

From Flossie Adoyo, Director and 'Mum' of the J&D Children's Centre:

Receive greetings from us here at J & D! Most of our school-age children are now back home with us for the long Christmas holidays until 6<sup>th</sup> January (though three of the older ones are still away at school taking their final national exams). It is lovely to see them and to watch the children enjoying each other's company and catching up with all the news.

We want to say a big **THANK YOU** to you for all the wonderful support you have given us through the years up to this point in time and you continue to do. Thank you so much and may God Bless You abundantly.



Zawadi and Marianna



We also want to thank God for His unfailing love and care for us. He has watched over us and provided for us throughout the years and as this year 2025 comes to a close we just want to say "Thank you Lord!".

Justice

### Final school exams (equivalent of "A levels")

Three of our oldest children, **Baraka, Steven and Riziki**, are finishing Senior Secondary

School this term. (The photo on right is of Baraka and Riziki studying hard at J&D during the Summer holidays).



Do please pray for the three of them especially.

The photo on the left is of Steven



Riziki, Steven and Baraka are now in the middle of taking their final national exams, finishing on 21<sup>st</sup> November. This determines whether they will get into university, college or vocational training, and shapes their whole future.....so you can imagine they are very nervous!

## School Prayer Days

Most Secondary Schools organise a **Prayer Day** during September/October for the candidates who will be taking their national examinations. This is to give the students confidence and assure them that God is with them, that He is in control and will see them through the exam. (Imagine British schools doing that!!).

Secondary Schooling in Kenya isn't free, so many parents can't afford to send their children to one. Nearly all are boarding schools and are often far away from where the children live. This means I've had to do a lot of travelling recently to attend the Prayer Days for each of our students taking national exams.



Steven, Baraka and Riziki are all at different schools, many hours' journey in different directions. However, the parents / guardians of all candidates are expected to attend, so I (Flossie) and our manager Kennedy both managed to go to their Prayer Days.

Riziki attends the Edward Limo School in Eldoret, 5 hours' travel away. (Another three of our girls – Zawadi, Winnie and Joyce - attend there too but are not taking final exams yet).

*Here I am at Riziki's Prayer Day, in the middle of the photo with (L to R) Zawadi, Winnie, Riziki and Joyce.*

*Zawadi is wearing her brown scout uniform, and Riziki is the one wearing all the bling because it is her Prayer Day!*

During special events at Edward Limo school, only scouts are allowed to attend to, or serve the guests. Zawadi is extremely proud of being a scout.

The Prayer Day is a very important day in the school calendar which most parents ensure they don't miss because missing it would send a very negative message to one's child. The day is so important that some parents take with them their whole clan (up to 300 people!) to assure their child that she is supported by the whole clan as she sits for her exam.

So there can be thousands of people attending a Prayer Day, with prayers, services, speeches and events going on all day. Parents have to take with them some food which they share with their child.

Riziki and Winnie have lovely voices and were very proud because they were chosen out of the whole school to perform a special song before everyone (*photo on right*)

Zawadi also sang a solo during the event.



## ...And those about to start Senior Secondary School:

We have 4 children who will (we hope!) be starting Senior Secondary School in January: **Maryanna Subira, Zubeda Achieng, Emmanuel Shikuku and Collins Andala**. They have just been sitting their end-of-Junior-school national examinations and have come home to J&D a week ago for the long Christmas holidays. They are worried waiting for their results, which will determine whether they can get into a good Senior Secondary School, and that in turn will strongly determine their future opportunities and careers.

They were each at different Junior Schools, and each school had their own Prayer Day for candidates taking national exams. I have therefore had to attend all their four Prayer Days (as well as the three Prayer days for Riziki, Steven and Obama!).



