



Capstone Ministries



Restoring Children! Strengthening Families!

"The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone" Psalm 118:22

A prayer letter from Dan and Patty Schmelzer, Kisumu, Kenya

November, 2014 Volume 9 Issue 11

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The number of
street boys
reconciled with
family by Capstone
Ministries to date:

302

6 boys rescued in Oct.



**Check out Capstone
on Facebook.**



You can donate a portion of your premium for a policy from Thrivent Insurance. Learn more about steps you need to take to ensure you can take full advantage of this program and continue your support of Capstone Ministries through this program. Step by step procedure given on p. 4

#300 Goes Home!!

Capstone Ministries reached a milestone in the past month: 300 children reconciled with their family. The staff celebrated with a cake and as you can tell from the picture, really enjoyed reaching this goal.



Richard and his family

Richard in the photo below on the far left, had the distinct honor as the 300th child reconciled with family by Capstone Ministries. Richard, who was taken home on Oct. 13. He is enrolled in school and has already received follow up encouragement by Capstone staff.



Capstone Ministries Achieves RSO Status in LCMS



We have been talking about it for more than two years. Finally, we can show you with an issued certificate that Capstone Ministries has been granted RSO status by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We pray that this provides greater opportunities for Capstone to expand the work of reconciliation of street children in Kenya. May God strengthen us for the task ahead.

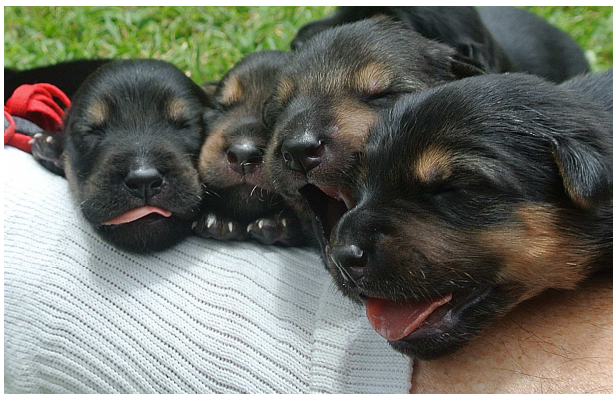
Capstone Camp Video link

You can watch some of the highlights from Capstone Camp 2014 held in Kima at the Kima International Theological School. We would like to thank Alexa Boldt who produced the video for Capstone. Here is the link to the Capstone website and the video. Cut and paste this link in your browser:

<http://capstoneministries.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/CCFinal-Version.mp4>

Photo of the Month

New puppies in Kisumu. Our Rottweiler “Willie” gave birth to 9 puppies three weeks ago. They are making themselves heard and seen!



Vocational Training at Capstone



Festus & Elkanah in Vocational Training

Capstone provides the school fees for boys whose families elect to have the boy pursue vocational training in lieu of finishing primary or secondary school. But this decision must be "owned" by the family and they are required to make the first investment in their son by enrolling him, paying the first term fees and providing all necessary training items. Capstone, then will assist with fees when the family makes this commitment. This is one area where we have learned by experience. The family must make the first step. This insures their involvement and commitment. Festus, above-left is training in auto mechanics. Capstone received a grant from the Rotary Club of Semiahmoo in British Columbia for this project of vocational training. Consider donating to this worthy project.

Sometimes, children who are reconciled with family have been out of school for so long that they are much older than their classmates and often much larger physically as well. It isn't realistic to expect an 18 year old to feel comfortable in Class 3 with children half his size. You can imagine also the teasing that makes learning difficult. Vocational training can be a solution for such a boy as long as he has advanced in school to a level where he can read, write and do basic math. Vocational schools or “Polytechnics” as they are referred to in Kenya, require that a child have reached class 6 in order to enroll officially in a Polytechnic. This is the best option for many boys. Elkanah, pictured above-right, is training to be a mason and will be a great blessing to his family when he finishes his training.

Wheelchair for invalid boy



Often when I drove to visit the moringa growers group in Emuhaya I would see a young boy crawling down the road using his hands to drag himself along this stoney road. It was a heart wrenching scene and tugged on my heart. A few months ago, when I saw this boy's legs bloodied from this exercise, I decided something needed to be done. I inquired from Pastor Zadok, an ELCK pastor and part time employee of Capstone to investigate the situation. He confirmed that the boy was in fact crippled since he was very young, was actually 18 years of age and was somewhat mentally challenged as well. The boy named Apiyo was also a member of a new ELCK mission congregation near Pastor Zadok's home and he knew the family was unable to afford a wheelchair for the boy. We organized to present the boy with a wheelchair compliments of David Talbot, a Rotarian from Colorado who had left several wheelchairs with us on his last visit.



