

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

Dear friends of J&D
Once again I want to take this opportunity to say thank you so much for your continued support and prayers.
We thank God for each one of you, and pray that He will continually bless you and sustain you.
We wish that this year may be a time of abundant blessings in every area of your life.

Here I am (Flossie, on the right, wearing glasses) with Riziki, Neema and Zubeda (at the front in pink) enjoying ourselves at the Anglican Church music festival.

At the back are three older ladies from church who just decided to join our photo !



The children are all at home for the **Easter holidays** at present, and it is lovely to have them here! They have so much news to share, stories to tell, things to discuss, questions and suggestions. It's good to see them relaxing, playing and chatting together. None of this happiness and liveliness would have been possible if it were not for your continued and generous support. We are truly grateful.



Above Left: **Brooklyn and Miracle.**

Right: Our older girls –
Joyce (back row, left)
Riziki (in the middle at the back), and
Neema (in the red top), with
Zubeda and Zawadi squatting.





Baraka digging holes to plant some flowers

while **Moha** (our handyman and driver) and **Manu** paint the dining hall to make it pretty for Christmas and the new year.



Looking back to the Christmas Holidays

Schools closed mid-October for all students who were not taking national examinations. We therefore had very long Christmas holidays from 20th October 2025 to the first week of January 2026. The children enjoyed these holidays so much. We were very grateful to a supporter whose generous Christmas gift to us enabled us have a wonderful Christmas party here at the children's home.



The children enjoying their Christmas party



New arrivals at J&D

Since my last Newsletter to you in the Autumn, we have taken in **six new babies / children** who had been abandoned.

So now we have 38 children in total at J&D (18 boys and 20 girls)

In early January we rescued a four-year-old boy and two boy babies:

The four-year-old was found roaming about in the local market and has no idea who his parents are nor where he comes from. He can only remember that his name is **Brian**. The Children's Dept are searching for his family, but he may have been deliberately abandoned.



The first new baby arrived at New Year, and we've named him **Adrian Avedi**. He was estimated to be one and a half months old. He was abandoned because his unmarried parents were too closely related to each-other (what our clan system defines as 'incest' even if it's between second/third cousins), so the baby was seen as cursed. He is doing well now and is a happy and 'cool' baby!

Left: a recent photo of him just after his baptism in March.

The other baby we've baptised as **Timothy Imara**.

(Photo on right)

His mother just abandoned him at a market. She asked a lady at the market to hold the baby for a short while as she went to use the toilets, but she just never came



back. The baby was placed in Mbale hospital while they searched for the mother but she was nowhere to be found and so after a week or so at the hospital, they brought the baby to us here. He cried a lot when he first arrived but is now settled and doing well.

In February 2026, we took in another baby boy and new two baby girls at J&D:

Austin Otieno's background is that his parents got into a relationship without knowing that they were biologically related. When the young mother gave birth she took the baby to the father's home to have his first haircut. (It is the tradition that an unmarried mother has to take her child to the child's father's home for the paternal grandmother to shave the baby's first hair. If the grandmother or aunt cuts the hair, it is a sign that the baby is accepted by the family. If they refuse to cut the baby's hair, it is a sign that the baby is rejected. A baby can only be rejected if he is an 'incest' baby or the father of the baby denies him).

The father's family investigated, and found that the young mother was biologically related to the father of the baby (even though remotely) and therefore the shaving of the hair could not be done.

So the poor mother and father of the baby were forced to give their baby up. And that is how baby Austin landed at J&D.



Priscilla Vivian Anyango (as we've named her) was only about four days old when she was brought to us. She was also abandoned because her parents were too closely related. We baptised her and she is doing well. *Here (left) she is being held by her god-father from our church.*

Blessing Esther Hadasa (right) was abandoned at birth and brought to us at only one day old. She was tiny and weighed only 5.5lbs. Nobody knows the circumstances that led to her being abandoned. We baptised her and she is putting on weight and doing well now.



Our older children, their education and futures

When I took Andala to school in January, to enter his new Secondary School, I saw a mother crying. She had been turned away from the school with her son as he did not have all the requirements needed.

On the first day of term all parents have to bring everything on the school list (mattress, bedding, the full correct uniform, all the right books etc) and if they miss even one item their child is sent away and loses their precious school place permanently.

I thought to myself, *“Oh my goodness, if it were not for your support, Friends of J&D, I would be in the same boat with that lady”*.

In another instance when a father was turned away with his son, he simply sneaked out of the school compound and left the son there stranded, so the school had no alternative but to admit him!

So, Friends of J&D, what you do for these children is life-changing for them and it is only God who can reward you.

This photo is Marianna and Zubeda arriving at their new School, car piled high with mattresses etc!



At the end of 2025 we had seven children sitting for their national examinations:

Riziki, Steven and Baraka have now all finished Secondary School. They sat for their final K.C.S.E (Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education) exams (the equivalent of British “A” Levels).

Marianna, Zubeda, Emmanuel (Manu) and Andala have now finished Primary School. They all sat for KJSEA (Kenya Junior School Education Assessment).