## Family visit to J&D

My own son Julius got married to his fiancée Grace in Nairobi on 10<sup>th</sup> October. It was a very big celebration! *Here (right) is a photo of me (Flossie) with Julius.*

Five of our family came over from England for it:

- my sister Eugenia Adoyo (a retired Church of England Vicar living in Weymouth. She is also the Chair of the Friends of J&D);



- my sister Joan Andersohn (a retired NHS nurse who lives in Oxford);

- Joan's daughter Priscilla, her husband Suart and young daughter Sula, who live in Bristol. *(See photo on left)*

After the wedding, they all came to stay with me at the J&D Children's Centre for a couple of weeks, which was wonderful! It was during term-time, so most of the older children were away at school, but my family all got involved in the life of J&D and spent time playing with the younger children and helping to teach them.

Eugenia has written some of her impressions of staying here, and what the J&D staff each do. I hope it will help you to imagine what it would be like if you could stay here with us! (Though sadly we don't have a spare Guest-room – Eugenia and Joan had to share my bedroom, and Priscilla's family stayed in local paid accommodation). Anyway, now I will hand over to Eugenia to write the next bit:

## Eugenia's impressions of a typical morning at J&D

*Eugenia writes:*

At J&D the day begins at 6.00am as soon as it is light, and the cockerels crow loudly to wake everyone up. (The Equator actually runs through Maseno and through our grounds at J&D, so the sun rises and sets at the same time throughout the year).

Three of our Care 'Aunties' sleep here on site with Flossie and the younger children, but others including our Manager, Teacher and Gardener live locally in Maseno and walk/cycle here daily. It's very impressive seeing how well organized everything is, and how the staff are each so committed to their work.





**Anna Juma:** By 6.00am the children wake up and 'Auntie' Anna who looks after the babies and nursery-age children gathers them to give them a bath and dress them. On Special days when they are getting visitors they dress in their uniforms and strut around, with chest out feeling extremely important!

**Flora Amuko:** Meanwhile our cook Flora is in the Kitchen preparing breakfast for everybody. *(Photo on left)*. The stoves use firewood or charcoal and so she has to light the fire. Usually, the wood is dry and lights up fast but sometimes the wood is not dry enough and despite the chimneys the smoke belches out making her eyes smart. She is a good cook!

**Grace Oyiela:** is a Care Auntie and all-round helper and helps Flora prepare the food for everybody.

**Phyllis Muhonja:** also arrives at 6.00am having taken the transport known as boarder-boarder (riding pillion on a motor bike taxi) from her home to the Children's Centre. *(See photo on right)*. She makes sure the dining room / hall where the children are going to eat and learn is clean. She mops it and cleans it ready for 7.00am breakfast. Phyllis then goes about her business mopping all the other common areas. She appears to glide along effortlessly doing her work! She takes her own breakfast at 8.00am after the children have had theirs. Then she collects all the dirty clothes the children wore the day before and begins washing them by hand (a long job, especially in cold water) and hanging them over the hedges to dry.



**Eglen Omkara:** is our Nursery / Primary Teacher. She arrives at 7.00am and starts preparing the classroom space in our hall. The children who have finished breakfast early try to help. They set out a large carpet on the floor, small chairs and tables, whiteboard, educational toys, books, pictures and activities. At 8.00am classes begin and you can hear the children reciting, singing and loudly repeating phases she wants them to learn. Eglen is gentle, but very lively with the children, and a good teacher. After a while they go outside into the garden and enjoy doing Masoesi (exercises) and games.

*In the photo Teacher Eglen is using balloons to show the children different shapes.*

**Moha Ramathan Nashilobe:** Is a handy man and repairs whatever needs to be repaired. Moha is also called upon to drive his car as a taxi whenever transport is needed, for taking children to/from boarding school, shopping trips, picking us up from Nairobi (a nine-hour drive each way) etc. He is a very useful person to have around and has been very supportive of Flossie and J&D ever since it started. He even stepped in to do the cooking when our cook Flora had to go to hospital recently.

**Edwin Otieno:** is our Gardener and Grounds-person, who chops wood for the cooking, makes sure the garden is clean and tidy, and cultivates our crops. (See photo on right). He is young, disciplined, and takes his job seriously. He also has about ten chickens (which are being fattened for Christmas) and our black-and-white cow to look after.



