



BCC Africa Inc is a registered Australian charity supporting the work of Bethlehem Community Centre (BCC), an organisation that provides a home and education for orphaned and vulnerable children in Kenya.

## Some of the many notes of appreciation from BCC alumni

*Hope this finds you well and in good health! Am really grateful for your love, care and concerns during these trying moments. I received the emergency response funds which have helped me a great deal in managing this COVID-19 situation.*

*The money has gone a long way in cushioning me against the adverse effects of the situation at hand. And especially from the fact that, through the funds I have managed to cater for the roof over my head and food. Am still rolling with my small dressmaking business although the economic situation is yet to improve. But am still holding my head high hoping for the best.*

*Thank you very much for your unwavering support and concerns. May the Almighty God bless you abundantly!*

Maggy, 26 August 2020



BCC children collecting food from Mwea with their guardians

## Coping with Covid at BCC

Kenya's response to Covid was quick, they had their first case on March 13 and shut down schools and unis on March 16. Children in homes were sent back to guardians wherever possible and the government imposed strict curfews and travel restrictions. This seems to have been quite effective in slowing the progress of Covid but placed people under severe stress as there were no government handouts and people had to do their best.

Thankfully with the funds we had and great donations, we were able to send money to purchase food for guardians and the children. We sent funds to 26 alumni : young adults who were studying, had completed their courses or had small businesses and had to find accommodation and care for themselves once Covid hit. We also gave support to the teachers from the school as they had no income once schools had closed. In July the Government announced that schools would be closed for the rest of 2020, but in recent weeks, with the spread of the virus reducing, there has been hope that schools might re-open even as early as October.

## Some of the many notes of appreciation from BCC alumni

.....I am delighted for the cooperation of BCC Africa sponsors to support African kids. We are happy because of you. You have always stood in the gap when we needed you. You are such a blessing to many souls in the world and God will continue to use you. Please accept our thanks and gratitude towards the support you have accredited to us. We love you. More thanks, Philip 24 August 2020

....I write this note to appreciate for the funds I received from bcc Africa. From deep down inside my heart I give thanks to you and also to everyone who contributed for it to happen to this blessed child. May the Lord keep you all, be blessed.

John M, 26 August 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.bccafrika.org](http://www.bccafrika.org) to donate through funds transfer to BSB 064 404 Account 1047 2560 or contact Christine Bennett, 0408 280 632 [chris@bccafrika.org](mailto:chris@bccafrika.org)



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## BCC children: Samuel, Cynthia, Esther & Joseph



Esther, Cynthia, Samuel and Joseph

BCC Africa volunteers were really looking forward to visiting Kenya in August this year but unfortunately the pandemic cancelled our plans. On previous visits in 2016 and 2018, we had met Samuel, his sisters Cynthia and Esther, and his cousin Joseph, and we were looking forward to spending more time with them this visit at the BCC home in Mwea, about 100km north east of Nairobi. Samuel is the eldest of the four. He completed his primary school education in 2019 and did very well in his final year exams. He was selected to attend Kerogoya Boys High School, one of the best schools in Kirinyaga County and is in Form 1 this year. He is a very good student, and also enjoys sport, in particular football. Cynthia is in Class 7 at Ndindiruku Primary School, the village school attended by the children at the Mwea home. She is also a good student, loves dancing and enjoys all the activities that the visitors bring. Esther, the youngest, is in Class 6. She enjoys her studies and loves playing with her friends. Their cousin Joseph is in Class 8 at the village primary school and is also an excellent student. He loves playing soccer with his friends.

These four children have lived at the Mwea home for six years and are amongst the oldest children there. They share the responsibilities that come with their age by helping with daily chores such as washing floors, cleaning dormitories and helping in the kitchen. They also help the younger children wash their clothes and prepare for school. Robert Bilyk