

St. Lucia Newsletter

St. Lucia Hospice and Orphanage
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Dear Friends of St. Lucia,

Since the very beginning of St. Lucia we have been blessed with the help of close friends and passionate volunteers. It was only five years ago that God gave me the strength to stand up and start fighting HIV/AIDS, and look how much we have accomplished together in such a short amount of time.

We now have sixteen orphans and one adult staying in our St. Lucia home; we have over sixty outpatients who are checked up on by our growing Home Base Care staff; and we will soon move into a beautiful new home.

There is no greater blessing than family, and in spite of all the hardships and challenges we have met along this bumpy road, our family has only gotten larger, stronger, and healthier. We have given a permanent home and happiness to those discriminated against because of their HIV status. With the help of God and volunteers, I can only imagine where we will be in five more years. Thank you all so much for helping fight for life, and fight for happiness.



With Love,

Winfreda Mwashala, RN

Founder and Executive Director

At The Orphanage

We would like to welcome two newcomers into our St. Lucia home. Both Joakim and Cecilia have entered the orphanage in the past few months.

After his parents passed away from AIDS, **Joakim** was moved from relative to relative until one dropped him off at the doorstep of Imara, a local office complex devoted to HIV/AIDS work. Imara, incapable of caring for the four-year-old, called Winfreda while St. Lucia was at full occupancy. The plan was to admit Joakim to St. Lucia and then discharge him after the staff of nurses got him healthy. But discharge to whom? Joakim was arrived in a horrible condition: he looks as if he is one-year-old, he is non-verbal, and

he cannot walk. It was clear that space needed to be found to keep Joakim in the care of St. Lucia.

Cecilia, age nine, attends the successful St. Jude's School, which provides education for thousands of the poorest children in Tanzania so they can qualify for national exams. But after Cecilia's mother (Cecilia's father's second wife) passed away from AIDS and her father's first wife didn't want to care for Cecilia, Cecilia fell sick. Cecilia was admitted to Mount Meru Hospital. Once she had been discharged her father's first wife would not accept Cecilia into their home. St. Jude's School contacted St. Lucia because Cecilia had now where else to go.



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*Fighting the stigma of
HIV/AIDS since 2002*

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.stluciahospiceandorphanage.org

Questions?
Contact in the US:
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Home Base Care (HBC)



Four-year-old **Mikado**, three-year-old **Datifa**, and one-year-old **Kevin** were home alone eating some cold Ugali their mother had left them the day before. Once her husband died from AIDS, Lucia started prostituting herself for alcohol money. She continues to spread the disease while neglecting her children. HBC is looking into solutions.



Julian is a thirty-year-old rape victim with mental handicaps. She is unable to care for her two children and her frustrated mother can no longer take care of Julian. HBC is looking into Mental Health Experts who could help train Julian in essential life functions so that she can live a healthy life.



Daniel Ernest is a ten-year-old orphan living with his four siblings and ninety-two-year-old grandmother. He cannot afford the \$3 tuition fee to attend primary school. HBC is petitioning village leaders to exempt all orphans from school tuition fees so they can get the education they deserve.



Mr. **Annania** Buranot is a great St. Lucia HBC success story. We met up with Mr. Annania in the nice home he built before he was sick,

where he was preparing food for his children returning from school. Annania was admitted to St. Lucia and later to Mount Meru Hospital, but is now exercising every day and living happily as an HIV-positive man.

Village Meetings and Testing



On July 7th St. Lucia staff talked to residents of Moshono Village about HIV prevention, safe care for those living with the disease, and the importance of honesty with your sexual partner. The staff successfully tested twenty-eight people and handed out condoms. St. Lucia staff talks at village meetings with the hope of eventually eliminating the stigma that is associated with HIV.

Sponsorship and Future Plans

Want to sponsor a St. Lucia child?
Moody, Hilda, Nasma, and Connie need funds to start attending school.

Fees include:

- Private or Public School tuition.
- Food
- Uniform
- Transportation

St. Lucia is in the planning stages of starting a **sustainable income program** for the outpatients who cannot get jobs because of their HIV status. HBC is looking to donors for the purchase of chickens and vegetable seeds to replace unsustainable food donations to the patients.

**Please contact us if you are
interested in becoming a St.
Lucia Donor.**