

Please consider:

Sponsoring a child (minimum of £25 per month) for:

- their living costs (full cost £63 per month) or
- school fees (full cost £78 per month).

More detailed information available on request.

Supporting ongoing costs by giving whatever you can per month.

One-off donations will help us achieve special aims or projects (such as solar panels, affording extra carers and home-teachers) and improve the children's home and lives at Maseno.

"Friends of Julius and Dora Children's Centre" is a **registered UK charity** based in England, which raises money for the J&D Children's Centre in Kenya. UK Charity no. 1122222. Donations can be gift-aided.

If you would like to donate to support the work of the J&D Children's Centre:

To set up a regular payment or to send a cheque, please contact our Treasurer: Mr Jim Dobson, Thwaite Moss House, Rusland, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 8JZ. Email: jimfdobson@gmail.com (Make cheques payable to: 'Friends of Julius and Dora Children's Centre, Maseno').

or... online donations can be made by visiting our website www.janddchildrenscentre.org The process is done through 'Give as you Live', which processes donations and claims Gift Aid on our behalf.

If you shop online, do support J&D's work without any cost to yourself by signing up with 'Give as you Live' and registering "Friends of Julius and Dora Children's Centre, Maseno" as your preferred charity.

For further information:

To contact our Chair of Trustees, Revd Eugenia Adoyo, email: maseno@icloud.com

To receive a free quarterly emailed newsletter, contact Revd. Amiel Osmaston. Tel: 0739 2969 182 Email: amiel.osmaston4215@outlook.com

Please look at our **website**: www.janddchildrenscentre.org

Updated April 2023

Julius and Dora Children's Centre, in Maseno, Kenya



What do we do?

The Julius & Dora Children's Centre's mission is to provide a loving home for abandoned babies. Most of them have been the victims of attempted infanticide, having been 'thrown away' outside and left to die.

We currently have 37 children, ranging in age from 0 – 14 years.

It is a stark fact that most of these children wouldn't be alive without the help of the Julius and Dora Centre. There is no other charity or government agency in this Western Province of Kenya which is willing to take on the demanding work of caring long-term for abandoned babies.

Why are there so many abandoned babies? The main problem is that, particularly in this part of Kenya, children who are born as a result of rape or 'incest' within large extended families and clans, are viewed as cursed and as bringing a curse on anyone who looks after them. So young unmarried mothers are forced by their families to abandon their new-born babies and leave them to die.

To meet this terrible need, the Julius and Dora Children's Centre (J&D) was founded in 2006 in memory of a Kenyan Christian couple who fostered many children in their lifetime. They left a bequest of land in Maseno, in North-Western Kenya, where we have now built the Children's Centre.

Kenyan Social Services has assessed J&D as "Excellent", and frequently asks us to take in more children. Abandoned babies cannot be placed with

adoptive or foster families, because they are viewed as cursed and would almost certainly be killed. Until 2017 we limited our numbers to 14 children, but then the government closed many inadequate orphanages, and without consultation 'dumped' about 18 extra babies and children on us. It has been challenging, but we've made a home and life for them too.

Who cares for the children?

Flossie Adoyo is the overseer, manager and 'Mum' of the Centre. It is named after her late parents. Flossie gives her time voluntarily and supports herself by doing occasional international development consultancy work. She is supported by five very committed paid staff who live with the children, do all the practical housework, cooking and caring.

Many volunteers and members of the local churches (e.g. the Mother's Union) are very supportive, visiting and sometimes bringing extra food. Students from the nearby college Christian Union come to play games with the children and tell them Bible Stories.

Our main challenges in looking after the children:

a) **Primary Education:** Kenyan state education is poor, each class having over 150 children and very low standards. So we now employ our own well-qualified Primary School teacher Grace, who teaches all our youngest children together at J&D. We have managed to find places for the older primary-age children in fee-paying boarding primary schools where they will have a chance of passing the exams required to enter any Secondary School. It is a challenge raising the salary and fees to cover all this.

b) **Secondary School and beyond:** There is no free secondary education in Kenya, and getting a place at a reasonable school is very competitive. Nearly all Secondary Schools are boarding. Our eldest 3 children at J&D have done well in their first year at Secondary schools, and 6 more children are due to start Secondary in January 2024. We also need to prepare them for life and work after the age of 18. The charity Afrinspire has given us some computers to teach the children IT skills.

c) **Food:** The children eat simple and nutritious local food, much of it home grown in our garden. We have our own chickens. Flossie is a professional agriculture consultant, and we teach the children good farming techniques. Rapid inflation in Kenya means that food prices keep rising fast.

d) **Medical and care:** Health-care is expensive in Kenya – there is no National Health Service! When the children were abandoned, mostly at birth, they were exposed and left to die, without milk or shelter for many hours or even days. Considering this, it is amazing how healthy most of our older children now are, though several needed hospital treatment when they were first found and rescued. It is wonderful to see the transformation as they have begun to receive love and care.

With the influx of extra children....

1. We have managed in spite of the Covid pandemic to raise money and build a **new accommodation** building during 2020-21 for the extra children.

BUT we still urgently need:

2. To provide a **good education** for the children: to raise school fees for the older children, and money to keep paying the salary of the Primary teacher for our younger children.
3. To pay for the 3 new **care-staff** who have recently joined the J&D team.

How do we make the most of donations?

A little goes a long way to save and transform the life of a child.

Currently our costs are about **£52,000 per year**. This includes basic regular running costs of about £25,000 per year, plus school fees averaging £930 per year for each school-age child.

The UK trustees are actively involved and all give their time freely, so all money raised goes directly to support the children. J&D's only administration cost is the bank's transfer charge 3 times per year.

All our income is from individual supporters. Regular giving helps us to secure our children's future.