

MAKINDU CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Helping to feed, educate and care for orphaned and vulnerable children in Makindu, Kenya since 1998.

20th Anniversary Fundraising Tour a Huge Success and Lots of Fun!

The 20th Anniversary Fundraising Tour spanned two continents, brought hundreds of Makindu supporters together, and raised more money than any of the previous 20 years. Asante to all who helped make this such a huge success. All of Babu's travel expenses and excursions were covered by the Board of Directors, and so all donations for this celebratory tour go to program expenses for the children. Below is a description of the events. See also Babu's journal next page.

Makindu, Kenya: Babu Juma, one of the original kids enrolled with our program and the official 20th Anniversary MCC Ambassador, and Makindu Children's Center staff held a grand celebration at the Children's Center in Makindu in early September. Current MCC kids and guardians, and alumni too, came out in droves to celebrate the success of Makindu Children's Program and to personally thank co-Founder Winnie Barron for making her vision a reality. A core group of the original children, now grown adults with careers and families of their own, came from all over Kenya to participate in the celebration, and to see Winnie, aka "Mama," again. Seeing Winnie and visiting the



Winnie cuts the cake at the Children's Center Celebration.

Center again led many alumni to pledge personal mentorship to the children and financial support to the Center. It was a delightful heartfelt reunion for Winnie and the alumni, and a wonderful affirmation for the young ones that success and happiness are possible -even for the most vulnerable - with the care, love and support of this huge extended Makindu family.



The original children supported by MCP, all grown up with families and careers of their own. Original volunteer, Cathy DeLong joins in.

Washington DC: The event in Washington DC introduced dozens of new people to MCP. It also solidified participation for at least 2 Proper Safari fundraisers in 2019. Makindu Children's Program Board Member and George Mason professor Cheri Villa led some of her Non-Profit Fundraising Class in the coordination, facilitation and decoration of the fundraiser. The event had informational tables, auction items, a giving tree, and African drummers. Fellow Board Member Kristina Grabbe provided a delectable spread of food. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to spread the story of our program and answer questions from many. Babu enthralled the audience with a heartfelt speech and dancing to the drummers. I think he may have talked to each guest!

Charlottesville VA: The event in Charlottesville was much different. This one was attended by a core group of long-term donors, many past Proper Walkers and Proper Safari-

Continued on Page 4



MCC AMBASSADOR U.S. FUNDRAISING TOUR CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!

By Babu Juma, MCC Graduate

The 20th Anniversary fundraising tour in the United States was one of my most memorable experiences and will certainly remain so for a very long time. Although I had made the trip to the super city of New York a year earlier to present the World of Children Award to Winnie, the fundraising tour across your nation offered a different perception and a whole new amazing experience all together. From the day that I learnt of the impending tour, I started imagining how it would be and I confess my imagination was superseded by the reality that would be.

New York

I arrived at JFK a few minutes past midday Monday September 17th and although there were showers, the weather was not so bad. I was driven to Catherine DeLong's (MCP Treasurer) place in Bronxville New York where I met her friend Dan, a gentleman full of world wide knowledge. I stayed with Dan for the remainder of the day as we talked about family, dreams, past, future and many other subjects. The following day we took the subway to NYU where he worked. He took me round the beautiful main campus of this famous center for intellectuals and finally to his office where again we had conver-

sations and called Catherine DeLong to let her know we were alright. Later that day I toured New York City before leaving for Washington DC via train.

Washington D.C.

The journey to DC was amazing and it seemed to have been just a few minutes when I arrived when in fact it had been a 3 ½ hours ride. I met Kristina Grabbe (MCP Board Member) at the train station. Kristina and I became good friends years ago in Makindu, while she was doing work there. I was so excited to see her, it had been almost 10 years since I had last seen her if not more. Of course we couldn't have enough of each other and we had so much to talk about. Kristina was and still is an important part of Makindu Children Center, she knew almost all of the pioneer MCC kids. It was amazing talking about Kenya and MCC and Makindu. We had Ethiopian dinner that night and I later met Olive, more than a dog. Although I am scared of dogs, I was at ease with Olive, at least to some degree.

