

HOPE!

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOPECO



“WE HAVE WATER!”

You could feel the excitement among the crowd of chattering, smiling children at City of Hope as they waited for the big moment.

Suddenly everyone burst out loud: **“We have water!”**

Cheers, applause, and hugs erupted as the children watched water gush from the faucet for the first time. “Now we can have proper showers,” giggled one little girl as she splashed water in the direction of her friend standing beside her. “And no more long journeys carrying heavy buckets,” added another child gleefully.

The celebrations turned to spontaneous praise as children and staff began thanking God together for His provision of this vital need. The moment these kids had been praying for had finally come!

Getting this project off the ground was a real team effort and only possible because of generous giving from church partners and friends in the US. Gathering the resources and materials was a painstaking process for our leadership in Africa, having to transport much of the needed equipment hundreds of miles from Kenya. Our staff and children played

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HopeCo

Bringing rescue and hope to vulnerable girls in Kenya

At twelve years old, Agatha had high hopes for the future. She was doing well in school, was popular among her friends, and had dreams of becoming a teacher one day.

Tragically, one evening while on her way home from school, a man (known to her family) attacked Agatha. While her physical wounds gradually healed, the experience left her severely traumatized. Adding to her trauma, her own family ignored her pain and pleas for help, and took no action against her perpetrator. Alone and misunderstood, Agatha withdrew and was even fearful of leaving her own home. She dropped out of school...and dropped out of life. Her hopes and dreams of becoming a teacher died.

Agatha's story is not an uncommon one in Kenya. Childhood violence and abuse, female genital mutilation, and child marriage are widespread. As in Agatha's case, most violence goes unreported, and because Kenya's justice system is often wholly inadequate, the guilty go free while the innocent continue to pay the price.

HopeCo feels called to respond...to see a systemic change in people's understanding of the real (and often silent) issues girls and women face. The cycles of abuse that ravage families and communities must be broken. Protecting children must become a priority. Justice must be served.

With your help, HopeCo's response to these needs in Kenya include:

- **RESCUE AND HEALING** for girls escaping abuse. Our new "safe house" will provide emergency care and support for up to 10 girls who need protection, love, and Biblical, trauma-informed counseling.
- **EMPOWERMENT** of vulnerable young women through training programs that provide them with the skills needed to earn an income and care for their families in the future.
- **ADVOCACY** by speaking out and acting on behalf of those in need, training families and community leaders, and working with the authorities to seek justice for the defenseless.

You can be part of transforming the lives of young women desperate for rescue, healing, and hope. **Will you be one of the 100 people who will partner with us in our new HopeCo Ambassador initiative** and commit \$20 every month for the girls living in our "safe house" in Kenya? Will you respond and give girls like Agatha the opportunity to experience loving care as they rebuild their lives?

Sign up today at JoinHopeCo.com/ambassador - and watch for more news about this exciting project as it unfolds!

HopeCo's commitment to child safeguarding

HopeCo takes the protection of children very seriously.

A child's safety and best interests are always our primary concern and consideration. We believe that child abuse is an atrocity that is *never* acceptable.

HopeCo is a member of *Keeping Children Safe*, an international network of organizations committed to the highest possible safeguarding standards for children. These standards include developing clear policies, training our teams and children, thorough vetting of all staff and volunteers, and rigorous accountability processes. Please let us know if you would like to see our safeguarding policy or have questions for us at any time!



TOGETHER WE ARE HOPECO!

By now you have heard the exciting news that our name has changed from Teamwork City of Hope to **HOPECO!** While the name is new, the mission is the same: offering life-changing **HOPE** to children, their families, and communities in East Africa - in **COLLABORATION** and **COMMUNITY** with you, our partners and friends!

