



December 2018

Dear Friends of Homes of Joy,

It's hard to believe that 2018 is drawing to a close, and it's once again that time of year where we write to share updates about our work with Nyumba Yanga Orphanage and Future in My Hands (FIMH) in Zambia. This year brings with it a very important update and a call for celebration and gratitude; it has now officially been a decade of growth and support for Homes of Joy! Micaela first connected with the Nyumba Yanga Orphanage in the Summer of 2008, and the roots for Homes of Joy were planted and our first



donations sent over during the 2008 holiday season. We're now officially 10 years in, and have raised over a quarter of a million dollars to support the girls at Nyumba Yanga and Future in My Hands. This funding has allowed us to prioritize girls' education within the private school system for all of the girls living at both of our projects over the past 10 years, from Kindergarten up until high school graduation. It has also allowed us to finance important Special Projects identified based on needs assessments conducted by local staff on the ground. Some of our favourite Special Projects to date have involved purchasing playground equipment, new bunk beds, ovens, library books, repairing water pipes, supporting House Mother salaries, and most recently, beginning our Post-Secondary Scholarship and Bursary Fund. We are also so incredibly grateful to our 33 child sponsors, many of whom have been sponsoring girls since all the way back to our

beginnings as an organization. This long-term and sustainable funding has made a pivotal difference to the girls we care for. Thank you again to each and every one of you.....this decade of growth, support, and hope would not have been possible without you, and we can't wait to see what's next for the girls we support and care for with your help!

Project Updates:

Nyumba Yanga Orphanage:

When we begin the new school year (which occurs in January in Zambia), we will have 37 girls living at the Nyumba Yanga Orphanage and attending school at Ndabeni Private School. This includes 10 girls who are new to the Orphanage this year. In September of this year, officers from the Zambian Ministry of Community Development: Mother and Child Health and Social Welfare visited Nyumba Yanga and conducted a thorough review of the standard of care there. This included interviewing Sisters, staff, and House Mothers, as well as 10 of the girls themselves. We were thrilled to hear that they passed the inspection with flying colours, and the officers specifically commented on the strong loving atmosphere of being connected as one family that was present at Nyumba Yanga. In general, the girls continue to perform well academically, and receive extra tutoring when needed. The girls at Nyumba Yanga also continue to receive awards, recognition, and opportunities to perform within the local community as a Nyumba Yanga Choir. The vegetable garden at Nyumba Yanga also continues to flourish, and the House Mothers reported that this year yielded the best maize crop they've seen to date.



Future In My Hands:

As we head into 2019, we will be supporting 14 girls at Future In My Hands (including 13 girls in Grades 8-12, and 1 in Nursing College). The girls at FIMH also continue to perform well academically, and this year more local children have been integrated into the classes taught at FIMH. This is a wonderful opportunity for the FIMH girls to build new social connections, as well as offering local children who would not have an opportunity to attend school a chance to do so (as the site is quite rural without any other schools within walking distance). 2018 has also seen a great deal of physical growth at FIMH including the completion of a church on site, and new classrooms as well. Our successful 2018 Special Project contributed 10 new wooden desks to the newest classroom at FIMH. Construction has now begun on a new library for all of the girls to use, a computer/Internet Centre, and a central meeting hall space. Another highlight of the year involved

two Zambian Sisters who have been living at FIMH for the past 3 years (Sr. Ruth and Sr. Annetty) taking their first vows. The CIC Sisters are originally based in India and take wonderful care of the girls, but it's an important step in terms of the growth of the project and the long-term psychosocial development of the girls (particularly with regards to learning their cultural/linguistic

histories) to have Zambian Sisters joining the congregation for the first time. Another important update is that thanks to your support through our Post-Secondary Scholarship and Bursary Fund, Memory was able to attend her first year at Nursing College (see photo). She has done exceptionally well and was near the top of her class at the end of her first term. She is currently writing her final exams for Year 1, and hopes to begin her second year of College in January 2019. Memory is now able to take blood and give injections independently, as well as conducting HIV tests. Micaela recently asked Memory how she felt about her first year of Nursing College and her reply was, "It has been incredible. I've learned to help, to hold, to save, to teach, and to inspire. It's who I have become; nursing is my calling and my passion now." We are so proud of Memory's growth and hard work, as she has been supported by Homes of Joy since 2008.

We are also currently in the process of planning a site visit for June 2019, and look forward to providing you with detailed updates and photos from both projects next Summer. We continue to experience challenges with international mail, and as such are looking forward to being able to conduct sponsorship updates in person with the girls at both projects.

A Call for Support:

As you can see from the updates above, both of our projects are continuing to grow and change, and we can't wait to see where 2019 takes us. Transparency and ethical use of funds received remain at the core of our work; as we know just how important of a difference they can make on the ground for both of our projects. Given that 132 million girls worldwide remain unable to access and attend school (34.3 million girls of primary school age and 98 million of secondary school age), continuing to prioritize education within the private sector for the girls at Nyumba Yanga and FIMH remains our top organizational priority. We humbly ask you to consider supporting Homes of Joy this holiday giving season if you have not already done so. We have not yet met our fundraising goals for 2018, and unfortunately the state of our weak Canadian Dollar makes a successful holiday season fundraising campaign crucial for us this year.

We have decided to carry-over 2 of our 2018 Special Projects into 2019, as the Sisters have identified that both remain key priorities for the year ahead. As such, we are seeking to raise another \$2000 CDN to purchase stationary and school supplies for the girls at both projects. Our second Special Project will involve a goal of raising another \$3000 for our Post-Secondary Scholarship and Bursary Fund. This would allow us to fund Memory's second year of Nursing College (including room and board), as well as creating base funding for other girls who will be ready for Post-Secondary within the next couple of years.



As always, every dollar donated goes directly to support the care and education of the girls, unless you designate it to be used otherwise (i.e. if you specify that all or part of your donation is used to help cover our admin, travel, or one of our Special Project costs). You can donate online at www.homesofjoy.org/donate, or by cheque (payable to Homes of Joy). Anything that you can contribute would be greatly appreciated, and tax receipts will be issued for all donations over \$20. Please also consider passing on this letter to family or friends whom you think might be interested in our work. We are also always in search of new child sponsors. Child sponsorship costs \$45.00/ month or \$540.00 annually, and is an incredible way to provide long-term sustainable support.

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to those who have recently donated, to all of our current child sponsors, and to all of you who have contributed to our growth and development throughout the past decade.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and JOY-filled holiday season,

The Homes of Joy Board of Directors

Micaela Roughton

Mary Roughton

Fr. Stéphane Pouliot

Shaniqua Liston

Susan Visneski