The following day Kristina and I toured D.C and I got to see all the amazing government buildings in the city. I saw the Capitol building, the Supreme Court, the White House, the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, the Vietnam

Continued on Page 6

SAFARIS BRING ADVENTURE & JOY TO ALL

Makindu Children's Program is a large part of my life and I had the honor to take a good friend on the 2018 Proper Safari. I was able to share with her the reasons the program is so dear to my heart. This was my third trip to Makindu, Kenya. I was happy to see familiar faces and see how the kids have grown since I was last there. This year we brought stoves from In Stove in Cottage Grove, Oregon. They figured a way to cut the stoves in half so that we could check them with our flight. It was a challenge to get them together but with the help of a few of the kids at the center we pulled it off. The special thing about these stoves it is uses a very small amount of wood to cook with and the omissions are reduced dramatically. I'm looking forward to seeing them in use next time I go.

My main fund raiser for the center is the Proper Amazing Race. It is held in May and is more like a scavenger hunt than a race.



This was the second year and we double in size. I'm looking forward to 2019 in hopes we can double again. The best part of the race for me is that I get to share the mission of Makindu Children's Program with new people. The winners of the race last year have turned out to be great supporters of the cause and are even talking about taking their three children to Makindu one day. I feel blessed to be part of a wonderful group of people trying to make a difference in children's lives.

By Deb Strickland, MCP Board Member

*Safariers Jess, Deb and Nancy are all smiles in Kenya,
raising money for the kids.*

THANK YOU DONORS!

A POEM WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY THE MAKINDU CHILDREN AT SAFARI WELCOME CELEBRATIONS

*We the infected, we the affected
We the rescued, we the rejected
We've found affection; yes, here it's always celebration
Thank you donors*

When we had no food, life was no good
When we had no education, there was no celebration
We were dying enmesh, because nobody was there for us
BUT! But God pin-pointed donors and with their single penny
Set the ball rolling, and yes, things got working

*We the infected, we the affected
We the rescued, we the rejected
We've found affection; yes, here it's always celebration
Thank you donors*

Now Makindu Children's Center is a true epicenter
For the impoverished: and it's always cherished
Now...yes now...
We have love, we have food, we have education, we have medication
Thank you donors

*We the infected, we the affected
We the rescued, we the rejected
We've found affection; yes, here it's always celebration
Thank you donors*

Here, yes here, many of you have seen the light
Our lives are now bright, we have really benefited
So we will remain committed, and one day give back
By touching others

*We the infected, we the affected
We the rescued, we the rejected
We've found affection; yes, here it's always celebration
Thank you donors*

Oh, by the way, just today, we all say Kudos Donors
For the last year's big award: you really deserved
God bless you donors, God bless all our benefactors.

*We the infected, we the affected
We the rescued, we the rejected
We've found affection; yes, here it's always celebration
Thank you donors!*



ers, with the Shebeen Pub & Braai graciously and generously doing most of the work, and so was more of a Donor Appreciation Reunion Party than an introduction to the program. The guests knew most one another and certainly MCP Board Members Michael Farley and Mighty Joshua. Babu again pleased the audience with a heartfelt speech that left many speechless with emotion, and then fun and uplifting dancing to Mighty Joshua and the Zion 5. Everyone in attendance had a fantastic time and pledged to continue supporting the Makindu kids!

Eugene, OR: The annual Auction & Benefit Dinner in Eugene was also a huge success. We were blessed with a full house, some new and some long term donors. We had remarkable press the Friday before and Saturday of the event. A KRVM radio interview with Winnie and Babu went well. The Corvallis Times and Albany Democrat Herald both ran a front page story on our 20 years on Friday. The Eugene Register Guard ran a front page story on Saturday. So all press was very good timing. The energy at the event was electric and the banquet room stunning. Babu's speech and charm had the room silent and captivated for what some might call quite a long speech. You could have heard a pin drop, and a number of guests were crying! Many many guests remarked on the aesthetics and energy of the event, were thrilled to meet and talk with Babu, and pledged their continued support.



Diana Richardson, Executive Director, with Babu

Brownsville, OR: This was another Donor Appreciation Party with a core group of long term donors from greater Brownsville. It was a nice relaxing outdoor picnic along the Calapooia River, the last of the Tour's events. Babu personally spoke to everyone who attended, instead of giving a grand speech. The intimacy of the event was quite special for Winnie and her longtime friends, and she was so proud to introduce Babu to them. These donors were overjoyed to finally meet "one of the kids Winnie has saved" and gladly pledged to continue their support.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CELEBRATED WITH US AND WHO PLEDGED TO CONTINUE HELPING THE MAKINDU KIDS!

I look forward to celebrating 25 years with you in 2023. Asante sana!

