

RAINING HOPE

“And he will send showers of rain so every field becomes a lush pasture.” Zechariah 10:1

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Stateside:

Raining Hope Inc.
c/o Poinsettia Pavilion
3451 Foothill Road #206
Ventura, CA 93003

Eydie Miskel
Executive Director
805-340-7612
eydie@raininghope.org

Carol John - Treasurer
805-377-7387
carol@raininghope.org

Heather Elkins - Secretary
805-766-4087
heather@raininghope.org



RAINING HOPE

VIRTUAL

CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER

DECEMBER 2021



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ANNUAL "TAMALE" FUNDRAISER

The last two years we have not been able to host the Annual Tamale Fundraiser for family reasons in 2019 and COVID-19 restrictions in 2020. **Unfortunately,** for one more year we will not **host the Annual Tamale Fundraiser in person.** Our event normally includes a time of fellowship, worship and open house to pick up tamales and browse the Christmas craft boutique. Each year, Sylvia Hernandez has lovingly prepared the delicious tamales we all have come to love! Another consideration was the rising cost of meat this year and the ability to get what we needed.

We made the difficult decision out of love and care for our neighbors and loved ones to **not host a gathering in person** for one more year.

Instead, this year we are hosting a VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER that will run **through the entire month of December!** The fundraiser will raise funds for the anticipated **first term of school for 2022** as well as **other needs listed in this newsletter.**

We appreciate your prayers this month for our **Virtual Fundraiser** "less the tamales"! People have already started giving towards these needs! We already sent the funds to cover the food for the annual Christmas & New Year's meals for the family! Money is also coming in for the Christmas gift of clothing and shoes. We can't express enough how grateful we are to all our sponsors and supporters who continue to pray and sacrificially support the Raining Hope family. We are deeply honored by your love and support. God has used each one of you to make a tremendous difference in the lives of these precious individuals. Thank you for blessing us this Christmas with your love, support and encouragement. It means the world to our Raining Hope family! You are loved!



CHECKS: Mark your check "**CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER**" and send it to our stateside office. If you want to designate to a specific need you can also make that notation. If multiple donations come in for the same need, funds will be placed in the budget. If there is no designation it will go in budget to use at our discretion.

CREDIT CARD: You can also make credit card donations on our website - www.raininghope.org.

TEXT TO GIVE: If you would like to send a text to give to Raining Hope by credit card, just send a text to 844-544-7171 and text RAININGHOPE. Follow the prompts and you will receive a receipt! **Text to Give has no additional charges.**



If you have any questions about ways to give, please contact Carol John at 805-377-7387 OR carol@raininghope.org or respond to Eydie at this email signinghands49@yahoo.com

Mail can be sent directly to Carol John or to our Raining Hope offices in Ventura Carol John - 11832 Quince Mill Drive - North Potomac, MD 20878

All donations are tax deductible. Raining Hope Incorporated is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.





FAMILY CHRISTMAS GIFT & CHRISTMAS/ NEW YEAR'S MEAL

For the past six years, we have purchased one main Christmas gift for the whole family. Our children live together as a family. This is different from other organizations whose children don't live together under one roof. **As a family, Godfrey said this year the gift that would mean the most would be clothing and shoes for each one.**

The cost : \$868 or \$38 per Raining Hope family member.



HELPING FAMILIES THIS CHRISTMAS

RAINING HOPE would like to bless 12 families with food this Christmas. This will be for the families of our children and a few in our community. Many families have struggled during the pandemic. . We would provide food baskets of rice, beef, cooking oil, sugar, bread and butter. We also want to provide enough to carry them through the New Year.

The cost: \$408 or \$34 per family.



SECURITY CAMERAS

Last month we highlighted the gaps in our security system due to the recent break-in. Recently, a friend informed Godfrey of men outside our compound who looked suspicious.. This is in the area near the front gate where we need to install additional security cameras.

Cost for four additional cameras, equipment and labor : \$852.





BUDGET

Before COVID-19, our monthly budget was approximately \$1,800. The monthly budget covers food, medical needs, supplies, transportation, utility bills and staff compensation. With the nationwide shutdown, the prices of food skyrocketed. The budget has increased an average of more than \$500 a month. God has miraculously provided through the generosity of our supporters. We have been able to send the entire monthly budget at the beginning of each month throughout the pandemic.

