



Bukati girl in 2007 and 2011

Michael pointing at the fruit

Healthy ewe with her lamb

Bwaliro's second tomato crop

### November 2011 Children of Bukati (COB) Newsletter

Dear Donor, Thank you so much for your support of the children and the community development projects.

Watching the children grow from year to year at Bukati has been such a rewarding experience. The lunch program has increased enrollment, regular attendance, year-to-year retention, and very significantly increased the number of girls attaining a grade 8 certificate. Pictured above is a little girl just starting kindergarten and today, just finishing grade 4. The permaculture projects are flourishing. **Bukati Primary School** now has forests growing around the compound and after just two years, the avocado and mango trees have small fruits that promise to ripen next season. The cows and the sheep look very healthy and the pond is stocked with mud fish. There are banana trees everywhere that were planted from suckers of the older trees. Our program that sponsors orphans with the highest grades on the national grade 8 exams has come full cycle. Two girls and a boy supported by individual Canadian donors completed high school. Currently we have 3 boys and 5 girls still enrolled. Evans, who has just completed grade 10 has maintained the highest class standing each term. He is now the assistant head boy. It has been remarkable to watch the support the older students from Bukati give to the young grade 9's when they move to this boarding school. These students will be the future leaders of their community.

At **Bwaliro Primary School**, the number of AIDS orphans attending school has increased from 177 to 321. Augustine who is the head teacher has provided a list of the names and grades of these students so that we can track them over time. These children are being given a lunch 3 days a week. The fuel efficient stoves require 1/3 the wood of an open fire. The floors that were repaired last year are solid and the jiggers infection of the children's feet is now rarely seen. Jamie VanderBerg, the campus minister at the University of Guelph, designed and built a greenhouse at the school in May 2011. This was supported by funds from Children of Bukati. The school is currently selling tomatoes from their second crop! Money earned from the first crop was used to repair the school's well (the foot valve). Although termites destroyed the banana trees that were planted last year, the school purchased some termite resistant banana slips that are now 2 to 4 feet high and looking great! Last term the school ranked 2nd academically out of 65 schools in the district.



**Patrick (red cap) & team digging a pond**



**Girls digging holes for bananas**



**Boys filling bags for seedlings**



**Sprouted seeds**

**Buduma Primary School** was added to the Children of Bukati in November 2011 with a permaculture project developed by Michael Nickels. He was joined by volunteer Canadians Ky, Abby, and Kearney and Kenyan experts Patrick and JB. Last year the school was initiated by Michael through participating in the Bwaliro project and receiving trees and seeds. They had the year to develop community engagement in anticipation of the full project. Hence, the community involvement is fabulous such that parents, teachers and students worked side by side each day digging and planting. The trees they received last year are thriving in the school yard.

There is definitely lots of success and yet, there is continued need. Bukati needs seeds for crops and tomatoes, manure to enrich the soil and beans (as a protein source) for the lunch program. Bwaliro needs desks, repairs to their pond, more cooking pots (the numbers of orphans continues to grow), hens, a chicken coop, and food for the lunch program until the permaculture project matures. Likewise, Buduma needs hens, sheep, kitchen equipment such as pots, and support to improve the permaculture project over the next year. There is already a 4<sup>th</sup> school identified where the community is becoming engaged. We are also looking for high school sponsorship for 2 boys. If you wish to contribute to any of these projects, we will be grateful.

If you would prefer to receive future newsletters or tax receipts via email, please contact us at [info@childrenofbukati.com](mailto:info@childrenofbukati.com) to let us know. Please be assured that we will not share your email or home address with anyone. We do not wish to burden you with unwanted mail or email. If you wish to be removed from our records, please let us know by contacting us via mail (COB, Cate Dewey, 5640 6<sup>th</sup> Line, RR 1, Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0) or email at [info@childrenofbukati.com](mailto:info@childrenofbukati.com).

If you have donated through Canada Helps, you will have already received a tax receipt by email. Otherwise, receipts will be mailed in February. Donations are accepted by cheque made out to Stone United Church with COB on the memo line, mailed to the address above. Credit card donations are accepted through Canada Helps, on-line via the website. Thank you for your ongoing support of these children.

Sincerely Cate Dewey ([www.childrenofbukati.com](http://www.childrenofbukati.com))