They have mostly worked hard and done well, which is very encouraging for their futures. Here is some more information about each of them:

Riziki, Steven and Baraka have finished Secondary School:

Riziki, Steven and Baraka have presently a ‘gap’ of about 8 months, because the school year finished in November, but University and College courses don’t usually begin until early September 2026.

I asked them each to come up with proposals on some income-generating activities for the months they are at home so that they can start saving for their pocket money.

Here are their current plans and their hopes for the future, with their exam grades (which run from A+ down to E). It is necessary to get a grade of C+ or above to enter University in Kenya.



Baraka gained an average grade of **A-** in his final exams, which is excellent. He did particularly well in Maths, Swahili and Biology. He is overjoyed with his results but has been careful not to show his joy too openly because he feels that both Riziki and Steven might feel inferior as they did less well. He is a very kind and thoughtful boy. In fact, when the results were announced, I wanted us to celebrate but Baraka cautioned me not to. He said that it would be awkward for Riziki and Steven who didn’t do so well. He tells the younger J&D children that he has set the bar for them to aim at, and nobody should go below it !

Baraka would like to study Data Science or Civil Engineering at university. He hopes that he can be accepted into the Jomo-Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology near Nairobi. However, he would not mind getting into our local Maseno University because, he says, he’ll then be able to get free food (he loves his food) and free laundry services from home !!

Baraka came up with a very well-written and detailed proposal on poultry keeping, but I told him that it would not be easy to implement within the time frame of 8 months and would need a lot of capital. (He'd have to keep the chicks for at least four months before he can sell them off for meat, by which time the whole process would have cost him at least Ks.30,000/. So, he would not be able to break even until after three rounds of buying, rearing and selling the poultry). So instead he is studying, helping and earning a bit of money in various different ways at the moment.

Riziki had an average grade of **C** which is a pass but not as good as she had hoped. She did best in Religious Studies, Biology and Maths.

Riziki was very disappointed with her results and says that she does not understand what happened. Her teachers also did not expect her to get such a relatively low grade. Riziki is a bright girl but I think that she took things too much for granted and did not work as hard as she should have done.

As far as her future is concerned, Riziki is still weighing her options. Her grade of C is too low for her to enter University but there are many good training colleges and courses. Our local Maseno Mission Hospital said that they could squeeze her into the February 2026 nursing intake though it was already more or less full. However, she is not really sure about nursing so we have agreed that she will think and pray about it, and in September she could start a nursing course then or train for another career.



To earn some money in the meantime, Riziki is working on opening a kiosk at our small market centre here to sell hair pieces and other accessories mostly to university students. This is viable as it does not need a lot of money to start it and can be profitable depending on where she gets the accessories from. Also it's flexible as she can extend or stop it at any time.



Steven gained an average grade of **C+**. He did best in Biology, History & Government and Swahili. He is not too disappointed with the grade he got although he had expected to get at least a "B".

He hopes that he will be accepted into University and plans to study IT and Agriculture. If he does not qualify for that then he would like to study law, but that would mean gaining a Diploma before moving up to the degree level.

Left: Steven in the J&D kitchen washing up

Steven proposed planting vegetables for sale during these 'gap months'.

He has already embarked

on his project – he ploughed our small shamba (vegetable garden), and asked me to lend him a little money to buy some vegetable seeds which he planted in seed beds.

When the long rains started, he transplanted the seedlings and will soon be able to start harvesting. He will sell most of the vegetables to us here at J&D (so he will earn money and we will benefit too as we won't have to pay the usual full market rates).



Steven has also joined a group of six young men from our church who offer outside catering services to local people at a small fee. They offer to cook, serve food, and wash up during functions such as weddings, funerals, birthday parties, church gatherings, home-coming parties etc.

Fees at Kenyan universities vary according to the course one is taking and the university attended. For example, medicine and engineering fees can be as high as 150,000 Kenya Shillings

(£865) per semester, while humanities can be as low as 23,000 Ksh (£133) per semester. This does not include accommodation and food.

The Government gives some small loans to needy students but this is not assured. The amount given depends on the Government official's assessment of the student's home financial situation. E.g. if they come to assess us here at J & D, they will most likely categorize us as being well off and therefore not needing a loan because we have permanent buildings, two cows, enough food, and our children attend good schools.

Marianna, Zubeda, Emmanuel (Manu) and Andala have finished Primary School.

Marianna, Zubeda, Manu and Andala have all now joined Senior Secondary schools in 'Grade Ten'. The marking for end-of-Primary school exams is complicated! The maximum marks are 8 points in each of 9 subjects, so maximum 72 points.

36 points is the national average achievement. Each of our four children were above this average, with Emmanuel just beating the average mark and Andala excelling.

Andala is bright and did very well in his exams. He got 62 points out of 72, doing best in Social Studies, and very well in Swahili, Sciences, Religious studies, Technical+computer science, Visual Arts and Agriculture+Nutrition.

Andala was admitted to Kakamega Boys High School which is a very old National School (category "A" school). He was thrilled to join this school. However, he has had to come home a couple of times in the past term because of ill health. (He is the only one of our children who is HIV-positive. Now that the USA and UK have cut foreign aid, supplies of drugs are running out). Also he often misses meals at school because the older boys go first in the queue and sometimes there is not enough food left for the younger children.



