks** to be given wisdom by God, so that he can be in a position to help the needy, to have a strong family, to be able to counsel the orphans and vulnerable children and to have community.

**Mr. Dennis K. who is the Principal** asks for protection for his life and his family's life.

We see how important protection is when we hear of the attack in Nairobi's Westgate Mall Sept. 21. Mercy and Caring Home is 8 hours by road from Nairobi but it has caused the country concern.

## Sponsors

Sponsors are a very important part of the work and the team brought back letters from the children in August with news of their progress. One sponsor exclaimed, "I'm very excited to see how they've improved from year to year. Their letters are very touching. It's good to see their progress." **We would ask you who are sponsors to try to find one more sponsor in the next few months – pray about who to talk to and share your information and letters from your sponsored child.** Our goal is to double our sponsorship to increase the deficit in the monthly budget. More sponsors will help pay for the food and salaries of the increased number of staff. Dorcas K., the assistant social worker says, "I thank God because now we have a secondary school where our children can learn." Her prayer is "that MCCH gets more sponsors for she realizes that children are suffering and need help."



## Fundraising Networks

Perhaps you would be able to be a MCCH representative in your church and plan one fundraising event per year. This could be a bake sale, benefit concert, car wash, or potluck dinner with reports from a recently returned short term missions team. Please let Nancy or Johanna know if you are able to help in this way. We hope to connect with more of you to plan these events in various areas around BC.

**5 x 5 HOPE Teams – Health, Opportunity, Purpose, Enlightenment – HOPE** – This is a new initiative to help students in schools, Bible study groups, seniors, Sunday School classes or groups of neighbours to raise money together – only \$5 each per month! This is how it works: Find 4 friends who will be on your HOPE team willing to donate \$5 each per

month to help a needy child at Mercy and Caring Home in Kenya (HOPE teams aged 6 – 16 please ask your parent and get the consent form signed.) We have a brochure ready. Please email Nancy to receive one and get started! encahill@yahoo.com

### **News from the Field:**

On Sept. 24, Gerishom, the Centre Manager, phoned Edwin and Nancy and talked about the challenges he is facing with some of the teens. Please pray for him and Monicah, his wife who is the Chaplain, and Epong the social worker, as they faithfully lead the ministry. Some of the teens who were in Boarding Schools are “not at peace” in our school having already experienced freedom and spending money, and well equipped classrooms they had while away at Boarding School. We would like to think they can adjust and be grateful, but alas, they are teens. This is a very small group of youth, but they are causing a big stress for the staff. We are grateful for the paying community students, but the discontent may drive some of them away next year.

We hate to expel these teens because they would just have to return to whatever family they have in the slum. They seem to have forgotten where they came from. Please pray for a solution.

We were excited at the staff response. Gerishom reported, “All the department heads (over the farm, kitchen, guards, teachers, matrons, etc.) wake up and are praying. They are phoning each other at three AM to remind each other to pray!” You may want to join them at 4 PM our time.

Gerishom is glad to report there is no debt outside the home, even though the shortfall of funds we could send over the last 3 months has prevented him from doing some things he

had requested. The support coming in is generous but the cost of paying all the Secondary teachers has increased the monthly operating expenses. Your extra help will be such a blessing.

The school year ends in late November, and **we need to have a fourth classroom** available for the New Year in January, 2014 when the Grade 8’s move up to Secondary, and the Grade 11’s begin their final year. By then, **we need to equip the Science lab.**

Nancy wants to thank all those who made a special contribution to MCCH in honour of her 65th Birthday. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. Nancy reported that she has recovered from her open heart surgery and is now feeling well. She thanks all of you for your prayers. May this verses from Jeremiah 33:3 encourage you, as it has us:

**“Call unto Me, and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.”**

**Cahills are planning to go to Kenya in the New Year, probably May. Others could join them. Are you interested?**

*Thanks for reading to the end! May God’s blessing be on you. Please send us a short reply so we know you got this email news. Sometimes it is filtered out or goes to your trash so we want to know how many actually receive and read this newsletter.*

*Johanna (MCCH Trustee and Fundraising Chair)*

**CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS 2013 FROM EDWIN AND NANCY, THE KENYAN BOARD AND STAFF, THE CANADIAN BOARD AND ESPECIALLY THE CHILDREN.**