

Dear friends,

December 2016

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for the Congo home for orphans and street children. Your gifts support the children with US \$1250 per month for food and US \$2000 every trimester for school fees. Georgette, her co-workers, and the children express much appreciation!

***One child's story - Rebecca:***



*Rebecca and two younger siblings went to church with their mother one day when she was 10 years old. The mother left, saying she needed to run an errand – and never came back. To this day Rebecca does not know what happened to her mother. None of her extended family were able to take care of them.*

*Someone at the church knew that Georgette kept orphans, and brought them to her. Georgette took them in, now almost 10 years ago, and your contributions over those years fed and educated Rebecca, her siblings, and the other children at Georgette's home.*

*As a result of your long-term support Rebecca has graduated high school, is now a hairdresser, plans to open her own shop, and is getting married next year! Raising a child to be a mature adult takes time, dedication and resources. Thank you for supporting Rebecca into mature adulthood.*

Together with us you have been involved with the home for over 10 years. Some results:

- The school Georgette built and runs serves the orphans and over 200 neighbourhood children.
- The children are growing. Some have completed high school and are working. Some are in university or in trade schools. One is in his last year of medicine. Two are getting married. They remain part of the orphanage family and give back to the orphanage. *Six new children have been brought in this year to keep the total at 54.*

**Recent developments:**



Toilets for the school are being built, thanks to Our Family Adoptions, a US organization.

Georgette built a retaining wall to stop hillside erosion.

Our Crokinole Tournament in December raised \$2,900 for January 2017 school fees – exceeding our goal of \$2,700 for 30 children! Thank you!

This is the new toilet structure. The building on the right will be torn down to make room for the septic tank. A washing area will be built in front of the toilet area.

### Face-to-face with Georgette and her children:

In September David Pankratz, Nel Derksen, and Zakk Fast (a new committee member) visited the orphanage. Travel costs were paid by the persons traveling and by a committee member's Foundation. This visit fulfilled the Canadian government's oversight regulations, introduced a new committee member to Georgette and her children, and gave us invaluable insight into the successes and challenges Georgette experiences.



We spoke with Georgette for many hours, and spent time with the children - playing, looking at pictures, and seeing how they lived. We documented the stories of 5 of the children - how they came to the orphanage, and what their future plans are.

We saw the new toilets being built for the school - we'd been asked to manage the project funded by others; saw new erosion mitigation construction; facilitated the rehabilitation of the well; and met with other organizations that support Georgette - we are not alone in supporting her, and we work to strengthen those relationships with Georgette.

We learned the challenges Georgette is facing with the political unrest - including that parents aren't paying their children's tuitions because they fear the semester may not finish - and how Georgette negotiated with the teachers to accept as payment what funds there were.

We plan a larger group visit to Congo and the orphanage in 2017 or 2018. If you are interested, please contact us!

**We invite you** to make a monthly commitment or an annual donation. We issue income tax receipts for all donations.

- Cheques: written to 'ADW', with a note 'Congo's Children'
  - o mailed to 181 Canora Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3G 1T1
- Easy automatic deposit arrangements - contact Nel Derksen at [nel.derksen@gmail.com](mailto:nel.derksen@gmail.com)
- Or donate online on [Canada Helps | Accountable Development Works | Congo's Children](#)



Thank you!

David Pankratz, Nel and John Derksen, Juls Rempel and Brian Wiebe, Zakk and Kim Fast

*Thank you also from Georgette, and all her children, to whom she has dedicated her life - supporting them, educating them and bringing them to maturity in body, mind and spirit.*