

AID TO ORPHANS OF MADAGASCAR

AOM is committed to offering assistance to orphanages and other programs in Madagascar that help children and their families in need by providing food, education and job training. Your donations are very precious gifts that transform the lives of children who live with so little hope. Our very small organization with its equally small budget is able to succeed because we know each person we are helping and can keep in touch with the results of each project. This year we were able to make significant improvements in these kids lives because of your generous donations.

Just a few hours ago Madagascar suffered a military coup. The last coup in March of 2009 robbed the island of her manufacturing and tourist jobs. Few jobs are left, leaving little income to feed hungry children. The current regime is seen as powerless as some officials are stripping the environment for their own profit while schools and public jobs go unpaid for are lack of funding. Police and military factions have split and people are facing chaos and continued loss of a functioning government. As one official noted "The people of Madagascar are suffering the consequences of false pride" from their leaders.

Fall 2010



Enthusiasm is catching in the new school.



Slum served by preschool only has 6 old water spigots for 7,000 residents.



Hope House is being prepared for classes, health care and volunteers.

In the back streets of the industrial city of Antsirabe, 80 children from the most impoverished neighborhood were housed in a grim and dimly lit building. Their days were spent there mostly so they would not roam the streets in search of food or get into trouble. One older woman was in charge of their education and was able to give an hour a day instruction to each age group. Many were here for lack of a few dollars to buy school supplies. As it is their parent struggled to bring home enough food to keep them alive. Sickly and malnourished children were on the brink of being put in an orphanage. Our facilitator, Maholy partnered with school officials, community officials and families to create schools that could provide a healthy positive place to learn and grow. A record number of children registered for our new programs while the older children were given required supplies so they could join fellow students in the public school system.

Your donations are building and running 3 schools, providing scholarships and giving **240 children and their families with a brighter future.**



teacher salary:	\$50.00/month
Desk	\$16.00
School supplies	\$7.00 /student = opportunity

Anosipatrana Atsinanana

written by Maholy, edited by K. Janney

Over 7,000 people live in Anosipatrana Atsinanana, a 0.07 sq. mile slum in the capital city of Antananarivo. That's a population density of 102,000 people per square mile. The streets are narrow and become ever more crowded as more and more people flee the poverty of the countryside for the city. Just six old, slow-flowing public water taps serves this population, most of whom have no other source of water. There is only one school, one overflowing garbage dump, no public markets, and no place for the community to gather. The slum's infrastructure has not been worked on in fifty years and there are no investments in improvements to the area.



One-third of the population is under 16 years old. Most cannot afford to go to school. Over one quarter of the workers are either unemployed or day-laborers and work as porters, water fetchers, and launderers. 58% are self-employed, usually earning very little.

Typical jobs include selling vegetables, brick-making, selling plastic bags or sewing clothing. Over half the population of the district earns under \$14 US a month, with some earning as little as two cents a day. Between shanty housing, inadequate water and poor diets, sickness is a constant concern. But medical care is not affordable. Those children lucky enough to go to school are often too hungry and malnourished to concentrate.

\$14 dollars a month allows a family only two meals a day consisting mostly of watery rice.

There is just enough left over to rent a small damp room



Four years ago AOM started a school for impoverished students in Antananarivo.

We pay for school fees and supplies, when just the cost of a pencil or copybook can be a barrier to schooling.

Parents continue working throughout the day, instead of having to break their work to come home and feed children their daily meal.

Children teach literacy to the rest of their family bringing learning into the homes.

At school, AOM provides meals, which not only ensures that a child does not go hungry, but allows the others in the family to eat more as well, since there is one less mouth to feed. This meal by itself encourages parents to make sure their child never misses school.

Simultaneously, AOM works with the families, helping them to find jobs and providing job training.

Story of Alain as told by his mother

"If AOM did not take charge of my child, I am sure that Alain would be one more child prowling the rice fields and streets....But as AOM has taken care of my eldest child, allowing him to study at Fihariantsoa School, I feel relief from my problems. I know that since he started studying, he becomes cleverer every day. [We are thankful for] not only the knowledge he gains, but also the balanced meal he receives at lunch, and also for the spirit of friendliness that they teach him."