**Kennedy Mbeya:** is our Manager, which is a vital role. He helps Flossie with a lot of the organising of the Children's Centre. He oversees, co-ordinates and supervises all the other staff, and makes sure everything here runs smoothly and happily. He also does most of the liaison with schools, dealing with any issues arising over our J&D school-children. This is all extremely time-consuming, but his previous experience as a school headmaster is very useful. Kennedy attends the Parents Days and Prayer Days etc, which involves a lot of travelling as we have so many children at different distant schools.

**Flossie Adoyo,** my sister, is always very busy as 'Mum' and Director of J&D. There are always children running to her and cuddling her, interrupting her or asking her to sort out their problems/worries at all hours of the day! She does most of the work 'representing' J&D publicly and to potential supporters, and liaising with the government Children's Office and adoption agencies. Also we get a lot of visitors to the Children's Centre, who come to find out more of what we are doing, and to support us and pray with/for us. This takes up a lot of time for Flossie (being polite to visitors, giving them tea, biscuits, bananas etc, is very important in Kenyan culture).



The atmosphere here at J&D is busy but peaceful and happy. It is pleasing to see.

Now I'll hand back to Flossie for the rest of the Newsletter:



## Comings and Goings.....

We care for 32 children at the moment. For a complete list of the children and who has arrived / left in the past year or so, see the grid towards the end of this Newsletter.

This is **Daniel** (photo on left)

Daniel was brought to us on 3<sup>rd</sup> October by police and an officer from the Children's Office. He was lost and was found wandering around our town (Maseno). He says he lives with his grandmother but doesn't know her name or where she lives. The Children's Office say they will keep on looking for her grandmother and that Daniel is here on temporary basis, but I have heard that one before!!!

## Adoptions

We try to find **adoptive parents** for our babies, but it's not easy as there are strong superstitious beliefs that abandoned babies are cursed and will bring a curse on anyone who looks after them.

However, good news is that we have found a nice couple who are very keen to adopt **Blessing Musimbi** (*photo on right*)

The prospective parents came earlier in the year to see Blessing and they are delighted with her. She is a lovely child and extremely bright for her age. The parents came to collect her from us just yesterday. It is so sad to see her go.

The parents wanted to take Blessing in September but I told them they would have to wait until the Christmas holidays so that the older children who are at boarding school have a chance to say goodbye to her. Otherwise, if the children came home from school and found Blessing missing, they would have been really upset with me and I'd never have heard the end of their questions!

Getting adoptive parents is very good for Blessing's long-term future, but hard for us. She is 2.5 years old and has been with us here at J&D since the day she was born. We'll miss her terribly.



The process of adoption isn't always straightforward though.....



This is **Fabian Mushindi** (*photo on left*). He is a very bright child, hard-working and polite.

His prospective adoptive parents stayed with us here at J&D for several days in September to bond with him, but Fabian completely refused to talk to them and refused to go anywhere with them.

Fabian has been here at J&D since birth and is now 8 years old. He says he wants to stay here at J&D with his 'brothers and sisters'. This place and family are all he has ever known, so it's not surprising that he is unwilling to leave here. It's tough.

The poor prospective parents were also very upset and left with tears in their eyes.

I'll let you know how things go.

## Children in our own Nursery + early Primary programme at J&D

This has gone on very well throughout the year. Our children have been joined in their studies by a number of children from the community who pay a minimal fee. (These are poorer families who would not be able to afford to send their children to a state Nursery school). Here in this newsletter I will only report on our own J&D children.

*In the photo, the children are helping to set out the small chairs and tables at the start of the day.*



We have our own full-time experienced trained teacher- **Mrs Eglen** - and at present also one volunteer teacher (**Miss Brooklyn** who finished her studies at Maseno University earlier this year but has not yet found a paid job).

