



Nambale Magnet School

A home, a school and a future for children made destitute by the AIDS crisis

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FEATURED STUDENT



M.O. is in Ms. Aquila's Primary 1 class at the Nambale Magnet School (first grade) and came to the school in 2012. He is 7 years old and was the class prefect last year.

Mathematics is his favorite subject, and he loves football and the color blue. Like many of his class-mates, he loves to eat chapati and beans.

M.O. is part of the drama club - and his goal is to become an engineer.

We need more engineers who love drama!

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June, 2013

WIDENING THE NETWORK OF SUPPORT

This space usually features news from the Nambale Magnet School - what the children are up to, what new classes or support activities have been added. In upcoming months we'll hear from summer visitors. Visiting the school is an investment that will repay you, your community - and the school - many times over.

Yet many of us who support the Nambale Magnet school and its vision will not have an opportunity to go. I have been a supporter since the concept for a residential school in Western Kenya for children whose parents had died of AIDS was just being conceived in Evalyn Wakhusama's prayer and imagination. I was involved in the early planning and fundraising. And I have not visited.

But I have helped contribute to the life of the School and its children. **There are many ways for all of us to deepen our engagement in the life of the Nambale Magnet School and to widen the network of those who want to see its students thrive.** We start by recognizing that we are a part of the community of care for these children, destitute and at risk to the ills of extreme poverty. When we see them as being as valuable in God's sight as our own children, grandchildren, neighbors, families and communities, our commitment to care for them becomes natural, even inevitable. When we take the time to see their faces, learn their stories, and include them in our prayers, this connection becomes even more real and we want to get more involved.

Many people on many continents offer their gifts and resources - and are nurtured in turn by the grace that happens daily in Nambale. Here are some ways to introduce friends and colleagues to the School:

Creative fundraising -

We all know about bake sales and charity races. But we also can create our own opportunities for raising money and awareness of the Nambale Magnet School. A few years ago, I entered a month-long **fitness challenge** at my gym. I decided to invite people I knew - fellow congregants, colleagues, friends - to pledge per mile, with donations going to NMS. I got more fit and raised about \$3,000 - **and** introduced many new people to the School. They got to hear about it even if they chose not to pledge. **Set your own fitness challenge**, yoga day, or spiritual discipline, invite others to join you and pledge support - OR create a road race or other event and invite others to participate.



Howard Levine, a long-time supporter of the School, created a **music scholarship** to honor his law partner's son, who died recently. Many people who would not otherwise have heard about Nambale will find themselves part of these children's lives through giving to the Quinn Rooney scholarship fund.



Loretta Smith has been **collecting redeemable bottles and cans** from her neighbors and gathered enough over a few years to help fund the laundry room at NMS.

Here are some other ways to widen the network and invite support:

- **Post periodic updates** on your

Facebook page or Twitter, with a link to the [donations page](#) on the NMS website

- **Host a gathering of friends** to learn more about the School (We can provide a speaker and/or materials)
- **Write an article** for your church or club or alumni newsletter about the Nambale Magnet School and why you support it
- **Ask for donations** to the School in lieu of birthday or holiday gifts
- **Pray for the School** in small gatherings and add it to your church's prayer list
- **Order NMS Calendars** to give out next Christmas
- **Obtain a matching grant** through your employer's program, if that is available

We always welcome people with skills in grant-writing, social media, marketing, strategic planning and board development... let us know if you'd like to get involved in these or other ways.

Whatever you decide to do - share the idea! Someone else may want to copy you.

Our goal is to enable the Nambale Magnet School to grow and to become self-

sustaining. If we cast the net wide enough, and invite those we know to share in our passion for this school and its children, they will be able to educate generations of leaders that can help bring to Kenya the kind of freedom, democracy and prosperity we often take for granted here. The children of Nambale are our brothers and sister, sons and daughters. Let's introduce more people to them.



By Kate Heichler, Secretary, WIKS-USA Board of Directors

Blessings!

The WIKS-USA Team