

A LIFE OF WITNESS TO GOD'S LOVE AND PROVISION

Who is Lucy Gacheru?

She is the founder and director of Hope Community Centre in North Kinangop, Kenya. Following is her story.

In 1972 in Kenya, East Africa, a girl child was born to a devoted mother. She joined a total of 11 siblings fathered by the three wives of her abusive and alcoholic father. Without support, her mother struggled to raise her five children whom she taught reverence to God and to depend on their Faith. They had no choice but to take to the streets to sleep and scavenge for food. As a testimony to their mother's diligence and love, all five turned out to be loving and responsible adults.

After becoming an accountant and having a nice apartment in Kenya's capital city of Nairobi, Lucy Gacheru was a worldly success story. But her world changed one day in 1997 when she encountered a homeless boy on her street and invited him in and this is where it all began. Nothing would be the same thereafter.

When the number of street children living with her grew to 20, she was given refuge in a church for a short time. However, as the number of children increased, it was necessary for them to move out.

With her own money, she purchased some land in a rural area where she and the children eked out a living. With only her unlimited faith, she and the children survived on meager rations – or none at all. Hope Community Centre was the name chosen for this growing family group. The name was inspired by the scripture verse from Jeremiah 29:11.

For I know the plans I have made for you declares the Lord.

Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Her dream was to continue salvaging more children's lives. Lucy registered Hope Community Centre as an official Kenyan charity but received no funding. It was chartered on September 1, 1998.

Primitive buildings were erected from corrugated metal and wood to provide housing and school rooms. Water sources were limited, but a nearby creek sufficed. From the start, Hope Community Centre was not an institution; it was - and is - a home with family. The campus now covers 41 acres

When it became too expensive to transport the children from HCC to public schools, Lucy began building schools on the HCC property. These schools offer a curriculum accredited by the Kenyan government. This year we were able to buy a 33 seat school bus to help with transportation of the children to off campus events.

Through perseverance and many blessings, Hope Community Centre now covers 41 acres with girls and boys dormitories, kitchen/dining and assembly areas, elementary, and high schools, farming, animals, ample well water, ball courts, a clinic with visiting doctor and dentist and a baby house for abandoned newborns. HCC now has a new dental chair!

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Construction has been completed on a Technical School and there are plans to build a guest house.

As Hope Community Centre approaches its 25th anniversary, many of the original disadvantaged children have left for productive lives which makes way for others who will call HCC their home. The total number of children rescued so far exceeds 350 with 290+ housed on the campus now. This includes babies through high school, living at HCC. College students live off campus in a house in Nairobi.

A Sponsorship Program, begun in 2002 at RUMC by the Joy Sunday School Class, has helped to provide regular funds to care for the children. Sponsorship has been a huge blessing and continues to be a main source of support. Lucy's stated purpose is to continue to provide a family for abandoned and disadvantaged children in Kenya.

PLEASE NOTE: One hundred percent (100%) of all donations to Lucy's Kids at Hope Community Centre are wired by RUMC to HCC. The volunteers and staff at RUMC receive no benefit from the donations. IT ALL goes to the children! There are not very many charities/missions that can make this claim.

Blessings to you!

Gay Blalock, on behalf of Lucy

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***100% of all donations go to benefit the children
who call Hope Community Centre (HCC) home.***