Here at J&D we ensure that by the time a child is in Primary Grade Two, they are able to read and write simple words and do basic mathematics, so that when they join a state schools at around Grade Three they are able to keep up with the rest of their class mates. As explained in my earlier reports, classes in our State primary schools are so congested that teachers do not have time to spend with individual pupils who may be weak in class, so these are left behind and it makes it very difficult for them to catch up with the rest of their class mates. It is even possible to find a child in Grade five or six who is unable to read or write. So a firm foundation is very important to us.



### 1. Baby class

We have had four children in our J&D Baby class this year. Here are some of Teacher Eglen's

comments on each of the children:  
**Blessing** (who has just left us to be adopted);

**Taji Kylian**, who is three years old and is an adorable, cheerful, determined child. He enjoys learning and can already count aloud and draw well. (From Flossie: You may remember from an earlier Newsletter that Taji's mother - a Maseno university student - was thrown out by her family because she had twins, and her people believe that it is a curse and a taboo to give birth to twins as first born. She went onto the streets and one of the twins died, leaving just Taji. She was contemplating killing herself and her baby, but we found her in time. She decided she wanted to find work and save money so that she could go back to university and finish her studies. I offered to care for Taji at J&D so she could go to Nairobi and find a job.

It is great news that she did get a job, saved every penny to pay her fees, and has now returned and resumed her studies at Maseno University. She sees Taji here very often and will take him back fully once she finishes her course).





**Nazia Nashilobe**, who is three years two months old. Nazia is a bright and enthusiastic learner with strong curiosity and eager to learn, often requesting additional tasks ahead of schedule. She can accurately copy words and write her name.

**Ashley Bravin**, about four years old (She is the little girl whose teenage mother abused her and broke her arm. The mother is currently in prison for the offence).

Ashley was unruly but is becoming more self-disciplined. She is keen to learn. She has a short attention span, but with support and encouragement she is able to produce excellent results.

*Winnie helping to give the younger children their mid-morning mug of porridge outside the kitchen door.*

## 2) Pre-Primary one (PPI)

We have only two of our children in PPI: Brooklyn Avindo and Maximilla Asami. (See photo on right) Here is what Teacher Eglen says:

**Maximilla Asami** is just four years old. She is good at grasping new concepts, is observant, curious and engages enthusiastically in classroom activities.

**Brooklyn Avindo** is three and a half years old. She is cheerful, friendly, and interacts well with the other children, though her vocabulary is still limited. She follows instructions well and is keen to learn.



## 3) Primary Grade One

Philip Etale and Rayson Adams Otieno:



**Philip Etale** (photo on left) is nearly six years old. He is a clever, enthusiastic learner who engages energetically in class discussions and activities. He enjoys receiving attention and thrives in a supportive and structured learning environment, when his efforts are recognized and appreciated. He is making very good progress in maths.

**Rayson Adams Otieno** is seven and a half years old. He is bright and capable and has a solid academic foundation. He is generally liked as he is co-operative, respectful and pleasant. He can be moody, but with increased self-discipline and encouragement, he should do well.

Here (right) are three of our Primary school children 'graduating' (!! ) at a school ceremony up to the next class. The schools like to make the children feel grown-up and important!



## Children at State Primary Schools

### a) Primary Grade One:

**Naomi Ruth** has settled at her State Primary School and has improved tremendously over the year. She is now 'Exceeding expectations' in all her exam subjects and got a total of 585 out of 600 marks.

**Christopher Okwaro** has also improved considerably in his class work in third term as compared to first term. During the holidays, we will encourage him to read more English and Swahili books to improve both his written and spoken language.



Here some of the younger boys are helping to bring a sack of maize flour across to the kitchen.

### b) Primary Grade three:

**Edward Neli** is doing very well, has improved over the year, and is now 12<sup>th</sup> out of 102 children in his class. He is particularly good at English and reading.

**Fabian Mushindi** is also doing well in all subjects. He is 19<sup>th</sup> out of 60 children in his class.

### c) Primary Grade Seven

**Alexsander Odhiambo** is 13 years old and is in Primary Grade Seven. He dropped behind because he missed school for a whole year due to challenges he faced at his home before he came to us at J&D.