Diana Richardson, Executive Director

THE KIDS AT WINNIE ACADEMY CONTINUE TO LEARN,



The preschool children at Winnie Academy, on the MCC campus, continue to thrive under the leadership and guidance of beloved teacher Peninah. Eighteen youngsters come to MCC every weekday to attend the preschool. They begin their day with a bowl of hot vitamin-enriched porridge and a little playtime. Then they attend their studies in the classroom. They eat another hot meal at lunchtime, usually maize and beans, with kale or other vegetables from the garden when in season. Thelma Mae, the dairy cow, provides more than enough milk every day for all the kids. Having the cow (and her calf) and the big garden afford the chil-

dren an opportunity to observe and learn basic gardening, farming and husbandry skills. The kids absolutely adore Thelma Mae! More studies and playtime in the afternoon are followed by naptime. Nothing beats the heart like seeing a roomful of happy, peaceful, sleeping children! They walk home in the late afternoon, knowing they have a safe, secure, loving place to return to in the morning.

When the Computer Lab was launched last year, donated devices included 10 new laptops and 4 new Samsung Tablets. Both English based and Kenyan based learning apps and tools were installed, enabling the kids to supplement their classroom education with technological resources as well – a true luxury in this extremely impoverished region. The Kenyan based apps are an excellent stepping stone to the official Kenyan School Curriculum. The English apps offer excellent opportunities to further learn and apply English speaking and writing skills.

With 2-3 Safari groups visiting MCC yearly now, the children have excellent opportunity to showcase their English skills, by performing poems and songs – in English - at the Welcome Celebrations. Some of the children are quiet and

2018 in NUMBERS

- 545 children received full support with daily nutrition, education, healthcare, shelter, advocacy and psycho-social support.
- 350 children visited the Centre regularly for a nutritious meal, recreation, and emotional support.
- 545 children were provided access to school or vocational training.
- 428 children received brand new school uniforms.
- 216 menstruating girls received sanitary napkins, allowing them to stay in school.
- 116 children and 23 guardians received medical attention. Five were hospitalized, recovered and discharged.
- 545 children were dewormed quarterly.
- Ten homes were destroyed in the rains and rebuilt, benefitting 52 children.
- 58 children received a new mattress and blanket.
- Two new industrial stoves were installed in the kitchen.
- 350 households received a she-Galla goat, and an education on animal husbandry.
- The Computer Lab opened with 10 donated laptops and 4 tablets, benefitting all 545 kids.
- MCP received a record \$368,546 from 868 donors. Financial information can be found on our website. View past 990's in the ABOUT section.
- And much, much more...

GROW & THRIVE

shy, but some absolutely shine in the spotlight. For those guests in the audience, the magic of Makindu is on full display and intoxicating – an experience never to be forgotten!



Thank you, for enabling us to provide quality early childhood education to these vulnerable little kids. You are making a HUGE difference in the lives of many.



COMPUTER LAB EXPANDS LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The older kids utilize the Computer Lab to learn computer and keyboarding skills as well as to further supplement their education. To better serve the hundreds of kids that visit the Children's Center, access to the Computer Lab is determined by age-group in hour-long increments and supervised by staff. Because today's economies, businesses and communities demand a computer-literate workforce, this Computer Lab is absolutely instrumental in helping give the kids the foundation of skills needed to participate and contribute to society as adults.

2019 FUNDRAISING EVENTS

May 11	PROPER AMAZING RACE	Eugene, Oregon	spots available
May 11	SCAVENGER HUNT	Fort Collins, Colorado	spots available
August 8-19	PROPER SAFARI	Kenya	spots available
Sept. 24—Oct.9	SAFARI & MOORE	Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda	full
November 2	ANNUAL AUCTION & DINNER	Eugene, Oregon	spots available

For more information on our fundraisers, please visit Makindu.org or email HelpTheKids@Makindu.org.

BOREHOLE UPDATE



Water!!!

Thanks to Brian Obie and the Obie Family Foundation in Eugene, Oregon, we have upgraded the borehole at the Children's Center by drilling further down to reach a strong flow of safe potable water and converting the power source to solar. Water and electric prices have soared in recent years. This access to more potable water will provide enough water for the Center, with extra for families to carry home or to sell to the community and help offset program costs. Besides being exorbitantly expensive, electricity is often unreliable resulting in numerous blackouts that disrupt the regular business day. Converting to solar will take the borehole water pump off the grid, and with the abundant Kenyan sunshine, will allow the pump to operate reliably and save hundreds of dollars in electric costs.