Six-year-old Alains' father died just before his sister was born. The parents' dream of sending their children to school was dashed, when his mother became the sole breadwinner. Her job fetching water for others pays only 10 cents a day. The house, where they live with her widowed mother, is only 45 sq. ft. Even if there was a public school to send Alain to, his mother could not afford the school supplies. Luckily for Alain, he is now attending school, gets adequate food and is diligent in his studies.



Child Center



Children want to grow up within a family instead of an orphanage

Tell that to a desperate mother holding a weak and malnourished child when she has no where to turn to.. There is no social security or welfare for the poorest population. If a spouse is lost or an accident keeps you from being able to work, your family is at risk. Many children are placed in orphanages because their family can not afford to feed and keep their child healthy. Unfortunately this often ends up as a solution to poverty because the child grows up in an institution with an education and food but without the love and support a family provides.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure"

As Madagascar's political situation worsens, job opportunities disappear and orphanages overflow, it's time to change our tack. We go to the poorest neighborhoods and offer assistance with health and nutrition counseling along with hygiene and gardening opportunities., provide job training and literacy skills, and offer micro loans. To do this we are remodeling a house that will be a Child Center staffed with professionals and volunteers to partner with families in need so children do not languish in an orphanage for economic reasons. We provide tools and support so families can build a better life together.

AOM

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orphansofmadagascar.org

HOLIDAY GIVING CARDS

We will send a handmade card announcing your gift directly to your family or friends. To order online orphansofmadagascar.org or email orphanhelp@gmail.com or call 406-587-3012

\$20.00

To: Uncle Bob

From: Daisy

A gift of school supplies has been given in your honor, to a child in need from Madagascar. This gift will allow a child to become literate and create the needed confidence to continue their education.



\$30.00

To: Mom

From: Mark

A gift of a month of school and lunches has been given in your honor to a child in Madagascar. This gift will help a child grow strong and bring literacy skills home to the family.



\$50.00

To: My Best Friend

From: Sara

A gift of nutritional and health assistance has been given in your honor to a family at risk of placing a child in an orphanage for economic reasons. This allows a child a life with family instead of in an institution.



Fahazavana Center

“Light Center”

The district is so relieved to have some support for their children, they have donated the use of the school building for 5 years!



We have started major renovations. Originally the children had to kneel and use their benches to write on. (pic front page) The building was dark and depressing. Now children have tables and chairs, blackboards and school supplies and a classroom. The maximum of 57 students has already been reached!



One teacher was in charge of children age 4 to 15. Now there are three classrooms and 2 new teachers trained in education. The children are now receiving a full and well rounded education instead of waiting all day for one hour of instruction. They now have something to strive for and ways to excel.



Hazo Fijalana Fotsy

“White Cross”

The first week of school started with great excitement. The one large room that housed all the children was converted into two classrooms and an additional classroom was built. New blackboards and fresh paint gave cheer to a worn building that is now in use for all 64 students. An outdoor kitchen has been built and teachers hired. Neither school has electricity or running water, yet the mood is enthusiastic and positive.



The importance of an education and nutrition is a big part in making a better future for these children. So is the play yard in bringing happiness into their lives. Lunches are provided along with an introduction to hygiene and nutritional practices.



AOM partners with under funded child centers and orphanages. The partners usually have land and a building. We provide materials to enhance learning and living, whether it be blackboards and desks or toothbrushes and mattresses, For very little money we have been able to give children a great step forward simply by paying the salary of \$50.00 a month for a teacher transforms a minimally educational situation into a learning opportunity for 30 children. Providing meals for children boosts learning and is helpful to families. Hygiene education and practices reduce illness. All for pennies



Your donations this year will go towards:

funding for school supplies and lunches teachers’ salaries, dictionaries, maps and books social worker and nurse salaries, medicine literacy supplies and furnishings for Child Center rent for Child Center and volunteer house establishment of micro loan project

We hope to raise additional funds for:



A water system because all water must be brought in by jug. Hygiene is an important part of our effort to improve the health of these children and their families.



Sanitation is a problem. All the boys use a part of the play yard.... As it is now, a child could fall in to the hole in the outhouse while it costs \$3,000 to build a bathroom.



Uniforms, shoes and coats during the cold season would help the children keep warm and healthy. Some children have more than others and uniforms help with the lack of clothing.

THANK YOU MAHOLY



Our Malagasy Director, Maholy has spent the last 7 months away from his family, working endlessly in Antsirabe so that all these children could start school this fall. He continues to oversee the restoration of the Children’s Center and volunteer house.