However he works hard at school, and has done particularly well in English and Agriculture.

## Children at Junior Secondary School

We have 4 children who have been in the final year of Junior Secondary School this past year:

**Maryanna Subira, Zubeda Achieng, Emmanuel Shikuku and Collins Andala.**

They have just taken their national exams to enter Senior Secondary School in January. We hope that they have done well, and are waiting to hear their results.

## Children at Senior Secondary school

**Form Two:** This year, we have had seven children in Form Two at various schools. They are all currently at home for the long Christmas holidays (21<sup>st</sup> October - 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 ), when we hope that they will all be able to move up to Form Three.

**Neema Milakon** at Kipsigis Girls High School. (Photo on right) She is a very bright girl, and most enjoys English, Agriculture and Religious Studies. Her end of year marks are not as good as at the start, so she plans to work hard over the holidays.





**Joyce Neema** at Edward Limo Educational Center in Eldoret. Neema Joyce is not academically bright, though she is very helpful at home, looking after the babies, washing clothes and cleaning floors. *(the photo is of Joyce washing clothes with one of the Care Aunties).* When others take their books to study, she goes to bed! She is a pleasant girl but has low self-esteem and it is hard to change this.

**Winifred (Winnie) Tamara**, at Edward Limo Educational Center in Eldoret. Winnie is musical and works hard. However, she was sent home from school twice during last term to seek medical attention, so was unable to do her end-of-year exams. Her right hand and leg sometimes get swollen and she finds it difficult to walk or even hold a pen to write. Her stomach and at times cheeks also get swollen. The doctor in Maseno thinks that she has juvenilia arthritis, but another doctor disagreed, so during the holidays I will take her to a different doctor in Kisumu for further investigations.

**Elizabeth Zawadi** at Edward Limo Educational Center in Eldoret. *(Photo on right)*

She loves her school and enjoys being a scout and a prefect. She did very well at the start of the year but has had health issues recently (headaches, hallucinations and frequent fainting spells) so did not do very well in her end-of-year exams. Her favourite subjects are Geography, Biology and Chemistry.



**Daniel Imani** at Nyangori Boys High School.

Daniel is friendly, charming and popular with other students. He works quite hard at school and has made steady progress. He is focused and does his assignments on time. His strongest subjects are Religious Studies, Biology, History and Government.



**Job Tumaini** at Esalwa Boys High school *(See photo on left of Tumaini in in the J&D kitchen) .*

He loves cooking and often volunteers to do this for everyone. At School he works quite hard but is not very academic. He has done best in Agriculture, Swahili and Religious Studies.

**Moses** at Ekwanda Secondary School.

Moses' academic performance is still below average but he is trying to do his best. Swahili is his best subject, and he is gifted with his hands. Ever since the shock of his badly broken leg from being run over by a car, his attitude to life has really improved. He is more clean, polite and helpful around the home.

### Senior Secondary Form four

As I mentioned at the start of this Newsletter, **Baraka, Riziki and Steven** are all sitting for their final K.C.S.E (Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education) National examinations from 3<sup>rd</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025.

All our three candidates are working hard and should do well in their examinations. We continue to pray for good success.

Riziki's and Steven's schools have not made them take school exams as well as national ones. However, Baraka's school, Mbita Boys School, did do exams. His top subjects were in History and Government, Agriculture, Maths and Physics. He is a bright, sensible, conscientious and hard-working young man, and should do well.

## Maths problems

All our children in Secondary Form Two seem to have difficulty with mathematics. Over the Christmas holidays I shall get a teacher who can coach them in Maths as well as Physics/Chemistry. These are compulsory subjects in the Kenyan education system and for our children to have good prospects in future, they have to pass their exams in these subjects.

## IT and computer studies

Many schools face challenges teaching computer studies. Most State Secondary schools have been supplied with computers or tablets but usually these are kept locked away in a cupboard. This is simply because schools do not have trained teachers in computer studies nor do they have computer labs and they do not have electricity or solar to power the computers.

