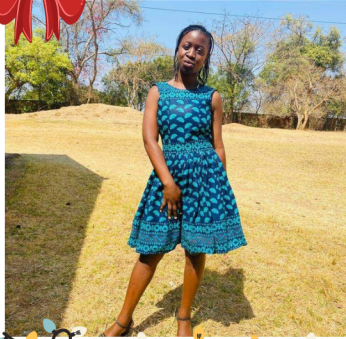


# HOMES OF JOY

WINTER 2024 | NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024



Dear Friends of Homes of Joy,

We are reaching out to all our supporters as we begin the holiday season to give you an update on the activities this year and our hopes for 2025.

Communication to Zambia this year has been severely affected by ongoing electrical blackouts for 3-4 days at a time. These blackouts are due to the extremely low water levels in the reservoirs, caused by the drought conditions Zambia is enduring from climate change.

Zambia is currently suffering significant impacts from climate change. This, despite being one of the many African countries that contribute very little towards global warming (as most of their power sources are water and solar-based).

Despite these difficulties, the girls and young women at Homes of Joy have continued with their education, when electricity is available to make it possible, and while the new facilities are being built (more details below).





## NYUMBA YANGA (ELEMENTARY)

In 2024, Homes of Joy assisted 35 girls from Kindergarten to Grade 7 with their education costs, including the costs of private school, transportation and food. Nyumba Yanga is where the Homes of Joy Inc. first started and we have remained one of their fundamental sources of support over the past 15 years.

This year, we were pleased to learn that there were 6 girls who graduated from Grade 7, and who would be going onto Future in My Hands in 2025. Nyumba Yanga also had 2 graduates from the Reception (Kindergarten) level who will begin grade 1 in January!

It was wonderful news to hear that the girls has excelled, despite the electricity blackouts and the associated increase in costs.



As we mentioned last year, the Sisters have purchased land and were starting to build their own vocational institute on a new site which the Nyumba Yanga Orphanage project will eventually move to.

This project will also be larger (on a much larger piece of property) which will allow for more activity centres, and a vocation centre on the land which has been sponsored by the Japanese government.

Progress has been made on the new facility, but it has been severely delayed due to shortages of materials and increases in costs. This has meant that the new orphanage homes for the elementary girls have not yet been built, delaying the move over to the new site.

This summer, Homes of Joy was able to send some additional money to Zambia, for a special project at the new site. We were very fortunate to receive two very special large donations from longtime supporters. One was a memorial donation in honour of the supporter's parents. The second was from a supporter who wanted to do some more good for the girls.

After consulting with the Sisters, it was decided to use the money for an outdoor performance open stage and performance equipment, a puppet theatre, drums, tables and benches, swings, a trampoline, a concrete games area, sporting equipment, and a Zen nature garden.

In total, Homes of Joy sent **\$9900.00 CAD** to be used specifically for these projects. The biggest item to build is the performance stage, and we are pleased to report that the construction has started!

A very sincere thank you to our two donors who made this possible! Creating beautiful spaces for play, learning and the arts at the new site will bring so much joy to the girls once the move occurs, and we are thrilled to have been able to contribute to the new project in such a unique way!





**FUTURE IN MY HANDS (SECONDARY)**

As mentioned last year, we learned that the Future in My Hands school had recently been designated as a public school. In addition, its enrolment had increased significantly. It was then decided to pause funding for 2024 due to the poor results seen in 2023 for Homes of Joy girls, and due to significant concerns about the quality of education being provided.

We offered alternative suggestions for support for private school options for 2024, but the Sisters preferred to continue to work on developing their school internally instead.

We have committed to reevaluating the situation for 2025.

**POST-SECONDARY**

**RABECA & VICTORIA (VICKY)**

This year we continued to fund Rabeca and Victoria in the third year of their office administration diplomas. 2024 was their final full year before graduation. After they complete their program (in early 2025), the Sisters will assist the young women in obtaining jobs within the secretarial field. Both Rebecca and Victoria have worked hard and done very well, and we look forward to adding them to our list of post-secondary graduates when they convocate in 2025!

**SARAH**

This year we were pleased to sponsor a new post-secondary student, Sarah. Sarah decided to pursue her post-secondary education in the form of a University degree in accounting. Sarah started her post-secondary education in July, and money was sent for her tuition, living expenses, books, stationery supplies, computer, and mobile phone. We recently heard that Sarah is doing very well in her studies and we will get a progress report at the end of the year, after her exams.



A letter from Sarah,  
to the board of directors:

Dear Suzan,  
How are you and your family members  
I am sarah kaineti, I want to appreciate and  
thank you for helping me for my course  
of Bachelor of Accounting and Finance, after  
this course I can work internationally also.  
For a meanwhile am staying with the sisters  
in Lusaka west while waiting for my course  
to start. I want to thank and recognise your  
great help and support you are giving me  
May the lord God almighty continue blessing  
you, your family and your group. Not forgetting  
to thank the sis sister for they support they  
have being giving me.  
  
Yours faithful  
Sarah kaineti





## TIS THE SEASON TO GIVE

The giving season is just around the corner!

December 1 was World AIDS Day, and Giving Tuesday is on December 3. These dates signal the start of our holiday giving season.

The theme for World AIDS Day this year is "Taking the rights path" and our team is reflecting on this as we work to launch our holiday fundraising campaigns! Offering a hand up through education to all of the HIV/AIDS orphaned young girls and women who we support, is such an important way of opening new paths for them, and prioritizing their human rights and dignity within this process!

### OUR GOAL THIS GIVING SEASON: 35K

With this in mind, this holiday season we are hoping to raise \$35,00.00 to meet the 2025 educational needs for our elementary and post-secondary students, and we need your continued support to make this possible! Every bit makes a big difference, and we appreciate all donations, regardless of size! Thank you for keeping us in mind this giving season.

### HAPPY 15 YEARS OF HOMES OF JOY!

This year is extra special, because Homes of Joy inc. also turned 15 this year! That's 15 years of supporting Zambian girls and young women through access to education. So much has happened in the last 15 years, and we are beyond thankful to all of you for following our journey over that time! We are inspired every day by the support, love, and strength of this community!

## Ways to donate this giving season:

- 1) On our website: [www.homesofjoy.org/donate](http://www.homesofjoy.org/donate)
- 2) By cheque (mailed to: **45 Ballantine St. Cobourg ON, Canada, K9A5G8**)



SCAN HERE

(This is a "QR Code". Use the camera app on your phone to scan this code, and it will take you directly to our donation page)

## IN CLOSING:

We are so grateful for your ongoing support and belief in the work that we do. Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season!

With gratitude,

The Homes of Joy Board of Directors



*Micaela*

MICHAELA ROUGHTON

*Susan*

SUSAN VISNESKI

*Sonya H.*

SONYA HARTWIG

*Valerie*

VALERIE TUTTON

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