BABU'S ADVENTURES, continued

War Memorial, the World War II Memorial and many many other sites. I would later come back and tour more sites and enter the Smithsonian African-American Museum.

Virginia (Arlington, Charlottesville)

Later that day I left for Arlington, Virginia to meet another amazing lady, Cheri Villa (MCP Board Member). I had met Cheri one before in Makindu and this second time we were meeting I felt like we were becoming very good friends. Cheri and I talked about Makindu and the kids and she gave me a program for the events ahead. Cheri teaches at George

efforts in support of Makindu. I stayed with Cheri and her husband in her a beautiful house. They are a fantastic couple and her husband seemed to know everything about DC and America generally. They had three big dogs, but Louis was my favorite, quiet and attentive to detail, like a spy.

Friday, September 21st was the day for the fundraiser at Arlington, I was looking forward to this day. Kristina, Cheri, her students, and Diana (MCP Executive Director) had done a wonderful job organizing the event and it was amazing. More than the expected number of people showed up. I met many incredible people, some past Makindu supporters like Tom Marvel – a Proper Safarian and an amazing photographer and Barbara Berman – A Safari & Moore participant. I also met many people new to Makindu, some friends and family of Cheri and Kristina's and other Arlingtonians interested in Makindu. I spoke at the event and gave my story as I urged the congregation to keep supporting MCC and to find time to visit Kenya. A Ghanaian drumming circle provided entertainment after my presentation and the music was out of this world. It added a great element of fun to an already festive and lovely event.

The following day Cheri and I went to see her horses and for the first time, I got to ride a horse. Riding a horse I realized required technique and patience in steering any stallion. Horses are apparently very sensitive to touch. It was FUNTASTIC.



Mason University and she took me to one of her classes. She teaches a fundraising course and I was delighted to meet her students. They were all excited to put on a fundraiser for Makindu as a class project. Cheri is a great professor. I talked to the students about Makindu town, the Children's Center, and the Makindu kids, and the huge need there, and thanked them for their fundraising

BABU'S ADVENTURES, *continued*

Later that day Diana and I went ice skating, again, for me, the first time. I did not truly ice skate, as I did not have the guts to let go of the side wall. But I tried and completed a couple laps, thanking my lucky stars that there was a wall to hang on to! Before we left the rink we watched some hockey players practice. I was awe struck.

Tom Marvel then came by Cheri's house to pick me up as we had earlier agreed so we can go to an Elton John's concert in DC. The drive to DC was hilarious, we got mixed up by the roads and Siri wasn't so helpful according to Tom.



We however managed to get there in time for Mexican food and a bit of a tour before we finally settled in the arena for the concert. Elton John is a legend and he did not disappoint. We had lots of fun. We later drove to Tom's place in Maryland where we spent the night. The next day we headed

back to Virginia to pick up Diana before driving down to Charlottesville for another fundraising event, this one at the Shebeen Pub & Braai.

When we arrived at the Shebeen in Charlottesville, we met a host of familiar faces, mostly people who have been supporting MCC for a long time. Michael Farley (MCP Board Member) was the emcee and the one responsible for introducing most of the audience to Makindu over the years. Mighty Joshua (MCP Board Member) and the Zion Five put on an amazing reggae show. Many past Proper Walkers and Safariers were there including long-time supporters David Brooks, David Corrigan and his family, and many many others. It seemed like a family affair. Everybody there was very friendly and knew me. They just hadn't heard my story from me and this was the night I told it to them. I almost broke down myself in the midst of telling the story. Michael had to restrain himself from tears as did many in the audience as they heard my story unfold. All in the room seemed deeply moved and pledged continued support for MCC.



Babu, Mrs. Mighty & Mighty Joshua, MCP Board Member

The following day Diana and I left for Eugene, Oregon.

Oregon

The flights to Oregon were long and gave me an appreciation for the vast-

ness of the USA. In Oregon, I stayed with Diana and her husband Ian. Ian is an attorney, as am I, and so we talked about the law. I was also pleased to meet Diana and Ian's 18 year-old son, an incredible young man in his first year of university. I also met and stayed with Nancy Woolfson (MCP Board Member), and her husband Will, along with their beautiful dog. Will had an amazing collection of Abraham Lincoln's literature and books that we perused. We even watched a movie about Lincoln together. Nancy is an amazing cook and made sure I ate what I craved.