Emmanuel got 39 points out of 72, doing best in Agriculture+Nutrition, Sciences, Visual Arts and English.

Manu was placed by the Government at Bishop Anyolo Boys high school which is in Bungoma County. It is a Catholic school and quite good although it is category "C" school. I asked him if he wanted me to request a change of school for him and he said "No", he was happy to go there. He seems to have settled well.



Zubeda and Marianna are very close friends so I have listed them together!

They were pleased that both of them were allocated by the Government to Kaimosi Girls High school which is a pretty good school and is ranked as an Extra County School (category "B" school).

Zubeda got 52 points out of 72, doing best in Sciences, and very well in English, Religious Studies, Visual Arts, Social Studies and Agriculture+Nutrition.

Marianna got 47 points out of 72, doing best in Agriculture+Nutrition, Technical+computer science, and Visual Arts.

However, currently **many boarding schools do not have enough money to feed the children** because the Government has not disbursed its share of funds to schools (there is so much corruption and inefficiency). This affects most state Secondary Schools in Kenya.

Zubeda phoned me last term to say that they are starving because they are only given a cup of strong tea (without milk and sugar) for breakfast and that had to sustain them till lunch-time.

I quickly investigated and discovered that their School has 'gone downhill' and is not as good as its official reputation. There were many problems as well as the lack of food.

I could not live with myself if I left Zubeda and Marianne there.

I had to go through a **terribly complicated bureaucratic process** to get permission to move Zubeda and Marianne from Kaimosi School to join our other three older girls (Winnie, Joyce and Zawadi), who are already at Edward Limo Educational Centre in Eldoret.

The problem we had was that I was working with very tight time-lines because school transfers had an official deadline countrywide. We only just managed to beat the deadline by a few hours! I had to rush around for several days to different offices many miles apart, filling in about 25 different forms for each child, and getting signatures and official stamps from various officials. You can go to an office and find that the officer concerned is out of the office, or that he is in but cannot attend to you (unless you are prepared to bribe him). You can also be told that the official stamp is not available at that moment and you should come back the next day!



Both Zubeda and Mariana are very happy that they have been enabled to leave Kaimosi School. *Marianna and Zubeda (in green) were joyfully welcomed at Edward Limo Educational Centre in Eldoret by Winnie, Joyce and Zawadi.*

Our other Children

All the other children have settled in well at school during the first term of this year (January – March).

We have seven children in various Secondary boarding schools in form three. That is:

- Winifred Tamara, Joyce Neema and Elizabeth Zawadi at Edward Limo Educational Centre;
- Neema Milakon at Kipsigis High School,
- Daniel at Nyan'gori Boys Friends School,
- Job Tumaini at Esalwa Boys High school and
- Moses at Ekwanda boys' secondary school.

Zawadi is happy, getting on well at school and working hard to obtain good grades. She is focused and very fast with her class work. If I ask the girls to write a composition on for example “What I would like to be when I finish school”, Zawadi will finish writing her composition even before the others begin and the composition will be very well written.

Winnie Tamara is going through a rebellious stage of trying to impress other students and being rude to her teachers . We have had discussions about this several times with me telling her that all institutions have rules which must be obeyed. She was eventually very remorseful and wrote an apology letter to me and her school principal. I trust that she won't repeat the same mistakes.

Joyce is a kind and friendly girl, though only average academically. I believe she does her best as far as studies are concerned. She is happier outside the classroom than in the classroom.

Daniel is settled and maturing well at Nyong'ori Boys. He works hard and is focused. He has sworn that he will work smarter to get a better grade than Baraka in his final exams!

Neema Milakon is very bright and motivated. She started off very well at Kipsigis Girls School but although she works hard, her marks are going downhill. She says that she does not understand what the problem is because when in class, she understands everything that she is taught and can even explain it better to her study group of which she is the leader. But during exam time, she finds herself writing wrong answers even when the examination is not hard for example 4x4 she will find that she gave the answer as 24 or something else that is not the correct answer. This is stressing her quite a lot. Neema is a peer counselor in her school and also a school captain and a study group leader. She is well loved by her peers as well as her teachers. We are hoping to get her checked to see if she has something like dyslexia (though there is no academic support for this in Kenya).



Above: a picnic outing to Kisumu with the toddlers

We have **Alexsander Odhiambo** in Junior high school (Grade eight) at Ebulako Junior secondary School, then we have **Fabian Mushindi and Edward Neli** in Grade four in the same school, and **Naomi and Christopher** in Grade three.

Rayson Otieno and Philip Etale are both in Primary Grade two and still learning from home, in our own Nursery/Primary school here at J&D. They both long to join the Junior school at Ebulako but they would have to walk to school on their own which I think might not be very safe for them. They are both very curious and inquisitive, so I fear they might decide to explore some other areas after school and in the process get lost!

Right: Brooklyn and Max

All the other young children and toddlers continue with our Nursery / Primary home school programme at J&D, and are all doing well.

Friends of J&D, thank you so very much to all of you for your care for our children, your prayers, and your unfailing financial support.



Flossie Adoyo