



Sakila Sponsorship Program

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Dear Sponsors and Supporters,

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Garrett Huffman is an unusual child. You'll learn why in the following report from his father, Colin, written after Colin's September visit to Sakila with several members of his church.

"Our journey to Sakila Village started well over a year and a half ago when Lighthouse Christian Center in Port Angeles, WA. pledged to fund the construction of the administration building for the primary school. We did not feel it was enough for us to just send a check, but instead, we wanted to have a part in the actual construction. We felt that by going to Africa and helping build part of the school we would, in a small way, be a blessing to the people. Most of us had preconceived ideas of what we would find, the people we'd meet and the part we would play in the education of the students at the Sluys/Anderson Primary School.

"We went right to work on our first full day there, really trying to make headway in the project and maybe show the local crew of Max, Charlie, and James just how hard we could work. The lumber was green and heavy, making the roof trusses very difficult to lift up to the tops of the walls. On the morning of our 4th workday we arrived at the jobsite to find that Max and a group from the Bible School had lifted all of the trusses into place. This type of kindness and effort by the locals was the norm during our stay. The sawmill crew worked long and hard supplying us with lumber. We helped Max's crew and they helped us. By mid-day that Thursday it was apparent that we were ahead of schedule so, at lunch, we took a collection among ourselves to buy sand, gravel and concrete so we could pour the concrete floor inside the building.

"On Saturday we went into Arusha to be tourists and also to stop by the hardware store to buy a few supplies, including rubber boots to wear while pouring concrete. On Monday morning we were again surprised to find a crowd of Bible School students mixing a huge pile of cement and transferring it into the building using pans, bucket brigade style. During this heated fray of flying concrete and shouting we noticed that all the workers were barefoot in the fresh cement. They were working so fast that they didn't notice the cuts on their hands and feet. Once again they had risen early and done some of our work while saying a heartfelt 'thank you' to us for purchasing the materials.

"We had gone over with the notion that we would be able to bless the people of Sakila. The feeling at the end of our stay was that we had been blessed. Whenever we walked around the area people would stop what they were doing to come out to greet us, thank us, and pray for us. If we went into town, people would wave and kids would run along behind us. We were always greeted warmly. Everyday, while working, the school kids, on break from classes, would creep a little bit closer until one day when Pastor Eldon and I ventured over to find Arnold, the kindergartner our family sponsors. We were mobbed by about 60 kids who



wanted to touch us and hold our hands. After that, every day at noon, the kindergarten class would be dismissed and we would walk to lunch, most of us holding hands with 6 or more children.

“During the last week, I had the privilege of carrying out something that had started 9 months earlier in the heart of my 6-year-old son, Garrett. He had wanted to give every child in the school a present, but we couldn’t afford to do that. He came up with the idea of donating the five dollars he had and asking his friends to help out too. What had started small became known as “Garrett’s Project.” He collected money from the kids at school, at church, and from friends and relatives with the stipulation that the money would come from the kids and not their parents. Eventually he raised close to \$700 in cash and donations, which was enough to buy each student at Sluys/Anderson a gift bag containing a jump rope, bubbles, note pad, pencils, soap, tooth brush, toothpaste, and an original hand-made greeting card. The outreach also supplied the school with 12 soccer balls, a ball pump, more jump ropes and some other school supplies. As we handed out the gift bags, without exception, each student gave us a warm ‘thank you.’ Another lesson learned...don’t under estimate the potential of kids to do big things, which is kind of what this school is all about, right?”

“In closing, I must admit that one of my own reasons for going to Sakila was to witness the joy that I had heard about. In our western culture so much of our contentment and security comes from our material or financial holdings. I had wondered how people could be so content and joyous when living such a rugged life. After visiting with the people and seeing how they conduct their lives, I came to the conclusion that it is by the daily practice of the presence of God.”

– Colin Huffman

Colin, his family, and the whole bunch at Lighthouse Christian Center are a huge blessing to the children and the school with their dedication to the work our Lord is doing in Sakila.

Thanks to you we have almost enough money to get raincoats for all the children. There’s just a little more to go. Thanks to everyone who has given above and beyond your support and to all who are so faithful with your support that we can use the extra for the raincoats instead of for the budget. Sophia and her mom no longer have to live in the goat shed. We’ve rented a little house for her and given her a job raising vegetables for the school in a little garden plot behind the classrooms. We’ll have our annual potluck in January – more details later. Martha’s Helpers have been furiously making quilts for the new children and we just received 24 beautiful quilts from Joyce and the ladies of Trinity Christian Center in Sisters, Oregon. Each quilt has several scripture verses and one square near the top that says, “Jesus Loves You.” How thankful we are to serve a God who loves us!

In the Master’s service together with all of you,



Gene and Lorraine Anderson

All donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to I.E.O.-S.S.P. or pay securely using your credit card by going to www.sakilasponsorship.org and clicking on ‘donations’ in the ‘Contact Us’ menu item.