



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



## *Want to try something different?*

Every second year we take a small group of volunteers to Kenya to visit and work at the 2 Bethlehem Community Centre homes. In 2020 we will be visiting late July/early August.

If you would like to have a different sort of holiday, in a different country and make a difference in many children's lives then you might like to join us. You get to pay all your own expenses, help with fundraising and use whatever talents you have.

To express your interest or for more information contact [chris@bccafrika.org](mailto:chris@bccafrika.org) or phone 0408280632.



## **Did you know:**

1. You can view our annual reports and rules on the ACNC website. Look up BCC Africa
2. We have a web page [www.bccafria.org](http://www.bccafria.org)
3. We are on Facebook - Friends of BCC Africa
4. We are on Instagram - bccafrika
5. We have calendars for sale - \$5.

## ***Best wishes to you and your families for Christmas and an exciting 2020 and THANKS.***

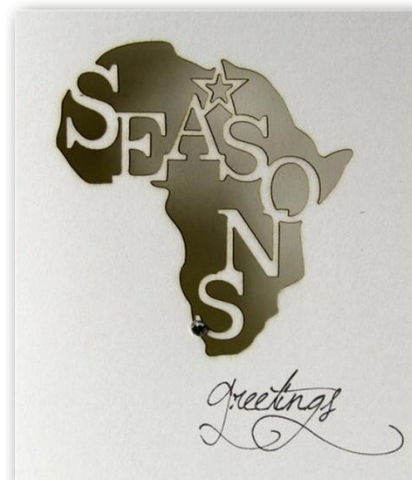
BCC Africa has had many fundraising events this year which were very well supported by lots of people. We also have many people who contribute regularly or have made generous donations to support the work we do. We know this is making a great difference in many lives.

## ***Would you like to help sponsor Mary Muthoni***

Mary was born Aug 24 1998. She called Bethlehem Community Centre at Mwea her home 2012 - 2018. During that time BCC Africa supported her at Ndindiruki Primary School and Wanguru Girls High School where she achieved a C average. Mary would like to attend Mt Kenya Uni to do a

Diploma in Nutrition and Dietetics. We need to find a number of people who would be willing to make a regular (\$20 or more per month) or one-off donation to cover the cost of this 3 year course. Fees and living expenses are about \$3500 each year.

If you can help please let [chris@bccafrika.org](mailto:chris@bccafrika.org) know as we need to secure funds before Mary can start in Jan 2020.







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.

## Catherine Ngonyo and Freshia Njeri

Two sisters commenced their lives as BCC children in the early part of 2012, only a few months before the second visit of Friends of BCC Africa in July 2012.

Amongst the younger kids there, they were shy and had limited interaction with their visitors. Little wonder, they were still getting used to their new home and, at that young age, they knew very little English. But they were curious about their visitors, why they came and what they brought to see and do.

With each subsequent visit, they understood more. They became more involved and like many of the children they embraced their visitors.

Over three subsequent visits, the visitors saw two little girls grow up and mature and saw their personalities develop. Catherine and Freshia were always involved in the singing and dancing presentations, and in the craft activities, such as decorating backpacks, doing beadwork and painting and drawing. They were always the first to come forward to seek help with maths or their other school subjects.

We also saw them become leaders within the children's home. On our visit in 2018, Catherine was 16 and attending boarding school at Wang'uru Girls High School. She is a good student and enjoys Maths, Chemistry, Physics and English. This year she completed Form 3 and next year will finish her secondary school education.

At the home during school breaks, she leads the dancing and organises games and activities for the younger children and cares greatly for them. When she was seen helping to feed one of the youngest children on the last visit, Catherine explained that she is the only big sister that these little ones see and she has to show them a lot of love and care. The little ones get a lot of comfort from this

In 2018, Freshia was in Grade 8, her final year at Ndindiruku Primary School. She was one of the top students and her leadership qualities were well recognised. She was Head Girl in a school of over 500 pupils. This year Freshia is in Form 1 at Kiamugumo Girls Secondary School in Embu.

Freshia is often seen doing the chores that need to be done around the home – taking the sheep to the shamba, washing the floors, and helping the younger children with their washing. She is also a very good student, excelling at Maths, History and Religion. Like her older sister, and lots of other teenage girls, Freshia loves singing and dancing.

Catherine and Freshia are great role models for their younger brothers and sisters. Children like Jane and Rachel cared for them in 2012 when they were little and now Catherine and Freshia are caring for Mercy, Salome and Esther and the younger ones who are living there now. It's a cycle that repeats, care and love based on a shared experience of vulnerability and loneliness.

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



2012 - Amongst the group



2016 - Catherine & Freshia



2018 - Catherine, Freshia & Samuel doing maths with Robert



2018 - Freshia, Hellen, Catherine & Caroline



2018 - Mary, Catherine, Jane & Freshia