

# Christmas Newsletter 2015

## Hope for Orphans-Congo



After spending time over the last 5 years on our visits in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), we are more and more aware of the great needs of orphaned children. There are an estimated 3 million orphans in the DRC and the time to help them is now!

Currently, there are 40 children at the orphanage and the second dormitory building is almost completed. A multi-purpose room and staff accommodations will be on the first floor and two big rooms for children will be upstairs. The children feel safer when they are together rather than be in separate bedrooms. Before more children can be accepted; beds have to be built and mattresses/bedding purchased. The total cost is \$125 each.



The week before we arrived a distraught grandmother brought her four grandchildren to the orphanage. Their father had just passed away and their mother had a mental breakdown. Mr. Mungabo explained that there really was no room for the children but he was unable to turn away the sobbing grandmother asking for Hope for Orphans-Congo's help. Now David, Shukuru, Sifaza and Claude have a home, food, school fees and lots of "brothers and sisters". We could see first-hand the change being made in their young lives!



Shirts were purchased in Canada and brought to the children. Family members in Winnipeg MB helped tie-dyed the shirts in their home. The children's big smiles show how much they appreciate the gifts.

The children were so excited to see us again that many of them walked 6 km down the dirt road in the rain just to meet us earlier than they would have! We saw their smiles and greeted them warmly, then had to drive on down the road to the village while they followed behind walking back in the rain.





Cabbage fields



Yams



Orange tree seedling



The staff and children were excited to show us the four gardens that they have planted to grow food for the orphans. The sizes are all closed to 50 meters x 100 meters! They have cassava, planted 9 months before, ready to harvest over a 2 month period. They are growing sweet potatoes, yams, carrots and a large field of cabbage that has become a favorite meal for the children! We are now able to buy seeds in Kigali, Rwanda and Kampala, Uganda for planting more vegetables. Thank you to co-workers who have made donation to buy seeds and gardening tools!

This year Joseph & Joy Chaudoin, friends from Wisconsin, USA went with us!



It was a new experience for them, and in the 4 weeks that we were there, they met many people and made a number of new friends! Traveling to DRC is a trip of a lifetime, and will change your life forever!



The children had fun roasting marshmallows over a fire, they even helped some of the small village children get their first taste of one also!





Hazel organized a BIG birthday party for all the children! Many do not know their birthdate, so we just picked a day and celebrated everyone's birthday together! There were games to play, bubbles to pop, races to run and lots of fun to be had by all the children, staff and ourselves.



Pictured above are the staff members and the intermediary of Hope for Orphans-Congo, Mr. Mungabo (far right). Luko, the young man on the left is an orphan himself. When his parents died he was unable to go to school. Now that he works at the orphanage he has the funds to continue his education!! The staff are paid \$30 a month, except for Bwira (next to Luko) who is the administrator and tutor.



In the last five years, many have been **working together-making a difference** for the orphans in the DRC. Join our sponsorship program by either donating \$30 a month which covers the total cost to care for an orphan or \$10 to cover the school fees for an orphan at a village school near Bukavu. It's easy! A monthly pre-authorized payment can be arranged through CanadaHelps. For more information, please visit our website: [www.HopeforOrphans-Congo.com](http://www.HopeforOrphans-Congo.com) or contact us at: [HopeforOrphans-Congo@hotmail.com](mailto:HopeforOrphans-Congo@hotmail.com).