



# Change Lives Now

The Newsletter for CHANGE LIVES NOW, Inc.  
Touching Lives in Ways that MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



VOLUME I, 2010

## New Orphanage IS a Reality!

In a beautiful and serene neighborhood in Nairobi, not far from the famous Mathare Slums, November 14th was a day to make us all proud. About 150 orphans who once lived in a small and cramped slum shanty, found a new home! ...and what a beautiful home it is!

With crowds on hand as well as friends from the U.S. with Change Lives Now, Inc., the new orphanage was dedicated. What great work the donors and sponsors have done for these precious children!

The new complex consists of several sets of buildings made of quality block and mortar. "I am so impressed and amazed at how big the buildings are and all of the space for the children! What a great job!" said David Trufant visiting with Change Lives Now. See Story Pages 2 and 3.

## Taking Care of Teachers

*Change Lives Now implements a medical plan*

Being a teacher in the Mathare slum is challenging and takes tremendous dedication. For many students, especially the orphans, the teachers are important mentors and parental figures and teach far more than math and language skills. They often have few resources and are vulnerable to the many pitfalls and insecurities of living in the slums.

We feel, to get and keep good teachers, they must feel secure and cared for as a part of an indispensable team. With such valuable roles the teachers undertake, we wanted to do something to help the teachers in their important endeavors. So last year, Change Lives Now implemented a medical plan for teachers and their families at the St. Mary's Hospital in Nairobi. This simple plan has already made a marked difference, helping to save the life of a teacher who needed emergency surgery this year, and providing extensive facial reconstruction for another teacher following a recent accident. The cost of the plan is a modest \$750 per year and worth every penny of the investment.



## The Rendille People

*of Northern Kenya & Change Lives Now*

Five years ago was our first opportunity to meet the Rendille people. It is estimated that there are about 30,000 Rendille, living in villages called manyattas throughout the Korr desert, on the border of Ethiopia and Kenya. They are camel herders, and because they are surrounded on four sides by enemies, when they have attempted to move to more fertile lands, they are often killed. When they are not in drought, they may have maize and beans added to their sparse diet, but mainly they exist on camel's blood mixed with camel's milk.



*Women of the Rendille Tribe outside of a manyatta.*

The Rendille, like most Africans, are an incredibly hospitable people. They are honored to welcome you into their huts made of

sticks, dung and reeds woven together. The women walk 26 miles to pick these reeds, bury them for 3 weeks to dry them, and then walk 26 miles back to bring them home.

See Rendille on page 4.

## About Mogra Star Academy

Mogra Star Academy was founded in 1999 in the Mathare Valley of Nairobi,

Kenya, by Mrs. Hannah Wairimu Njoroge as a day care center for the children of working mothers. As the children reached school age, a four-room primary school was added. Soon Mogra Star Academy grew to a four-story

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### *Share the Mission with Us*

**We personally make sure that what happens here counts.**

**Change Lives Now, Inc**

**See story on Page 5**



# Look What You've Done!

Dear friends,

Jan Pommerenke and my husband David and I just returned from Nairobi, Kenya. We had the privilege of attending for the dedication of Mogra Star's beautiful new orphanage, in a lovely section of the city. A stream runs beside it and a large garden provides vegetables for the children. The first thing that struck me was the amount of room... room for kids to kick a soccer ball and run and play safely with their friends.



It has been 2 years since the post election violence devastated parts of the slums of Nairobi. Though the unrest has settled, residual effects remain.

Many families have left the area and moved "up country" to be close to other family members. Some parents of Mogra Star children were killed or have succumbed to disease. This has made relocation as much the rule as the exception recently.

We spent much time going through our list of sponsored children to If your child has moved, you separately with that so many opportunities to to know that there is love always have a chance another child. The good seems to be settling, and the children are thrilled about their new home.

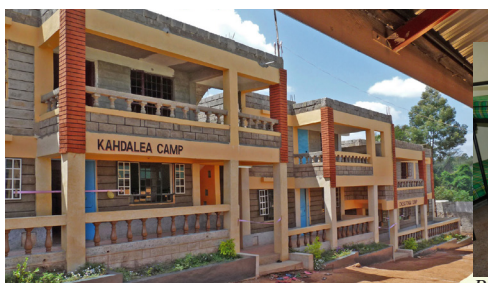


*Tyler & Jan Pommerenke with their sponsored child, Elizabeth.*



*The Trufants who began this mission.*

see who has left the area. we will be contacting information. There are help children who need and hope. You will to change the life of news is that things



