



# Sakila Sponsorship Program

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Dear Sponsors and Supporters,

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There's a house we pass when we take the back road home from Poulsbo to Port Orchard. You can't help but notice it because it stands in stark contrast to other homes in the neighborhood. The front yard is *full* of flowers. No lawn, just flowers. There are roses, and dahlias, and...well, the sight almost takes your breath away. The homeowner must get a lot of joy from planting and tending his or her garden of brightly colored blossoms. But, there's another joy, whether the gardener intended it or not. That's the pleasure others receive from seeing this plethora of color. To affect your world in a positive way brings a special blessing to you and to others as well. You should be feeling really good about what is happening in Sakila. Jan gives us another story this month about God's love and care for His kids:

*Bahati seems to be a well-adjusted second grade student at Sluys-Anderson Primary School. She is very cute and very curious. Her sponsors, Eric and Kim of Minnesota, thought they were sending a box of gifts to a little girl named Ruth. When we tried to find Ruth, we discovered that she had moved away with her family in February 2009 and a new little girl, by the name of Bahati, had been put in her place. As I heard her story, I realized that she was more than just well adjusted, but that she was also brave and courageous.*

*Bahati was born out of wedlock and no one knows who or where her father is. She and her mother had lived together in Kenya. Recently, her mother had been diagnosed with Aids. Her dying wish was that she could find a good home for her daughter. There seemed to be no relatives close by so this mother contacted a family in Tanzania. Bahati's Tanzanian Uncle and Aunt agreed to take her and raise her with their three daughters. When I visited Bahati at her new home in Sakila I realized that I knew her Uncle and Aunt. They are delightful, committed Christians and will raise Bahati as their own. She has been tested for Aids and, thankfully, is negative. The Lord certainly has had His hand on this special little girl and placed her with a wonderful, loving family.*



*When I got home from Tanzania, I called her sponsors to let them know about the change that had been made with these little girls. I was excited to hear Eric's response. "Well this must be the little girl that the Lord has sent to us for prayer and support". Praise the Lord! The scripture in Isaiah 61:3 (KJV) reminds me of Bahati's life. It says, "To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified." Jesus is making Bahati's life beautiful out of the ashes of her past.*

*~Jan George, IEO Secretary/NHIIH Secretary*

It's stories like this that thrill our hearts and keep us going. When you get this newsletter we will have just returned from visiting Sakila. Our hearts will be full of the sights and stories of the children you are supporting. Please put Saturday, January 30th on your calendar for our annual potluck. Bishop Eliudi will be here to share more news of God's blessings through your support and we'll all have a great time together. We need a few more sponsors for the new children and for some children whose sponsors have been unable to continue their support. Please help us pray for God's provision for this and for relief from the drought in Tanzania and Kenya. The suffering is unimaginable.

We had an unexpected donation in July of about 100 pair of glasses. Our friend, Gloria, who helps stuff and stamp the newsletters every month, was offered the glasses which folks had turned into the eye doctor's office. She brought them over to our house; we washed them up, but wondered how we were going to get them to Sakila. Then we heard about a medical group leaving from Montana in a few days. They not only had room to take them but a person who could distribute them. So we rushed them over to Pack & Mail Plus and sent them to Montana. Sami Butler and Pat Johnson tell the story from there.

*"Pat Johnson was our 'eye expert' on the trip. Just a little background on Pat; Pat is a retired respiratory therapist and LPN who went with us on the 2007 medical missions trip. In 2007, we had an ophthalmologist with us, and he taught her how to fit reading glasses for a variety of eyes as well as identifying eye diseases. She really took to eye ministry and has been to Tanzania three times, not only to the Sakila area, but also with another contact in the Mwanza area."* ~Sami Butler

*"A box of prescription glasses was received for distribution in the eye clinics in the Sakila area during our Medical Mission in August, 2009. Although we were not able to test the glasses for strengths, nor were we able to do extensive testing of the patients' eyes and needs, the glasses were made available for people to try on. It was amazing to see how many people found a pair that worked for them in the abundant supply. Many of the glasses were photosensitive and provided protection from the sun's harmful rays, too. There were also several pairs of reading glasses that added to our dwindling supply and all were distributed to people in need of only 'readers.' Most of the glasses were used in the village of Ngurdoto, some in Sakila and Kikatiti. The glasses that were left over after the clinics were finished were left with Pastor Sangito in Ngurdoto where the need for them seemed to be the greatest. These glasses were much appreciated!"* ~Pat Johnson

We are so thankful that this is God's work and not our own. We enjoy watching how He works things out so perfectly in His time and in His way. We thank Him for each of you and how He is using you to bless the children and families of Sakila. Thanks to all who are sending a "little extra" to help with the many needs not fully covered by the sponsorship funds alone, like food and buildings. We have been able to meet budget every month since we began and do so much more as well. (We recently heard that some other schools around the area are six month's or more behind in paying their staff.)

May God bless you and meet all your needs as you look to Him.

*Gene & Perraine Anderson*