Security in schools is also a big problem. School Principals are terrified of losing the computers through theft because they are the ones answerable to the Ministry of Education for their safety. If any get lost, school Principals have to pay for it personally.

We are grateful at J&D to have a desk top computer and a laptop - gifted to the children by Eugenia and by the charity Afrinspire (we could be having more but unfortunately three laptops were stolen) which the children use in turn for their studies. We are also fortunate now to have internet in the house for which we only pay Ks.2,000/ for per month. The WiFi was installed only recently.

## Our children and their comings and goings

The Government seems to have woken up at last (!) and are now quite serious about adoptions and foster care. A number of our children have moved out as others come in. Below is a list of our children and those who have transited. (So not counting the ones who have left us, we now have 32 children in our care).

The names in Purple and marked XXX, are children who are no longer at J&D

### A LIST OF THE J & D CHILDREN, DATES OF BIRTH and TRANSITION IN THE LAST TWO YEARS.

NAME	DATE OF BIRTH
1. Steven Musheba	15 - June 2006
2. Moses Am'matsi	26 – October – 2007
3. Baraka Obama	28 – April - 2008
4. Tumaini Job	20 – May – 2008
5. Neema Milakon	22 – June - 2008
6. Imani Daniel	4 – July- 2008
7. Lulu Winfreda Tamara	17 – August - 2008
8. Neema Joyce	9 – September – 2008
9. Riziki Rael	14 – September – 2008
10. Zawadi Elizabeth	19 – August – 2009
11. Emmanuel Shikuku	9 – August – 2009
12. Zubeda Monique Achien'g	4 – November – 2009
13. Zubira Maryanne	24 – June – 2010
14. Andala Collins	12 – October – 2010
15. Precious Karren	24 – October - 2010
16. Alexander Odhiambo	16-June -1012
17. XXX Enos Gadi Placed in a different children's home. The institution also supports the child's family so as to build capacity to be able to take care of the child when he is reunited with the family	About ten years old

18. XXX Mshindi Kensley Placed in a different home with more advanced medical facilities	26 – October – 2014
19. Fabian Ushindi	1 – 12 – 2014
20. Edward Nelly	About seven years old
21. XXX Fidel Brian Transferred to a different Children’s home - the same home as Enos Gadi. The two are brothers.	About seven years old
22. Naomi Ruth	03 – September – 2016
23. Christopher Okwaro	About nine years old.
24. XXX Janell Mukamiti Adopted	About six years old
25. XXX Carolyn Sara Aseka Adopted	19 -10 – 2018
26. Duncan Onyindo	About six years
27. Rayson Adams Otieno	23 – April – 2018
28. Philip Etale	02 – 01 – 2019
29. XXX Lucky Bahati In foster care. Adoption process has started	12 – 03 – 2020
30. XXX Elvis Wanjala In foster care pending adoption.	15 – 05 – 2020
31. XXX Abigael Ondiso Adopted	13 – 01 – 2020
32. Maximilla Cynthia Asami	13 – 10 – 2021
33. Brooklyn Emmanuela Avindo	07 – 06 – 2022
34. Davis Jonathan Keya	04 - 03 - 2022
35. XXX David Michael Opinyi Foster care. Adoption process almost complete	17 – 02 – 2023
36. Ashik Ochado	16-07-2016
37. Joseph Miracle Obanda	17 – 03 - 2023
38. Blessing Musimbi	17- April 2023
39. Justice Ushindi	12-May 2023
39.Nacia Asangali	17-April 2022
40.Taji Kylian	About four years
.41. XXX Rita Asiko Reunited with relatives	About 14 years old
42. XXX Marie Ayuko Reunited with relatives	About 12 years old
43. XXX Grace Anindo Reunited with relatives	About 12 years old
44. XXX Mercy Andika Reunited with the father	About one and a half years old

Friends of Julius and Dora, may our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ continually Bless you. The children always remember to thank God for you in their prayers for your unfailing love and support. Thank you so much.

With much Appreciation and love

*Flossie Adoyo*