*View of the dormitories from the girls side.*



*Prudence, sponsored by Janell of New Orleans, loves her new bed!*

We want to include a number of pictures to bring Africa to you! We brought 3 of our sons, and Jan brought her son, Tyler, on this trip. As much as

***And the children of Mogra will never doubt that angels walk the earth.***



*With "Change hall, the heart donors.*





we have talked about this through the years, there is no way to adequately paint this picture. But we intend to try! WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO



*Life Now" emblazoned on the gable, this assembly of the community, speaks to the generosity of the*

YOU! Please see what you have done! No donation is too small, and everything speaks volumes to these children. Without our continued help the children of the slums are destined to a life of incredible suffering and hopelessness. Disease, prostitution, crime and despair are the colors that paint the walls of the slums. We cannot

help everyone, but *what we can do we must do.*

The Mogra Star Orphanage is such an incredible place, and what we have found to be most outstanding is that it is not like an institution, but is so much more like family. Laughter flows freely with warmth and smiles. It is so inclusive. It is home.



*Monica, Nancy and Catherine - Formerly alone on the street. Three of the first sponsored children, now high school juniors and seniors.*

Much has happened in the last 5 years. We cannot begin to tell you how we have personally been changed through this experience. We

so appreciate you

patience on this journey. We, like you, are regular folks with full lives and many commitments right where we live. But something happened in 2004

in Nairobi. We met joy by surprise! It's one thing to see pictures of far away lands and wonder about the reality of the situations described. It's another to look into the eyes of a child as they tell



*Some of the children of the Mathare slums.*

you the story of their life on the streets... and then walk with them into the slums, to their cardboard and tin homes, where death, crime, hunger and filth are their constant neighbors. You have walked with us, joined us in this mission, and trusted us to bring your love and hope into this place that is covered with tremendous darkness. We have tried



*Inside Pommerenke Hall, the children of the new orphanage, teachers and guests enjoy the Dedication.*

to do that with consistency and integrity. And the children of Mogra will never doubt that angels walk the earth. They, and we, hold you in our hearts. Thank you so much.



*The new orphanage was dedicated in honor of Anne Trufant's father.*

*Anne*

(Anne & David Trufant began the support work of the Mogra Star Mission)

To be a part of these children's lives  
**Changes Lives Now**  
2500 Morgan Mill Road  
Brevard, North Carolina, 28712  
828-884-6834



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There is no running water, no electricity, and the life expectancy is 45 yrs.

Thirty years ago, Nick and Lynn Swanepoel from South Africa, gave up their comfortable existence to live among the Rendille. They felt led to these people, and as linguists, their first task was to develop a written language for the Rendille. The ultimate goal was to translate the Bible into the Rendille language and to empower the people to be able to read it, and then learn to write.

It has been 30 years. This faithful couple has lived among them, translated 11 books of the Bible, built two schools and started a number of "bush schools" for the tribes that are farther away. They have begun literacy schools for the adults, trained teachers, built a beautiful church, and provided basic medical help for the Rendille, as well as spiritual help through numerous classes, Bible studies, and incredible role modeling. Their battered green truck is a common site across the desert, and we loved hanging onto the bars as we flew across the sand visiting the different projects they are involved in.

Nick and Lynn receive some help from African Inland Missions, and recently a Korean church put in

*There are many things  
in life that catch your  
eye, but only a few will  
catch your heart,  
pursue those...*

**Change Lives Now** has considered it a privilege to help the Rendille people. When we asked about their urgent needs, Nick told us that they needed a fence to surround the school and adjoining areas to protect

the children walking home to their manyattas after class. We were surprised. We expected to hear that they needed money for food. We knew the terrible conditions that the long drought had brought...people and their animals good, and when the rains finally came, the needs shifted. the lions and coyotes who were attacking them as they

There are other pressing needs. When we first visited school. They have overflowed out of that building, added school. Now, there are over 800 children in the Rendille incredible! The government standards for all schools, serving the poorest of the currently only 2 toilets Kenyan Government is immediate need for a school. With these two projects, the cost is estimated to **Now** is looking at how



Rendille people we will happily send it to them. We know it will be greatly appreciated.

a vital and life-giving water pump. They had to dig 400 ft. to reach the water. The ground is solid rock. But even with this life-giving help, the needs are endless.



Nick & Lynn Swanepoel with Anne & Jan at the fence project.



Rendille boys milking camels at sunrise.

starving to death, disease rampant. But God is The fence was needed to protect the children from walked home.