The small congregation all showed up for the presentation. When Apiyo sat in his chair for the first time, he turned to his mom who had tears rolling down her cheeks and exclaimed in his mother tongue, "Look Mom, I now have a car, I'll go and bring you money." Follow up visits are being conducted by Pastor Zadok to insure he uses the wheelchair properly.

13 Capstone reconciled boys to take KCPE exams

For the first time Capstone is becoming a victim of its own success. Because so many of our boys are remaining at home and in school, we have a great number who are in grade 8 and as you read this will be taking the 3 day long Kenya Certificate for Primary Exam. This one exam will determine future educational opportunities for these children. We expect about half to qualify for high school and meet Capstone's requirements for possible sponsorship. For some, day schools will be more appropriate and for others boarding schools are a better option. We currently have one sponsor for two boys but would appreciate and need additional sponsors. If you are interested, sponsorship entails a 4 year commitment of \$600/year for boarding school and \$300/year for Day school students. Let us know if you would like to sponsor a boy. Initially you'll receive the project description, then when we know who will qualify you will be sent a complete background, a recent photo and ongoing updates on your boy. If you have questions, write to us at Capstoneministries@gmail.com.

Vicar to visit Capstone in 2015



John Zimmerman will be visiting Capstone late July, 2015 for one month to learn more about Capstone, learn more about cross cultural ministry in a third world country and to volunteer where appropriate. If you would like to assist in supporting him, you can send a check to: "Vicar Trip" c/o Trinity Lutheran Church, 603 Classen, Norman, OK 73071. John is currently serving his vicar year in Norman, OK at Trinity Lutheran.

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS?

If so, it is easy to designate your Thrivent Choice dollars for the work of the Capstone Ministries!

Online:

Step 1 – Visit **Thrivent.com/thriventchoice**.

Step 2 – Click on **“log in”** at the top right of your screen & enter your MyThrivent user ID & password.

(If you haven’t registered on Thrivent.com, click on **“register now”** to register for full access.)

Step 3 – Look for your designated Choice Dollars on the right side of the screen.

Step 4 – Click on **“Direct Choice Dollars”** on the Thrivent Choice box on your MyThrivent page.

Step 5 – Search the catalog of organizations to find and select the “Capstone Ministries”

Step 6 – Click on **“Direct Choice Dollars Now”** to direct your designated Choice Dollars to benefit the reconciliation of street children with God and family!

By phone:

Step 1 – Call **1-800-847-4836** and when prompted, say, **“Thrivent Choice.”**

Step 2 – When prompted, say, **“Choice Dollars.”**

Step 3 – Say or enter your Social Security number.

Step 4 – **Press 1** to direct Choice Dollars or **press 2** to hear the Thrivent Choice program terms and conditions.

Step 5 – A representative will then work with you to direct Choice Dollars for Capstone Ministries.

Prayers, Praise and News

1. Dan is making plans to visit congregations in the Midwest this next April and May. Please write if you would like him to visit your church to preach/present and share more about what God is doing through Capstone in Kenya. Reserve your weekend, weekday or both now for your church or school. Weekends are filling fast!

2. Please consider being a sponsor of a high school student. We have an unprecedented number of boys taking the Grade 8 exam this year: 13!!

3. Pray for continued support of Capstone Ministries and for our ongoing search for missionaries to join us in the work.

4. We are looking forward to welcoming Delano and Linda Meyer again to Kenya. The Meyers plan to visit in Jan or Feb in 2015 and do some follow up agricultural training across East-Africa. We will be hosting them for a week and they will be visiting our moringa growers groups, Capstone staff and the Capstone Bible study groups. Their teaching is empowering. Their approach is the result of many years of experience in the field and has great application to actual local farmer needs. Karibu Del and Linda!

5. We offer the following names for intercession, trusting the Lord knows their circumstance: Jennifer, Pat, Barry, Eunice, Gabriel, Christian, Troy, Phil, Liz, Mary Anne, Mike, Jim, Joel, Jen, Jan, Susan, Landon, Ernie, Lori, John, Tim, Delano, Linda, Patricia, Steve, Ryan, Peggy, Tom, Kathleen, Monica, Jim.

Donation: For Capstone & Dan and Patty Support

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Email: _____

Donation Amount: _____

Specific Designation? _____

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Make checks payable to Capstone Ministries.

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Send to:

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Donation Amount _____

Student name(s) _____

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All donations are tax deductible.

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