

HOPE!

THE NEWSLETTER OF TEAMWORK CITY OF HOPE



PAINTING A DIFFERENT PICTURE FOR SOPHIA

Sophia* was horrified when she realized the truth.

She was pregnant.

The repercussions for Sophia's life were immediate and drastic. At just 14 years of age, she dropped out of school. Her family, dismayed and embarrassed by the news, offered her little support. When the baby came, and she took up the responsibility of caring for him alone, she felt afraid and abandoned. Her dreams for the future had been shattered.

Sophia's story is not an unusual one in the Kenyan town of Kehancha. Many of the children and young people face a bleak and uncertain future. Only about half of the young people in this region make it to secondary school. A huge number of children – some as young as five years of age – have been forced into child labor. Poverty and squalor are rife. And, in what one medical doctor in the region has described as a “*decaying society*,” teen pregnancies are rising rapidly – almost one-quarter of girls give birth before their nineteenth birthday, and many are much younger than this. Teen pregnancies force young women to drop out of school, enter into early, often abusive, marriages, and curtail any opportunities they may have for productive employment. Another shocking development has been the ‘marriage’ of young, vulnerable girls to older, childless women, with the sole purpose that they bear children on their behalf.

“A whole generation is being lost to early pregnancies,” shares Hilda Boke, who coordinates City of Hope's leadership programs with young women. “Suicide rates among teenage girls are increasing.”

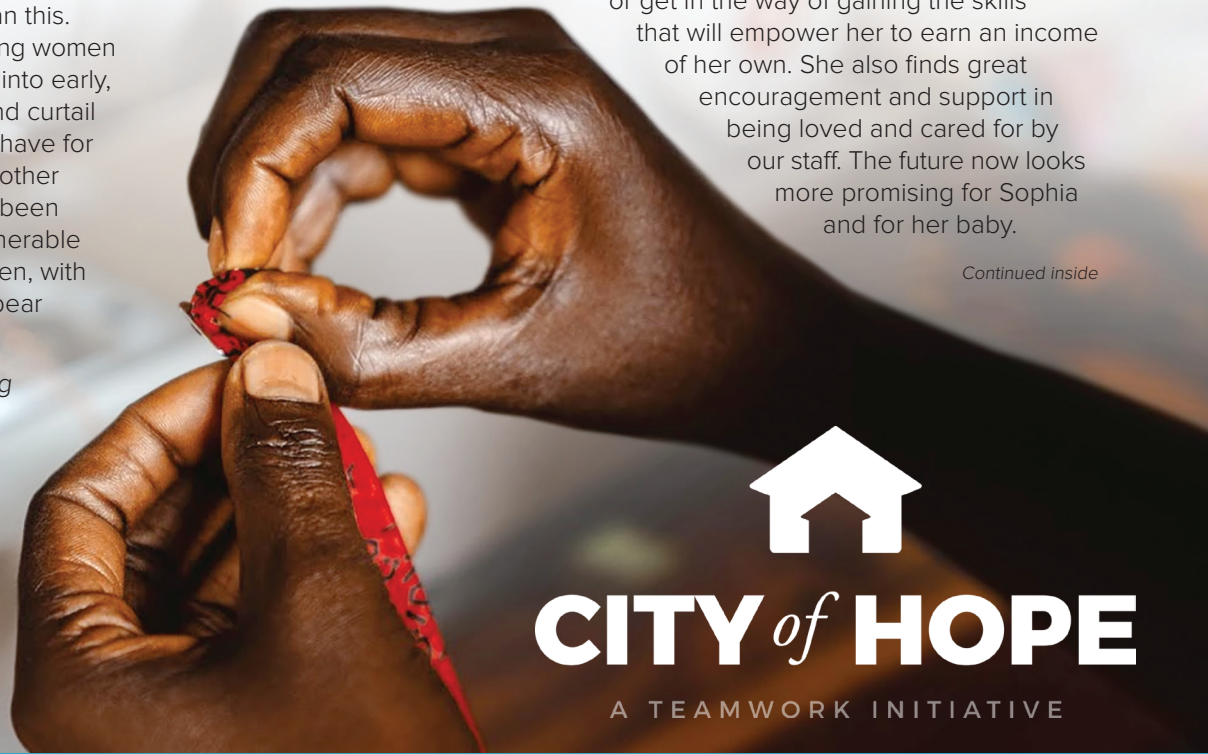
*Name changed for privacy reasons

These girls urgently need life-skills, empowerment, training, and hope. As part of this, they need trauma-informed care. We must be painting a different picture for them. What has happened to these girls is wrong, but all is not lost.”