Current Monthly Budget: averages \$2200-\$2300 a month

SCHOOL FEES

The last two years have been very unique when it comes to school fees. During the nationwide shut-down in Uganda, our children spent the majority of the last two years "homeschooled". In order for our candidate students to finish their exams to promote to the next levels, they were boarded in hostels in order to avoid the spread of COVID-19. After two years, it looks like school will re-open to in-person learning at the beginning of 2022.

We don't have the final list of school fees yet. A complete list will be in the next newsletter. We are on a three term system for primary and secondary school. The first term is always the most expensive because it includes uniforms and needed school supplies. Older Joan is in her last semester of her social work degree program. Henry is preparing to enter post secondary school education.

We will have updates as to future plans for students once they finish post secondary school education in the next newsletter.

Anticipated total cost for the first term for all students : minimum of \$3,000



Vivian - Graduation
from Hotel / Tourism

PENDING DENTAL ISSUES / COMPLIANCE

1. There is an organization and dental hospital called "**Hope Smile**" which offers good dental services. They offered to come and do a dental checkup for everyone at half the price. They will then have a **recommendation and dental plan** for each one. This is important to help with their current dental issues and cutting down future dental costs.
2. All faith-based and non-governmental organizations operating within the city of Jinja must **re-register under the new compliance changes** due to the **city of Jinja incorporating**. Due to the current terror attacks, there is a need to scrutinize all organizations. The city security officers claimed that some organizations have been funding terrorists.





INSPIRE KINDNESS THIS CHRISTMAS

I recently found a song by the group Cain called ***"Wonderful"** featuring Steven Curtis Chapman. It especially spoke to my heart this Christmas as excitement grows as we prepare to gather together in person with family and friends again.

The song reminds us that we have **so much to be thankful for**. *"But through the joy and laughter you can feel the sadness, 'Cause this Christmas everyone's not with us. It's the time of year when happiness and cheer won't be enough to get me through the night."*

We want to remember and honor those who are no longer with us. For some it will be a difficult Christmas. I love the words in the song that bring **much needed HOPE to all:**

He is our "Wonderful Counselor,
The Mighty God,
The Prince of Peace
Who's strong enough to carry me
Immanuel
God with us
The One who's love will never end
Oh, Jesus can you make this season Wonderful."

If you want to hear the song you can find it on YouTube: https://youtu.be/z_71i-ui0_E. It is inspiring.

Our Raining Hope family loved the song so much they learned to sign and sing the song!

Can we all find ways to inspire kindness this Christmas? Consider dropping a note of comfort to someone who lost a loved one this year so they know they are not alone.

Let us share the love of Jesus and make this season wonderful to those around us.

*Note - Cain is featured singing "Wonderful" in the film in theaters now, **"Christmas With the Chosen: The Messengers"**. You can also watch it on YouTube from a Global Live Event on December 12, 2021. It is amazing. <https://youtu.be/UOTkTBxTxEA>



You can google **"Random Acts of Christmas Kindness"** and find tons of ideas of how to simply **be kind to others**.

I found a cute "Garland of Good Deeds" booklet at the local Hallmark store. It encourages you to **"Inspire Christmas Kindness in kids** by building a paper chain with each completed good deed." Here are some of their ideas:

"Have an attitude of gratitude! Write a heartfelt thank you note for a gift received."

"Help a neighbor out in need."

"Say thank you every chance you get...and let that person know why you are grateful."

"Make Christmas cookies and deliver to a neighbor. (Include a nice note too!)"

"Be Christmas-y and crafty! Make something special for someone who means a lot!"

The **acts of kindness** are endless! As part of our **virtual fundraiser**, we would love if we could all find ways to think of others this Christmas and **bless them with kindness!**

You never know who is in need of a little extra love this season. Let's make this season **WONDERFUL** in the name of Jesus!

#GIVINGTUESDAY 2021

On December 7, 2021 we had a very successful "GivingTuesday2021" campaign that is promoted on Facebook as a global day of giving back with one common purpose: to



celebrate generosity and to give. We thank each individual who gave to help us **reach our goal of \$500!** Those funds are sent to us in 30-60 days. It always arrives at just the right time!