



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

PO Box 1988 • Eustis FL 32727-1988 • 407-557-2850 • FAX: 352-483-9132

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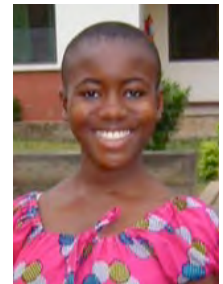
*“May all kings bow down to him and all nations serve him.
For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help.
He will take pity on the weak and the needy” (Psalms 72:11-13a).*

Dear Supporting Family and Friends,

We are privileged to have met many of you over the past few months as we've presented the work that the Rafiki Foundation is doing in Africa and our calling to be part of this work. During the past four years, we have spent four to five weeks each year as volunteers with Rafiki. Our journeys have taken us to Ghana, Uganda, Malawi, Kenya, and Rwanda. Rafiki also works in Ethiopia, Liberia, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Zambia. Our next major step will be the beginning of a multi-year, full-time assignment.

Did you know that, according to World Bank statistics, in the ten African countries where Rafiki works, orphan children make up nearly 6% of the entire population? In these same countries, the average life expectancy is fifty years of age, and infant mortality is nearly 10%. At the same time, these are some of the world's poorest nations and least able to deal with the crisis in which they find themselves. The average national income per capita is approximately 1% of what we enjoy in the United States. This is one of the reasons why Rafiki's strategic plan to turn helpless orphans into contributing citizens is so important for Africa's future.

We are reversing the bleak outlook of these orphans, one at a time. One of the earliest residents of the Rafiki Village Ghana is a young girl whose birth name was Atembem, a name that literally means "I have nothing." Her name was appropriate for a child without parents and a grandmother unable to care for her. When her grandmother realized that Atembem would be accepted into the newly opened Rafiki Village, she changed her granddaughter's name to Atarebono, which means "I have everything." We met Atarebono on our first visit to Africa and were taken by her zest for life, her cheerful outlook, and her ability to do well in school. Her story is one of many that demonstrates our ability to make a difference. We are looking forward to getting personally and directly involved with the work in Africa.



Our schedule for early summer includes two weeks of training at Rafiki in Florida, and a family reunion in Manitoba. Our ultimate departure date for Africa depends on when we achieve full funding status.

We thank those of you who have sent in donations on our behalf. We will be considered fully funded, and ready to embark on our mission, once we reach 100% of the first two years of our commitment. To date we have raised 73%. We invite all of you to join us through your financial support and your prayers.

ROS #: 164
E-mail: MabelandTim@yahoo.com
Telephone: 253-858-2811

Mabel and Tim Koop
3721 10th Street NW
Gig Harbor WA 98335



Rafiki Village