

Kenya AIDS Orphans Newsletter

Runnymede United Church, November 2023

Greetings to Friends and Supporters of the Obara Family! **We're celebrating 18 years of major accomplishments**, thanks to on-going support from Runnymede donors and friends. We are so proud of everything that the members of the family have achieved. Since 2005, all 15 children have graduated from high school and developed careers. Among their professional accomplishments are: chef, mason, driver, technical repair person, business developer, mechanic, beautician, two lawyers, teacher, nurse, medical engineer and electrical engineering student.

We had hoped that Andrew and Leonora would be able to visit us this fall. Unfortunately we have just heard that they have not been able to obtain the visa they require. However, on November 19, as part of the 10:30 am church service at Runnymede United Church, we still plan to celebrate 18 years for the Kenya AIDS Orphans fund and all we have accomplished. This will include hearing from Ian Gilmour, a new Runnymede congregation member who recently visited the Obaras. He saw first hand what they have accomplished in the Village of Love Program. Everyone is welcome to attend. More details will be sent out separately.

Updates on the students since the last newsletter:

Deborah has now obtained a paid position in community nursing. She works in preventive health care; immunizations, prenatal/maternity nursing, care of infants and people with HIV.

Zac graduated from Medical Engineering in July and in January, 2024 he'll start a 6 month course in Health Care to qualify for Medical Engineering positions in hospitals.

Regina, who graduated with her Law degree earlier this year, is actively seeking work.

Lauryne continues 4th year in design Electrical Engineering. (See their messages and photos below)

All of this is through the generous support and encouragement from Runnymede United Church and all our donors. Monthly (PAR) donations provide stability to the students and the family in the unstable Kenyan economy. The already increasing living costs have continued to escalate and even more since the war in Ukraine, supplier of wheat to Eastern Africa. Through this and Covid restrictions, the Obara young people continue to use their opportunities to the fullest. They're keenly aware that our donations are their only way to pay for their education.

The Kenya AIDS Orphans fund supports the work of the Obara family in educating AIDS orphans in their family, and [Village of Love Program](#) in Kibera, Kenya, the largest "slum" (informal settlement) in Africa.

For more information on the Obara family and the Kenya AIDS Orphans fund please [link here](#).

To make a donation [link here](#) . When making your donation be sure to specify that funds are for the Kenya AIDS Orphans fund.

Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support for 18 years!
Robyn Salter, John Rossall, Laura Rossall, Lynne Salt, Tom Axworthy,

Kenya AIDS Orphans Project Council

Runnymede United Church

Messages from the Family

Deborah

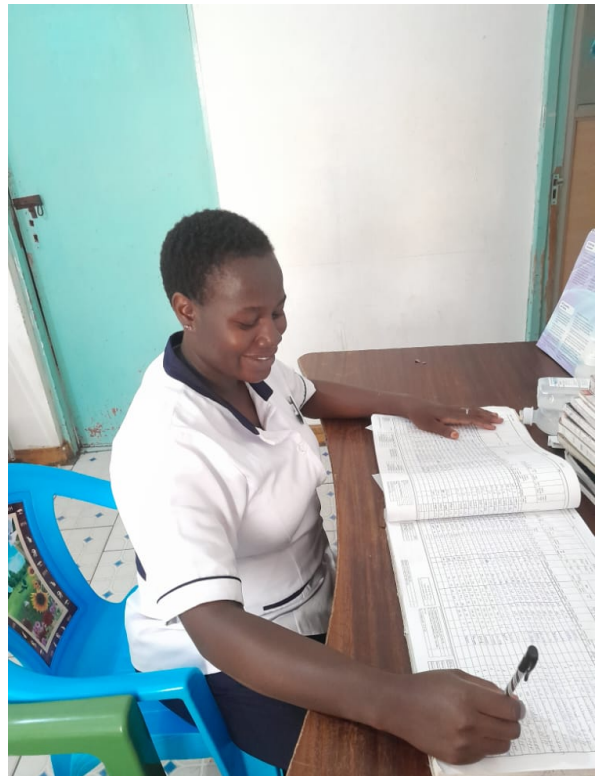
"I have attained a valid practicing license from the Nursing Council of Kenya and after working as a volunteer, earlier this year, I started a paid nursing position in my chosen field.

Due to managerial challenges in the nursing college, our graduation is scheduled in December 2023.

Once again, I want say thank you for the financial support you offered to me. Without you, this journey would have not been successful. Thank you."

Regina

"My current job search is quite tasking because of the economic crisis in Kenya. I have received a few job offers but with the promise of hiring me when a vacancy arises. This has proven to be challenging because I have



not secured a job yet. Even so, I am still looking for opportunities and I am hopeful that I will get a job.

I am looking forward to working in a law firm (private practice)/ an NGO/ government offices. These options are great because, as a beginner, I am keen on garnering experience and gaining meaningful professional connections. I hope to specialize in my particular area (s) of interest in the future.

My special legal interests lie in contemporary legal issues spanning around technology (Artificial Intelligence), Data Law, Climate Action, Intellectual Property and Sports Law I am very grateful for all the support I have received from the entire Runnymede fraternity. May God bless you all abundantly.”

Zac

“I trust this message finds you well, and I extend my deepest gratitude for your invaluable support throughout my medical engineering education. Your generosity has been pivotal in helping me achieve my academic goals. As I transition into my career, I’m grateful to be able to pursue a Healthcare Assistant course to meet the exacting standards set by Kenyan hospitals.

Once again, thank you for your unwavering support, and I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.”

Lauryne

“I’m in my 4th academic year. I’m doing research on choosing my specialization. I’m torn between power engineering and



telecommunication engineering. Graduating in September 2025 is still the plan.

I would like to sincerely thank you for your continued financial support. It means the world to me to be able to pursue my dreams and you have made that possible.”

Andrew:

“For Leonora and I, it is very satisfying to see our children’s successes. Also gratifying is that our friends in Canada, who provided help in all forms, celebrate with us.

The Obara family thanks you so much for your support in making these young people attain their dreams and we pray that you will be blessed abundantly.

We’re working to resolve the problems with our visitor’s visa and hope to see you, God willing, whenever we can come to Canada.”
Warmly.

Andrew”