



November 2024

Supporting orphans and vulnerable children

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Bakhita Charities.

Each year at this time, we begin to prepare for our February visit to South Africa. This month-long visit keeps us connected with the children being helped and the Sisters who look after them.

The past year has brought a few changes that we wish to share with you.

◆ **Commitment** — *When the Bakhita Village Home closed in 2017, we committed to support all the girls living there through high school. The last of those girls, Makuta, will enter St. Brendan's High School in January 2025. When she graduates in 2029, our total commitment will be met.*



◆ **Scholarships** — *Our partners in mission, the Sacred Heart Sisters, often make us aware of a very bright child whose family cannot afford to send her to St. Brendan's. During our visit, we interview this child and visit her home. If appropriate, Bakhita Charities provides the funding for her to attend St. Brendan's.*

◆ **Boarding Hostels** — *These buildings house hundreds of learners and require ongoing maintenance. Bakhita Charities is often asked to help. Recently, we provided funding for water heaters and shower heads for both the girls and boys buildings.*

◆ **Computers** — *All Bakhita girls, and many other St. Brendan's learners, have no access to the computers necessary for schoolwork. This year, Bakhita Charities awarded a grant to furnish a computer room and equip it with computers, printers, and Internet access. Our colleague, Sr. Fualosa, supervises and provides assistance to keep the project running smoothly.*

So in addition to maintaining our commitment to the original Bakhita girls, this ministry is evolving to some new initiatives. The villages around St. Brendan's are some of the poorest in the country and there is always more work to do. Our focus continues to be education.

Nowadays, people often observe that we are getting old and they ask, "How long will you keep Bakhita Charities going?" Our reply is always, "As long as we are able." Your ongoing support makes it possible.

Blessings,

Maggie & John Williams

Donate Today

The work of Bakhita Charities is made possible by your gifts. We are grateful for each donation. The contributions that you make do incredible things for so many children and young adults. Your support helps to keep Bakhita Charities strong.

We personally pay all expenses so 100% of your donation goes directly to the those in need. \$1 per day provides food for a primary school girl and her family. \$7 per day provides full support for a teen in secondary boarding school or a young adult in higher education.

Their success begins with your donation.

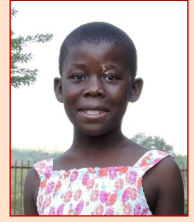


Moshea — A Success Story

We are so proud of our four Bakhita girls who will graduate from St. Brendan's this year. Ndivho, Kgothatso, Bongani, and Moshea. They spent long hours studying, took extra classes when available, and worked very hard.



Moshea was brought to the Bakhita Village Home in 2009 as an extremely shy five-year-old. Her mother had just died and her father was unable to care for her. She was shuffled between unwilling relatives and was often left on her own in a two room, run-down shack with no water, food, or electricity. Bakhita Village was a life-saving place for her.



When the Bakhita Village Home closed, Moshea was sent to guardians and she began living an insecure and sometimes unstable existence. For two years the Bakhita Outreach Team provided essentials and made sure that she attended school. The day she passed grade 7 and was enrolled in St. Brendan's was a day of pure joy for all of us.



Moshea struggled academically but year-by-year she blossomed in classes and in her relationships. The Sisters and Boarding Aunties who watch over the girls every day helped her gain self-confidence and helped her see that she could have a bright future. It felt like a miracle.

Now in 2024, Moshea is going to graduate. She plans to go to a two-year college to learn to be a businesswoman. She aspires to open a sewing business, providing employment and low-cost clothing. Her current business model might not be perfect, but her heart is in the right place. And your hearts were in the right place as you provided the donations that helped make Moshea a success story!



Feeding Hungry People

We are grateful to our guardian families, some of whom are extremely poor themselves. They selflessly cared for our girls even though it was often difficult to feed their own family. For \$1 per day, we can purchase enough food to feed a family. So we will continue to gratefully assist these families. Your kind sharing makes it possible.

