

Change and New Beginnings



Great friends Fancy, Gloria and Ruth, healthy and happy in 2018 with good care.

In early March Fancy finished 6th grade and has regular visits to her doctor for her sickle cell anemia. Gloria finished 7th grade. Ruth completed 8th grade and did well on her national exam so that she is eligible to attend high school. Attitude is important, and Ruth's is always great!

NEWS: We all learned from Covid, if we didn't realize before, that CHANGE is inevitable! In late December, manager Samson at the Safe Haven program resigned. This has inspired a great push toward new beginnings. We now have the same food, medical care and education programs, but without the overhead we had before, giving us flexibility to reassess the priorities for the children, with new emphasis on high school.



Fancy has good care with her sickle cell anemia. Here she is in front of her family house. **Isaiah and John** are at home. We loved them at first sight in 2012. They have finished 8th grade and hope for a chance to go to high school this year.



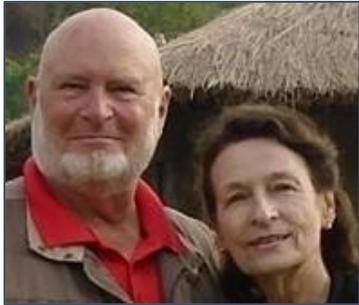
The children celebrating Christmas break!

New Beginnings and New Hope. The 3 basic programs – food, medical care and education – are all going well. Food is being delivered to children at their homes on a regular basis, and the needs of children are being monitored closely. Medical care is through Dr Soti’s local clinic, and we have worked with him for the past few years to ensure continuity of care, especially for the most vulnerable children. Demands of the education program are expanding as the children grow up, with more kids each year hoping for high school.

In January, all school fees were paid directly through banks as usual, and all children were furnished with everything needed for living and learning, thanks to the help of local, non-salaried staff who have assisted with daily tasks in care of the children for years.

There were only primary school children in the programs in 2015, when the food program first began. In recent years, we have had only a couple to begin high school, and last year 4 more became high school students. There will be a few more each year to come, while younger children are still assisted in local primary schools. It is our intent to help as many of these children as possible to attend high school, when they are ready. We hope each child will have a chance for a new beginning.

Thank you for all you do for the children!



Rebecca & Dave Rusinga Island Children’s Fund

Facebook: Rebecca Rowson **Email:** Rebecca.Rowson@outlook.com

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Home Address: 360 Skymont Drive, Holly Springs, NC 27540
Rusinga Island Children’s Fund