



December 8, 2020

To our dear friends of Angel House,

I pray this Christmas letter brings you encouragement towards the end of a long, challenging year. We have prayed for you throughout the course of the year, prayers arising from both here and Tanzania, knowing that the year has brought hardship, loss, and stress to a number of our sponsors and friends. We are exceedingly grateful that the children in Tarime have remained healthy and safe. The mission has continued to thrive despite so many potential setbacks and as I've dwelled in recent days on the goodness of God, I wanted to share a few of this year's highlights.

Together, because of your faith and your generosity, we have been able to continue to care for, educate, and provide for each of the 62 current Angel House children. We managed to sustain payroll for both orphanage and school staff, even when the Tanzanian government mandated schools shut down for three months. With your help, we were able to purchase a year's worth of national health insurance for not only the children still at home, but also for our 21 college graduates who are now young professionals starting families of their own.

The school continues to thrive academically, and we were grateful to have volunteer missionaries onsite for most of the last year as part of the teaching team at the school and part of the family at Angel House. Our income generating projects that a number of mission teams have helped put into place are flourishing, specifically in the agricultural sector, producing enough food for the home, the school, and even extra to sell. In fact, our greenhouses were sought out and offered a contract to provide tomatoes to one of the gold mining companies in the northern part of the district. This is a huge step towards self-reliance.

In the midst of uncertainty, it seems that your generosity swelled, and we have been able to make significant strides towards finishing the dining hall at the school. Love offerings, virtual mission trips, participation in the mission auction, and new sponsors have encouraged us all.

Ten years ago, this month, I stood amidst the construction project of the first block of classrooms at Angel Secondary, wondering how we'd ever manage to accomplish it in time to open in January. Two little four-year-old girls, Nossi and Winnie, were scampering up and down the sandpiles and stacks of bricks as I looked over the day's construction progress. I clearly remember telling them both that "One day, this will be YOUR school" and thinking how far off into the future that sounded. Yet today, those two fourteen-year-old young women are sitting for exams and completing their freshman year of high school on an entire school campus, built through the generosity of so many of you. Not even a pandemic has been able to stop God from accomplishing His purpose in their lives.

Thank you, for allowing Him to use you this year in the lives of these children. Your faith, and your love in action, have made a lasting impression on us all. Pray with us as we finish the year that God will continue to provide all that we need to accomplish His vision for our lives and His mission over the course of the coming year.

Merry Christmas, and much love to you.

Holly Opundo, on behalf of Grassroots, and Angel House