5 years ago there were 19 children in the primary another, and have recently opened a secondary school. This is ment has strict even the ones poor. There are for the secondary school, and the insisting on 2 more. There is also an ence lab if the school is to stay open. and the completion of the fence, be about \$13,000. **Change Lives** we can help support the ministry of the Swanepoels. Please consider joining of us in this endeavor. We



stand in awe at how the Lord has used the Swanepoels to bring His love to this tribe, often called "The Forgotten People."

They have truly laid down their lives for the Rendille people. If you "earmark" a contribution for the





# The CLN Story - History, Present Status and Dreams for the Future.

In the fall of 2004 Anne and David Trufant of Brevard NC were visiting with their daughter, Elizabeth, who was teaching refugee women with Am-ani Ya Juu in Nairobi. The Trufants took the opportunity to visit their CFCA sponsored child Hamfrey, who lived there. A remarkable visit to the slum school initiated a desire to help and build a relationship with Mogra Star Founder Hannah Njorge. Hannah grew up in the slums and had no shoes until after she was married. Her mission to improve the lives of the children of the slums soon came to America as she was invited to visit the Trufants. They began charitable activities with an informal organization called "The Friends of Mogra Star." Operating by word of mouth, contributions were sent through the Dominican Sisters Refugee Fund.



David Njorge, David & Anne Trufant and Hannah.

**2005-2008** To ensure the tax-deductibility of contributions, arrangements were made with FaithWorks Ministries, Inc., a 501c3 charitable organization out of Greensboro, NC, to manage donations.

**2008** Due to the rapid growth of the organization, and in order to streamline operations, Change Lives Now, Inc. was established. It is dedicated exclusively to managing charitable activities, not only for the benefit of Mogra Star School and Orphanage, but also for other causes approved by the Change Lives Now Board of Directors.

## Financial Report

Fiscal Year 2008-2009(from IRS on 10/02/2009, Form 990)

<b>Income</b>	
Building income	44,650.00
Sponsorships	95,747.31
General donations	6,121.00
Scholarships	11,100.00
Urgent Needs	10,047.97
Interest income	311.11
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>167,977.39</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
<b>Direct Support to Mogra Star</b>	
Sponsorships	48,700.00
Building Fund	39,800.00
Urgent Needs	2,110.00
<b>Total Mogra Star</b>	<b>90,610.00</b>
<b>Administrative Expenses</b>	
Computer Equipment*	818.54
Postage and Printing	975.96
Telephone	327.26
Accounting Fees*	465.00
Training*	247.99
Bank and Wire Transfers	527.26
Travel ( 2-site visits )	4,892.85
Site visit expenses	750.00
Gifts for site visits	160.00
<b>Total Administrative Exp</b>	<b>9,236.26</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>99,846.26</b>

Note- Includes, but not shown in this statement is \$64,947.97 carry over from FaithWorks Ministries and additional support of \$27,000 was provided to projects via FaithWorks Ministries.

Administrative expense to income is 5.5% or 4.7% after subtracting once only start up expenses.

Administrative expenses to direct support is 10.2% or 8.8% after subtracting once only start up expenses.

Change Lives Now, Inc. is an official IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit Corp. Incorporated in North Carolina, Sept 9, 2007, ID 918569  
March 13, 2008 Retroactive to Sept 2007

**Contributions are tax deductible - Send to  
Change Lives Now, Inc.,  
2500 Morgan Mill Road, Brevard, NC 28712.**

## Significant Accomplishments

- **Sponsorships:** Over 400 students have been sponsored at Mogra Star Academy for the past 3-4 years
- **Tax-Deductible Status:** Achieved 501( c)(3) status from the IRS
- **Computer Classroom:** A modern computer classroom with 10 work stations was purchased in 2008 for Mogra Star Academy
- **Teacher Medical Plan:** A very successful medical plan was implemented for teachers at St. Mary's Hospital
- **New Orphanage:** November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the first phase of the new orphanage completed & dedicated, primarily with CLN donations
- **Graduates:** Four students are sponsored for college or technical schools – one university student hopes to attend medical school.
- **Christmas Gifts** and have been provided for sponsored children, and meals have been provided for all the students and families from Mogra Star for the past three years.
- **Emergency Aid:** Funds have been provided for food for the orphans at Mogra during the recent period of civil unrest in Kenya.
- **Branching Out:** CLN recently made a significant contribution to the construction of a school and a fence for the Rendille in Korr, Kenya. This mission center in the North Kenya Desert serves the nomadic camel herding tribe. The gift was structured to also provide employment for the Rendille, who currently are experiencing intense suffering and starvation due to a prolonged drought. Funds from this project will help sustain the Rendille and replenish their herds during one of the worst droughts in decades.
- **Mission Visits:** Three mission awareness trips have travelled to Nairobi with sponsors and contributors to see the wonders of Kenya, and the incredible people and projects that are the heart of Change Lives Now. Inquire about joining one of these remarkable visits.



