



HOPE KATOLO NURSERY SCHOOL, KENYA

The development of an idea:

In 2007, four Australian girls embarked on the adventure of a lifetime, volunteering for three months in rural Western Kenya. In one of the villages, Katolo (near Kisumu) the girls met an inspiring woman, Georgina Malanga. Georgina was a volunteer at the local medical dispensary in the afternoons and attempted to run a nursery school for 47 young children (kindergarten & below) in her local church in the mornings.

The girls were very concerned to find that many of the children were malnourished and had been orphaned due to the high prevalence of HIV AIDS in Katolo. Georgina attempted to feed the children maize meal, but as a widow of three and with her own health concerns she was limited by her own small volunteer wage (approx. \$1). For many of the children, the meagre meal that Georgina could occasionally provide was their only source of nutrition. The girls decided they had to do whatever they could to help Georgina feed and educate the children of Katolo, and so the Hope Katolo Nursery School project was launched.



Making an idea a reality:

Whilst in Africa, together with the two other girls from their volunteer group, Leanne Pinfold and Melanie Haley (nee Pinfold) bought land adjacent to the church in Katolo with plans to build a new nursery school for these children.

Since then, with lots of hard work and generous support, Leanne and Melanie have managed to raised over \$120,000 AUD and built a three-room nursery school, kitchen with two fire ovens, pit toilets and water tanks. The classrooms have been furnished with desk and chairs and learning materials have been purchased. The land has been fenced to provide the children with a secure and safe environment. The kindergarten has grown from 47 children in 2007 to approximately 80 children every year now. The nursery school is also now solar powered and boasts its own vegetable garden and small collection of farm animals which help supplement the daily feeding program.

Continued Funding:

All money raised goes directly to the ongoing development and maintenance of the kindergarten. The kindergarten now employs Georgina as head teacher and project coordinator, four other teachers, two cooks and one night watchman. All the staff, with the exception of the night watchman, are women from the local village. In addition to providing school clothing and school shoes the children are fed one nutritious meal and one snack per day whilst at the kindergarten.

Now that the main buildings have been completed, further funds will be required to continue the food program, teachers and cooks' salaries and school supplies. Considerable work must also be done to develop projects that enhance the nursery school's capacity to become self-sustainable in the future.

Find us on Facebook or contact us on hopekatolo@hotmail.com



Melanie Haley
Australian-based
Coordinator of
Hope Katolo
Nursery School



Georgina Malanga
Founder and
head teacher at
Hope Katolo
Nursery school



Leanne Pinfold
Australian-based
Coordinator of
Hope Katolo
Nursery School



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