We have felt God's call to respond to this need. As a result, a new women's empowerment program – building on the huge success of the similar program at City of Hope - has been launched in Kehancha. Here, teenage girls, all of them single moms, are trained to become seamstresses and learn other valuable life skills. Empowering these precious young women enables them to provide for themselves and their families in a way that would not be otherwise possible.

Sophia gladly accepted the opportunity of joining our women's empowerment program. Coming to class each morning with the baby strapped to her back, she is tenacious and eager to learn. Despite losing her father in September, she has allowed nothing to discourage her or get in the way of gaining the skills that will empower her to earn an income of her own. She also finds great encouragement and support in being loved and cared for by our staff. The future now looks more promising for Sophia and for her baby.

Continued inside



CITY of HOPE

A TEAMWORK INITIATIVE

YOUR SUPPORT GIVES CHILDREN HOPE ON THE JOURNEY!

While 2020 has been a tumultuous year for us all, we can look back with gratitude to God for the changes we have seen in the lives of many children that we serve at City of Hope.

The Road to Hope Requires a Quality Education



We believe that quality Christian education is our children's best route out of extreme poverty and exploitation. Despite the challenges created by the pandemic, our school programs continue to thrive. Our children's national examination results continue to rank among the best in the region, and the country. One hundred percent of the girls completing our primary school went on to secondary school. And we are now seeing graduates from our secondary school pursuing university and other advanced education programs. Your partnership in 2020 has helped us...

- Construct new dorms for children in our secondary school
- Make significant improvements to facilities in our primary school
- Train our school leadership and teachers so they are better equipped to help children learn
- Guide students as they choose academic and career pathways to success
- Ensure that our schools continue providing excellent Bible-teaching programs and activities

The Road to Hope Requires a Safe, Nurturing Place to Grow



City of Hope is a safe haven for children that face great risks: abuse, a lack of care, child labor, exploitation, and other forms of abuse. This year we have cared for almost 100 residential children, committing to meeting their physical, emotional, social, educational, and spiritual needs, and being "family" to them as best as we possibly can. And we are seeing some remarkable changes in the lives of many of these kids! Your partnership in 2020 has helped us...

- Provide nutritious food, medical care, and clothing for all of our kids
- Ensure each child has their own warm, comfortable bed to sleep in
- Enable children to develop their social skills, hobbies, and interests
- Give extra care and support – emotionally, educationally, or with physical needs – as necessary
- Share the love of Jesus with every child, every day

As we rescue more children in 2021, we will need more child sponsors to help us care for them. Child sponsorship costs just \$35 a month and is a wonderful way of telling a child, "You are precious!" Could you become a sponsor for a boy or a girl at City of Hope? Contact Cherie Long at sponsor@teamworkcityofhope.com or visit our website to find out more!

Read more about what your gifts have accomplished this year – and celebrate with us how our vision for "transformed lives, flourishing communities" is becoming a reality in East Africa!

The Road to Hope Requires Good Health



The Amani Medical Clinic provides a vital service in communities where malnutrition, poor sanitation, unsafe water, and disease cause sickness and death daily. Addressing these health threats is a major focus for us as we care for the children in our home and school

programs, recognizing that they cannot reach their full academic, social, or emotional potential otherwise. We actively serve the health needs of our wider community too. Your partnership in 2020 has helped us...

- Serve more than 300 patients every month at our medical clinic
- Give vaccinations to prevent sickness
- Provide medicines, first aid, and emergency care as needed
- Safely deliver babies to many women from the community
- Providing health education to our children, and men and women from the wider population

The Road to Hope Includes Empowerment

The lives of many women and girls in East Africa are fraught with dangers and fears: gender-based violence and abuse, child marriage, female genital mutilation, and a lack of even basic healthcare. It has always been a priority of City of Hope to respond - providing safety, support, training, and skills to girls and young women in our programs. Your partnership in 2020 has helped us...