## Future Charitable Activities

- **Scholarships:** Improve and expand scholarships programs for Mogra Star graduates, particularly to short term, intensive, training opportunities that can lead to employment
- **Mogra Star Support:** Continue to support Mogra Star Academy and the new orphanage while providing assistance and incentives to help them move toward self-sufficiency.
- **Identify Needs:** Identify other areas of need, with emphasis on high priority, projects that reward or partner with local initiatives.
- **Partner Charity:** Provide support for various charitable needs as approved by the board.
- **Mission Trips:** Arrange for other mission awareness trips to Nairobi so that others may understand and share the joy and the experience of seeing how Change Lives Now and other similar organizations are making a difference.



Jeff Trufant on Mission Awareness Trip

## Continued from Page 1

structure with about 24 classrooms and 1200 students. With the help of the Dominican Sisters Rescue fund, Hannah also established an orphanage that now cares for about 150 the Mathare slum. In 2005, ground for a new orphanage on approximately 5 acres of land donated by Hannah's husband David. This new orphanage is in an urban area, well away from the violence of the slums. Change Lives Now, Inc. have paid for most of the first phase of the new orphanage.





# Change Lives Now, Inc.

c/o Camps Kahdalea & Chosatonga

2500 Morgan Mill Road,  
Brevard, NC 28712

*Martin with Tyler, his sponsor*

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Please send your EMAIL address to: [office@kahdalea.com](mailto:office@kahdalea.com)

## Sponsoring Children

\$300 a year will sponsor a child at Mogra Star. This includes two meals a day, uniforms, tuition, books and other basic needs.

\$400 will send a high school graduate to trade school for a year!

## No donation is too small.

\$10-\$50 will feed and shelter un-sponsored children, provide assistance for families, and be used for other urgent needs.

\$300 will sponsor a child at Mogra Star; including fees, uniforms, books, basic supplies, and a daily meal for a year.

\$400 will sponsor a high school graduate through a technical training program leading to employment and self-sufficiency.

\$1000 will allow a high school graduate to attend college for a year.

\$3000 will provide the needed government required restrooms for the new Rendille secondary school.

\$4000 will provide the needed government required science lab for the new Rendille secondary school.

\$10,000 complete the top floor of the new orphanage, provide new uniforms and shoes for the entire school, or will sponsor multiple children.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

All contributions are tax deductible and should be made out to  
Change Lives Now, Inc., 2500 Morgan Mill Road, Brevard, NC 28712.

Anne Trufant (828) 884-6834 [queen@kahdalea.com](mailto:queen@kahdalea.com)  
Jan Pommerenke (864) 288-7735 [forrpomm@aol.com](mailto:forrpomm@aol.com)



*Mission Awareness trip - Joseph Trufant*

Help to  
Change Lives Now!  
**Please Donate Today.**  
Please Share This With  
Your Friends.

### Visit Africa from your Chair

Go to Google Maps and enter the following latitude and longitude coordinates. Note, the aerial views are about 2-3 years old.

Mogra Star Academy and Mathare: -1.2531, 36.8704 Mogra Star Academy is the building that looks like it may have two roofs, just to the left of the court yard. 80% of the people of Nairobi live on 20% of the land. The streets and paths are choked with dust, or filled with thick mud, depending on the season.  
New Orphanage: -1.2355, 36.8446 The foundation of the orphanage dormitories can be seen as 4-5 small brick squares in the older photo.  
Korr Community: 2.007952, 37.494922 This view is centered over the east edge of the Korr air strip. The large building about 200 feet North is the African Inland Mission church which ministers to the nomadic Rendilli. Note along the dry river bed, several wells surrounded by small rings.  
Rendilli village: 1.987805, 37.431471 This is a great view of a Rendilli village. About 100 huts with the camel and goat pens made from thorn bushes.

### Matching Gifts Double Your Contribution

Many employers match employee contributions to charitable organizations like Change Lives Now. Contact your human resources office to see if your employer offers such a benefit. We can provide verification of 501c3 status and a receipt for the employee contribution. It only takes a few minutes.

Sharing your e-mail address with us saves printing and postage expenses that can be spent on greater needs.