

Well Project Begins

David is now on Rusinga Island, having worked through the summer to finalize finances and plans for the well. The survey – to find water on Safe Haven property – and the drilling both have been arranged. He expects the project to be completed within the next few weeks, before he returns home in October.



(Sept 10) David and Ruth take porridge together before school starts at 7 am. Children dressed in uniforms coming to have beans and rice for lunch. YUM! The hot sun makes even photos fade...

Creating a Safe Haven: Progress!



This beautiful cherub (left) is called “Queen Dora” and comes with her 2 sisters to Safe Haven. Here she has her first dolly, 2016 gift from Canadian friends of the kids, Noreen and Ken.

(Right) Dora is a **healthy** student (Sept 10), coming from her local school to have lunch.



Thanks to support from loving donors, orphaned, physically challenged, and indigent children are now healthy and better able to survive and attend school. Starting with helping one girl with school in January 2013, 30 children are now being served, with many more hopeful of some day joining the Safe Haven kids.

Safe Haven provides

1. **Food** – The year-round feeding program started with just 12 children in February 2015 when David and I moved back to Kenya on our own, thanks to a generous gift from our intuitive friend.
2. **Medical Care** – Children at the feeding program are closely monitored by staff and other kids. A sick child is sent to Dr. Soti’s Clinic (hopefully someday a small hospital), where they are often found to have malaria, typhoid fever, pneumonia, or other illnesses, from which less healthy Island kids frequently succumb.

3. **Education** – This program started in January 2013 with school fees for a girl to attend high school. Currently 30 children receive some assistance with education, including 4 who are blind or deaf, and others who have challenges such as HIV or sickle cell anemia, or who are orphaned and/or indigent.

Related to all 3 tasks above, the **Safe Haven School Break Program**, which runs during their April, August, and November-December school breaks (~ 4 months each year), creates a safe place for children to be nourished and educated at a period when they are most vulnerable. School breaks can be tragic times for children.



What is Next?

We don't know what is next for the children we serve on Rusinga Island. There are so many needs. The well will be a tremendous help in supplying not only clean water but providing for a year-round garden in a terribly dry spot on the Equator. We do know that children are waiting for help.

Some of their Needs

- **High School:** Safe Haven helps young children get a good start in life. David and I have assisted a few children through high school, but there will be many more as our 30 children gradually complete the 8th grade. Without high school, children who are orphaned and/or physically challenged stand little chance. There is no work and no government support. It can become a very short life.

Five children need sponsorship in January. The cost can be \$400 - \$900 per year, depending upon the school where the child has been accepted. The child receives food at most schools, as most are far from Rusinga Island. Each year, a few more of our 30 children will complete 8th grade and be ready for high school. This also leaves a place for a needy child to join Safe Haven.

High school is not free in Kenya, contrary to what the government may publicize. In fact, many children cannot even go to elementary school regularly because fees are required.

- **More Little Ones Wait:** More hungry children walk past Safe Haven each day, sent home from school "for lunch," where there is often nothing to eat. As a child leaves Safe Haven going to high school, desperately needy children pray to take that place. The food and medical care at Safe Haven can make a difference in life or death to so many precious kids. Beautiful little ones like "Queen Dora" are now thriving at school because they are radiantly healthy!

Thank you for all you do for the children we serve in Kenya!



Dave & Rebecca

Facebook: Rebecca Rowson **Email:** Rebecca.Rowson@outlook.com

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NEW Home Address: 360 Skymont Drive, Holly Springs, NC 27540
Rusinga Island Children's Fund

