



Sakila Sponsorship Program

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Dear Sponsors and Supporters,

January 2018

Thank you so much for your generosity. You have put your confidence in us to get your donations to where the need is. The 2017 year is a testament to God's grace in meeting those needs: The monthly budget is being unflinchingly met. About 1/4 of the operational costs of the Secondary School are being met by the revenue from boarding students from outside the Sakila area — amazing! The project to retain rainwater for needs other than cooking and drinking is progressing. We will add 50 First Graders to the Primary School this month. And, you are already helping meet the need for 23 tons of rice, 80 tons of corn and 30 tons of beans for the 2018 school year.

Linda from South Carolina graciously wrote us an account of her Sakila visit in October:



"As someone has wisely said, 'When you have more than you need, build a longer table not a higher fence.' As I pondered this saying, the October 2017 mission trip to Sakila continues to be fresh on my mind. I had seen the pictures, watched the power-point presentation and heard stories. I had prayed about sponsorship (little Brenda came into my life) and about going to this remote Tanzanian village. But, when I rode up the hill in and out of ruts in the dark of night I knew God had something special in store. I am still overwhelmed by what God has accomplished through his faithful servants in the past 15 years in Sakila. I had so many wonderful experiences, but a particularly special meeting with Mama



*Sophia continues to warm my heart. This dear woman was rescued after being abandoned by her husband. She was living in a goat shed; scarred from a flesh-eating disease; having lost all hope. Today she is a productive worker who lovingly cares for her daughter and several other children. As we embraced, I saw no scars, only the light of Jesus shining through her. 'You know Jesus, don't you, Mama Sophia?' I asked. She smiled, 'Oh, yes, I know Jesus!' 'Then we are sisters!' I declared as we hugged even tighter. I cannot imagine a sweeter moment. Daily in my mind's eye I still see the beautiful Sakila people—warm hugs, sincere handshakes, true greetings of welcome, communicating with many smiles and getting to meet 'my' little Brenda and her mother, having morning coffee with Bishop Eliudi and his ministry associates and villagers, experiencing Sakila love. And what a great home group who mentored and shared with me: the Selembos, Andersons, and Maddens! As brothers and sisters in Christ, I pray we can make room for another **child** at our tables; or space for plenty of **rice**; perhaps an area for containers to supply **water**; or maybe make time for just **gathering**; always keeping our table supported with **prayer**. There are many ways to strengthen and lengthen our Sakila tables—catch the vision in 2018 as we thank God for His great love, mercy and grace. The Magi came to honor and worship the Christ Child with their treasures and it is He who later taught that, 'wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.' [Matt. 6:21]"*
~ Linda Nolting

Linda will speak at this year's **Annual Potluck, Saturday, February 3rd** at Gateway Fellowship in Poulsbo, WA at 2:00 PM in the Pearson Fellowship Hall. Godwin and Gene return from their January trip a few days prior to the Potluck with up-to-date Sakila news. If your last name begins with A-L please bring a salad or dessert. If it begins with M-Z please bring a main dish, hot or cold. **Tax receipts will come to you before the end of January.** God bless all of you, dedicated to the future well-being and happiness of your boys and girls in Sakila. And, thank you for your cards and for your prayers!

Gene & Perraine Anderson

The Sakila Sponsorship Program is a U.S. Federally recognized 501(c)(3) charity. All donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to the Sakila Sponsorship Program (S.S.P.) or pay securely using your credit or debit card by going to www.sakilasponsorship.org and clicking on the 'CONTACT INFO & DONATIONS' button.