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Kigali, On 15th November 2012

Subject: End of year report 2012

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SOS Children's Village mother with her twins before her house during the leisure time

Let me at the end of the year 2012 which is almost coming to its end, convey to you on behalf of the whole community of SOS Children's Village Gikongoro and to my own behalf, our best wishes for happiness and prosperity for the year 2013.

Your sponsored child is fine. Françoise is in good terms with all children either her classmates or neighbors. She is never engaged in fighting or insulting others. Instead, she has a lot of friends including Dada, Miguette, Delphine and Odette all from different family. She feels free and open to her educators and does not fear for her class teacher. When she sees him from far in the morning going to school, she runs to greet him. When she arrives at home after class, she cannot go to her room to undress before greeting her mother.

SOS Children's Village Gikongoro currently has 120 children including 47 girls and 73 boys. 80 Study at the SOS primary school, 26 at the Kindergarten and 14 are small enough to begin school and spend the day under the care of mothers in the family

home.

Management measure are still in progress of having extra teaching program to help students improve their performance in school which is carried out by the teachers in the afternoons and in the evenings, SOS Aunts help pupils in doing class assignments. There is also an external person who helps students especially those who are terminating the primary section to prepare for the National Examination. With this exam the government selects the best students and orients them to excellent schools. Thus we coach our student in order to increase chances for our children. Based on the analysis of the academic result, we can testify that this extra teaching program has substantially and positively impacted the results of our children.



Children with their teacher at SOS Kindergarten doing their class exercises

Our schools (kindergarten and primary) continue to develop. They comprise 497 children; 87 in kindergarten among whom 37 are girls while 50 are boys and 410 in primary school among whom 195 are girls while 215 are boys. In order to promote community wellbeing, 22 children from vulnerable families have been registered to our school which provides the best quality of education compared to our neighboring schools. It is our organisation that pays their school fees. They selected following the criteria of the performance in their previously attended schools.

Our youth homes are doing very well. They are currently 103 youth including 44 boys and 59 girls. 78 SOS youths who study in the senior secondary schools, spend most of their time in boarding schools. For the 25 SOS youths who study in the universities (25), they always rent small hostels in cities nearby the universities they attend. In order to encourage youth to work hard, the conditions of access in private universities which are always not of good qualities, have been hardened. And this year, a total of 7 finalists of the senior secondary school, only 4 SOS youth have had access to the universities.

Some of the SOS family staff members continue to depart due to various reasons. Some two months ago, 2 SOS aunts resigned from their duties for marriage reasons and in this case, they had to leave their jobs and they will be replaced shortly. We noticed that the absence of aunts during the revisions sessions of children ends up to significant drop of the school marks. This year, it was decided at the national level that this revision of lessons and resolution of exercises have to be entrusted to teachers more equipped and more stable than the aunts.

The family strengthening program is doing well. 124 children in the program receive support for their education in public schools by distributing to them school materials, support in paying teachers that assist them in the revision sessions and also in buying for them school uniforms. 50 pupils of the beneficiaries, who are coping up with the level at SOS Hermann primary school, receive a scholarship to pay for all their needs at this school. The neediest families receive extra money to pay for the contribution for health insurance and for most needy; we pay for the expenses when hospitalized but since malaria fever has strongly declined, we didn't pay a lot of money.

Ten families benefited from micro-credits which are refundable to enable them start small revenues generating activities like small scale businesses or rearing livestock. In one or two years, these families will be able to support themselves in their basic needs but it will still be hard to support themselves in obtaining school fees of their children and the acquirement of a house. It was for this reason that the Government of Rwanda launched the construction of secondary schools in villages so that they may spare families from paying for boarding costs which are generally beyond their financial means of many of them. We also helped three orphans for the acquisition of small houses with local partners. SOS houses did the elevation of the house and the partners did the rest of closing the houses with doors and windows.

Finally, we send our sincere thanks and deep gratitude and take this opportunity to wish to you a happy new year 2013

BAZERA Sebuzira,
Directeur