- Mentor, counsel, and support each of the girls in our program
- Provide programs that help girls develop their leadership skills
- Train single moms to become seamstresses at City of Hope in Ntagacha
- Expand our program into Kehancha, in Kenya, for the first time

We are seeking to raise \$74,300 by year-end so that we can give renewed hope and a future to vulnerable women in Kenya and Tanzania. Please consider making a generous gift before December 31 so it will appear on your 2020 charitable contribution statement. Go to www.teamworkcityofhope.com/speakup for more information. Thank you! 🏠

PAINTING

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Our vision is to expand our women's empowerment program in Kenya during the coming year as we seek to help more young girls who, like Sophia, would otherwise have no hope. As well as practical skills, we are exploring how we might provide care that will help them recover from the trauma that they have experienced. Where necessary, we want to provide "safe havens" for vulnerable young women when they are at risk of violence and abuse. And, of course, we are committed to sharing with these young women about their loving Heavenly Father who cares for them and has good plans for their lives.

We have an exciting opportunity for a church or individuals to partner with us as we provide new hope to young women in our new program in Kehancha, Kenya. Please contact Matt Parker at mparker@teamworkcityofhope.com to find out how you can help! 🏠



OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

At Teamwork City of Hope, we recognize our responsibility to steward the financial gifts we receive with integrity and accountability. As one of our financial supporters, please know that we are therefore committed to:

- Using your gifts wisely and effectively, and in the ways that you intend us to
- Being truthful in all of our communications with you
- Reporting back to you, with transparency, about how your gifts are used
- Praying for you

This promise to you is reflected in our recent accreditation from the Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability (ECFA). They have recognized our commitment to high standards of financial management, board governance, and how we steward the gifts we receive. *When you give to Teamwork City of Hope, you can trust us to act responsibly, truthfully, and with integrity!*



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HERE ARE SOME GREAT IDEAS FOR BLESSING CHILDREN THIS WINTER!

Christmas is almost here! – and perhaps you are wondering about ways in which you might offer hope to vulnerable children? Look no further than City of Hope’s brand-new gift catalog! Chock full of great gift ideas - big and small, fun and life-changing – these gifts help offer hope to the amazing kids that we serve! Here are just a few examples:



BLANKETS AND SHEETS

Children love to snuggle down into a blanket when they are tired at the end of the day. Help a child feel safe and get to sleep quickly by giving them the gift of a cozy blanket or other snug bedding.

\$25 for one child



SCHOOL UNIFORMS

In some countries, children from the poorest families cannot attend school simply because they don’t have the required uniforms and shoes. Make a difference by helping children dress for class – and give them the precious gift of education!

\$35 for one complete uniform



MALARIA TESTING AND EQUIPMENT

Malaria is one of the biggest killers in Africa. Help our doctors and nurses test the children and adults that we serve so that they can identify symptoms – and provide treatment – at the earliest opportunity!

\$75

To make your choices even more meaningful, you can give a gift in honor of a loved one – sharing the joy of helping kids and spreading the blessing. We’ll even send a special card to let them know!

Make sure everyone you know has a copy of our gift catalog – call us at (276) 632-8477 if you would like us to send you extras. You can also find our gift catalog online at www.teamworkcityofhope.com/gift. Go on – give our kids something extra to smile about this Christmas! 🏠

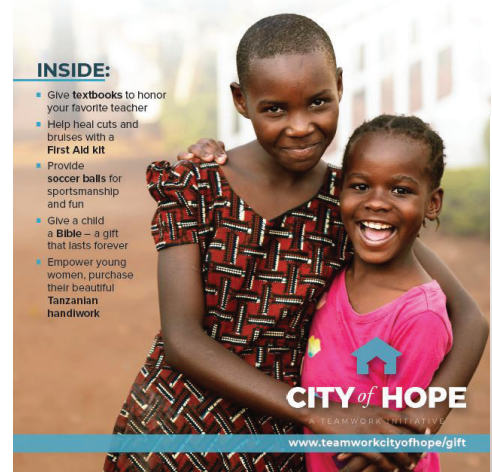
Teamwork CITY of HOPE 2020-2021

GIFT CATALOG

Gifts that offer **HOPE** to vulnerable children!

INSIDE:

- Give textbooks to honor your favorite teacher
- Help heal cuts and bruises with a First Aid kit
- Provide soccer balls for sportsmanship and fun
- Give a child a Bible – a gift that lasts forever
- Empower young women, purchase their beautiful Tanzanian handwork



www.teamworkcityofhope.com/gift