The next day I met and stayed with another MCP Board member. Marcia Moore and her husband Casey have a beautiful condo on the Pacific Coast. Marcia and MCP Board Member Kathie O'Brien took me out on the ocean for whale watching - a memorable experience as we saw dozens of whales! Marcia made sure I was comfortable the way a mother does to her child. She took me to a host of amazing places in Newport including a marine park. Safari & Moore participant and MCP supporter Jim Gallant then took me to a shooting range and shared an experience I will never forget!



Back in Eugene the next day, I did a live radio interview with Winnie Barron (MCP Co-Founder) on KRVM. Up until now we had been in constant communication with Winnie, the "Mama" who saved me and so many others from the streets. Winnie and I had last met in Kenya the previous month for the 20th Anniversary celebrations in Makindu town, and we were excited to meet again in her "backyard." I was glad to also meet her brother Jim, a strong fellow despite his age. Jim had been to Kenya years ago and while there we had met. I also met Samira Lobby, the MCP Communications Manager and bubbly young lady full of cheers and laughter. During the interview Winnie and I talked about Makindu, the Children's Center and the amazing positive effect it has had on many kids hundreds of kids in Makindu, Kenya. After the interview we all had lunch. Then Winnie, Jim and I headed to Brownsville, where Winnie has her home.

Winnie took Jim, Rafi (Winnie's beautiful dog) and me to a lake nearby where we met Winnie's friend and long-time Makindu supporter Pat Walker, an extraordinary lady who fixes things. Pat and I have known to each other for many years and she had recently been to Kenya for the 20th Anniversary Celebrations. We had a great time catching up. Pat had carried with her a canoe and boat for us to take a ride in. I took charge of the canoe and did justice. We had lots of

Continued on Page 11

THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 DONORS!

We want to make sure we get it right.
If we have inadvertently omitted your name or have an incorrect detail please contact us at
HelpTheKids@makindu.org

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**THANK YOU FOR GIVING HOPE
 TO THE KIDS OF MAKINDU!!!**

BABU'S ADVENTURES, *continued*

fun.

The following day was the big fundraiser in Eugene and everyone that day was busy with the last minute touches to deliver a perfect event. In the end it was more than perfect. I met many other friends and members of the U.S based MCP board. Proper Safarier Taylor Simmons and Samira Lobby made sure I was comfortable and did their best to dissuade any anxiety from me. I delivered a long speech that evening highlighting where MCC had come from, where it was and its future. I also talked about the effect of MCC and by extension the support received by these amazing people on the lives of thousands of people. Like the event in Charlottesville at the Shebeen, the audience was quietly transfixed with my story, holding back tears and pledging continued support for the kids at MCC.

The next day we had a picnic in Brownsville, where I met more longtime friends of Makindu, mostly friends of Winnie's from Brownsville. MCP Board member Deb Strickland and her husband Duane attended. Duane has a beautiful Harley Davidson that he allowed me to take for a spin around the picnic park. Wow! When the picnic was over and Winnie and I headed back to her home, she let me drive her car. It felt amazing driving on the "wrong" side and Winnie is

an amazing tutor.

With all the fundraisers now over, I toured a little more of Eugene with Winnie and Pat before we left for Portland, where I caught my flight back to Nairobi, back to Makindu and back to my wife and 3 boys. I am honored to have been given the chance to visit America again and to have represented the kids of Makindu to you amazing donors. Thank you Diana for putting together a fantastic itinerary and giving

me a trip of a lifetime. More importantly, thank you everyone for supporting me, supporting MCP, and celebrating with me the milestone of caring for Makindu kids for 20 years! MCP changed my life and gave me HOPE. Your support will change more lives and give more children HOPE.

I am truly grateful.

Babu Juma



WE ARE SADDENED BY THE PASSING OF ONE OF THE ORIGINAL CHILDREN IN OUR PROGRAM.

RAJAB

OVERCAME MANY OBSTACLES IN HIS LIFE AND EXPERIENCED JOY AND FRIENDSHIP WITH MCC.



RAJAB was about 3 years old when first admitted to MCC. He was very sick with HIV and the very first of our MCC kids that started on ARVs to treat his HIV. Rajab had a much longer life than anyone ever predicted, living to about 24. He fought hard and enjoyed many happy days despite his lifelong struggles.

REST IN PEACE, SWEET RAJAB!



makindu

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

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Thank you D. Pennell Brooks, Tom Marvel, Doug Lusk, Bob Poole, Cathy DeLong and Marcia Moore for allowing MCP to use and publish your stunning photos of the Makindu kids.



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