As we expand our work, pursue excellence, and grow our visibility, these three values remain foundational to who we are:

- **OUR FAITH.** Throughout the Bible, we see God's heart for the weak and defenseless. It is this example that motivates us and guides our planning and decision-making.
- **EMPOWERMENT.** We are committed to seeing orphans, women, and other vulnerable people empowered as we speak out, seek justice, and provide lasting hope to those in need.
- **PARTNERSHIP.** We will grow and learn together as an international team of caregivers, teachers, staff, child sponsors, church partners, and supporters. Teamwork remains at the heart of all we do as we serve. **Together we are HopeCo!**

Check out our new website at JoinHopeCo.com to learn more about our name change, what we do, and how you can engage further as a part of our global HopeCo family!

"I thank God for every step He has helped me take" – Joyce's story



Joyce became part of the City of Hope family when she was just six years old. Looking back, she sees how God was working in her life...

"Growing up, I never thought I would be able to attend school or have a bright future. I was born in a small town in Tanzania to a family of six siblings. We did not have a father. My mom passed away when I was two. We didn't have anyone to take care of us apart from my grandmother, who lived in Ntagacha village.

Ntagacha was known for cow theft, clan violence, lack of clean water, and a lack of education. My sisters and I lived in fear. I still remember going to bed without eating anything, and we still had to work on the farm with an empty stomach in the morning. Due to our difficult life, my two older siblings got married at a young age hoping they could provide for me. None of my siblings made it to high school. I thought I wasn't going to make it in life either.

In 2009, God provided a miracle in Ntagacha village through a man called Dr. Chacha. He helped the community in a way that no other person ever had. He was able to help orphans and other kids in crisis. I felt like God had answered my prayers. When I joined the City of Hope family, I soon settled into life there. I was still young at that time, only thinking about food and toys rather than the great future that lay ahead!

When I was in middle school, I had the responsibility for taking care of the school canteen at the City of Hope campus. This opportunity was a turning point in my life. After I graduated from middle school, I had an even bigger responsibility - being a school secretary! My job was to receive school fees and give out the receipts. Through Dr. Chacha's encouragement and advice, I started to have a clearer idea of my future. He would say, "I will make sure you succeed in life because you are now my responsibility." I had never experienced the emotion of being loved like I did when I heard that. Until then, I had grown up without anyone addressing me as their child, and now I had someone I could call "dad"! I was in tears. God can truly make a way where there seems to be no way!

People experience troubles in life. Some give up on the way, while others keep going. I thank God for every step He has helped me take. I have now graduated secondary school and am studying at college. Life may knock me down at times, but it's my choice to get up and keep fighting!"



Your partnership gives HOPE...

THANK YOU! We are grateful to everyone who responded to our appeal for new blankets and sheets for all of the children living at City of Hope. Thanks to your support, all our kids now have fresh, comfortable bedding to snuggle into at night!

HELP US BUY AN ULTRASOUND MACHINE! Amani Medical Center delivers around 100 babies every year, and pre-natal care is an essential part of our work. A much-needed ultrasound machine would cost \$2,600. Would you help our doctors and nurses by meeting this need?

BECOME A HOPECO AMBASSADOR as we open our new "safe house" in Kenya and rescue girls from violence and abuse! We need 100 people to join the rescue team by contributing \$20 a month. Can you help? Go to JoinHopeCo.com/ambassador for more information!



"We have water!" *(continued from cover)*

a huge role as well, helping to dig a mile-long trench and lay pipes from the water source to City of Hope.

Americans each typically use between 80 - 100 gallons of water every day. We don't think twice about turning on a faucet to get fresh, clean water. That is a far cry from the situation in East Africa, where water is a precious and often scarce commodity. On average, women and children in Africa walk almost four miles every day hauling water for drinking, cooking, and washing. That's a lot of water! Many girls are unable to go to school because every able body is needed to help with this daily, cumbersome task. This is why we are committed to making sure that our new water supply is available, not just to the hundreds of people we serve each day at City of Hope itself, but to our wider community as well.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this much-needed project. What a difference your support is making!



OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

At HopeCo, 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 HopeCo, you can trust us to act responsibly, truthfully, and with integrity!*

