

# Bakhita Charities for Southern Africa

www.bakhitacharities.org

*Supporting children orphaned by HIV/AIDS*

November 2015



Dear Family and Friends,

Greetings from Bakhita Charities. As many of you know, fifteen years ago, we began a volunteer assignment in South Africa that changed our lives and led us to work toward helping some of the poorest and most vulnerable little girls in South Africa.

Bakhita Village is a home for young girls who were orphaned and living on their own with no one to support or care for them. We, along with Sisters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, opened this small home in 2002 and since then more than 100 girls have received food, clothing, shelter, education and best of all love, hope and opportunity for a better life.

We are sending this newsletter to update and thank our wonderful donors and supporters of Bakhita Charities and to raise awareness about the young girls who count on us to help them survive and thrive.

*Maggie & John Williams*

## Joy and Thankfulness: Grade 7 Girls

Bakhita Village is a charity organization and as with all charities there are often challenges with funding. The foundation that had funded the high school education for Bakhita girls since 2002 withdrew last year leaving a gap in finances. As we noted in our last newsletter, this created a dilemma as to how to keep the girls in school so that they could receive the best possible chance at a future that was not steeped in poverty, early pregnancy and hopelessness.

Bakhita Charities committed to pay all high school education expenses for the girls living at Bakhita Village. They will attend St. Brendan's High School beginning with grade 8 and will continue there through graduation. We asked you for help for these girls and you responded! Because of wonderful, generous donors, all five girls in grade 7 now have been enrolled and are preparing to enter grade 8 at St. Brendan's in January 2016.

Two girls, who were not able to go on to high school last year because of the shortage of funds, are also enrolled at St. Brendan's and will have the opportunity for the education they so need. The first year of high school for all seven girls is not fully funded, but we are well on our way to giving these girls a chance of a lifetime. God bless all of you who have made a commitment to a monthly donation or a one-time donation. You are the best, and you can rest assured that you have truly saved the lives of these little girls.



## You're Invited!

As we prepare for our visit to Bakhita Village in February 2016, we invite you to join us for a Bakhita Awareness and Appreciation Gathering. We will provide information about Bakhita Village through photos and stories as well as answering your questions. It will also be an opportunity for us to thank Bakhita Charities' loyal supporters who have helped the girls for many years. We will gather in the Bethany Room at Christ the Redeemer Church, 2700 Waldon Road, Lake Orion on January 11 at 7:30 pm. Light snacks will be served. All are welcome.



## Introducing Sweet and Talented Rosina



Rosina is a wonderful girl that we first met five years ago when she arrived at Bakhita Village as a frightened six-year-old. She was born into a family of nine and her mother died when Rosina was just a baby. Her granny tried to care for all of the children but when she died also, the children were scattered around and Rosina was brought to Bakhita Village.

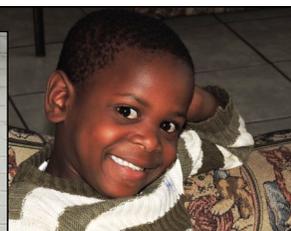
The staff at Bakhita went to work and made her feel loved and secure. Over the past five years, they have helped her become an A student and a good leader of her younger Bakhita sisters. Rosina's singing talent quickly became apparent and she is a natural leader of all things musical. Whether she is leading the girls in church singing, or while playing games or putting on musical talent shows, she is always happy to sing. She loves to sing all the familiar songs and to learn a few new ones too – even the Beatles.



Rosina's life was saved when she was welcomed into Bakhita Village. Next year she will begin grade 8, and we are hopeful that we will have raised enough money to send her to high school at St. Brendan's where she will have a chance at a future that did not seem possible only five short years ago.



### More Photos from Our 2015 Visit



## Donations

As you think of your year-end gift giving, please consider Bakhita Charities. In order to facilitate our ability to raise funds in the United States to support these most needy children, we've initiated a 501(c)(3) charity so that you are able to make a tax-exempt donation. You can donate by check, credit card, or PayPal through the mail or the website. It's also straightforward to set up a regular monthly donation. We pay all our own expenses and we pay all administrative costs so 100% of your donations go directly to helping these girls. We deeply appreciate the donations received from family, friends, churches and others. We assure you that the need is great, the cause is worthwhile,

Bakhita Charities for Southern Africa, Inc.

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