



BCC Africa Inc is a registered Australian charity which provides support to the Bethlehem Community Centre (BCC), an organisation that provides a home and education for children orphaned or destitute as a result of poverty, HIV/AIDS or conflict

## 2018 Volunteer Trip

In Aug a group of 13 volunteers traveled to Kenya to visit the 2 Children's Homes of Bethlehem Community Centre. This year the group traveled via Perth and Mauritius and were able to have a day seeing the sights of Mauritius and then arrive refreshed into Kenya. The main project that was completed was the installation of an extensive solar system at the home in Mwea. The delight the children showed, when the dining room was lit up for the first time, made the work very worthwhile.

As usual we carried over lots of luggage which included a new outfit for the 90 children that call Bethlehem Community Centre their home. We also had pencils, calculators, toothbrushes, craft activities, sports equipment and more. While we were there we purchased new school shoes for the 50 children at Mwea, repaired the sewage system, played and sang with the kids, sectioned off part of the dining hall to make a study area for the kids.

A highlight was spending time with some of the children who we have known for up to 10 years. We had a 2 day live in conference for the students we have or are supporting in further studies after high school. We also invited 2 current high school students who we hope to support in the future.



## Open Garden - Another Record Year

On October 5th Pam and Maree Johnston opened their Otago Bay garden for the fifth time in support of the children at Bethlehem Community Centre. A record crowd of over 630 attended and were delighted by the beauty the garden offers as well as the sumptuous morning/afternoon tea, the well stocked plant stall and the music by the Ukulele Group. Over \$12,000 was raised to help fund education for the children in Kenya.



**Thanks to all who have supported us during 2018 with donations, attendance at events and purchase of raffle tickets or merchandise.**

## Donate

If you would like to make a regular or one-off donation to help support the ongoing work of BCC Africa please contact [chris@bccafrika.org](mailto:chris@bccafrika.org) or 0408280632.

[www.bccafrika.org](http://www.bccafrika.org)





You can help and support the work that BCC Africa Inc does by making a one-off or regular donation. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Simply go to [www.BCCAfrica.org](http://www.BCCAfrica.org) to donate through funds transfer to BSB 064 404 Account# 1047 2560 or contact [Chris@bccafrika.org](mailto:Chris@bccafrika.org) or on 0408 280 632.

## Hellen Wamaitha

Hellen Wamaitha was just 8 years old when Christine Bennett first met her in 2010. Chris was on her second visit to the Mwea children's home, which has been run by the Bethlehem Community Centre since 2006. Hellen had arrived at the home just months before the visit of some of the Friends of BCC Africa.

The major project of that trip was to build lovely new wooden bunk beds to replace the rickety uncomfortable metal beds that barely met the needs of the 60 children who lived at the Mwea home at the time. You can see the delight on Hellen's face as she feels the comfort of her new bed for the first time.

Over subsequent visits in 2012, 2014, 2016 and last August, we have seen Hellen grow up into a delightful and mature young lady. While Hellen has not changed from the shy natured little girl we first met 8 years ago, she is now one of the leaders amongst the 50 children who call BCC Mwea their home today. Along with Derrick Murini, Hellen has been resident the longest of the children now living in the home.

Hellen is now in Grade 8 and hopes to go on to the first of four years of secondary school next year.

This is where your help is vital. It is donations from people like you that enables BCC Africa to pay the school fees and other costs of education that allows children like Hellen to stay on at school. We hope to support Hellen through secondary school and then to go on to further education. Together we can help children like Hellen and others at BCC realise their dreams, achieve like they would never have imagined when they arrived as bewildered and vulnerable children at BCC and go on to make a valuable contribution to the lives of others in Kenya.

Chris and all the other friends of BCC Africa would be delighted to see Hellen succeed like others who BCC Africa have supported such as Thomas and Christine, who are now qualified teachers and Veronica and Salome, who are trained nurses and working in the Kenyan health system.



2018 - 16 yo



2016 - 14 yo



2010 - 8 yo



2012 - 10 yo



2014 - 12 yo



Kindly printed by the office of Senator Catryna Bilyk, Kingston.