



# Rafiki Africa Ministries

*Providing hope and love through Jesus Christ*

December 2014 Newsletter

Website: [www.rafikiministries.org](http://www.rafikiministries.org)

Blog: [rafikiministries.blogspot.com](http://rafikiministries.blogspot.com)

**“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”**

**Isaiah 9:6**

## Merry Christmas!

This year, Christmas will be a little different at the Children’s Home. Many of our children have been reconnected with family members and will be visiting family for Christmas. The kids are so excited to be able to visit and get to know their extended relatives. We are still planning to celebrate Christmas together as a Rafiki family when everyone is back at the Children’s Home at the beginning of January.

We are so excited to be reuniting families this Christmas season! Please join us this year with helping us to continue the work of Rafiki Africa Ministries. We are still in need of more monthly sponsors to enable us to care for the children that we currently care for and donations to be able to buy land in the future to expand the ministries’ reach to the community.

**Sponsor one of these Little Ones this Christmas!!! It is now easier than ever, with online giving through our Website!**



**Mama Sara with James, Aisha, Junior, Hannah, and Janat, Abigail and Zoe (Joseph & Sara’s children are on the right)**



## Mary & Mother Reunited 😊

Rafiki has been providing care for Mary for around 4 years. She will be 11 years old on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>. She has cerebral palsy and epilepsy. She cannot speak and is severely learning disabled. As we have begun the tracing process, two of our staff went to Acholi Quarters (a large slum) in October in search of Mary's family. She lived with her grandmother before coming to Rafiki. With the help of local government officials, the mother was traced. The mother was so excited to hear about how Mary is doing and immediately agreed to visit Mary at her boarding school, Elizabeth House. Mary's father has still not been found.

In the picture on the left, Mary's mother, Awuma Sande, was so excited to be reunited with Mary after

5 years. She appreciates Rafiki for taking care of Mary during the past years. Mary's grandmother and brother were also able to visit Mary at Elizabeth House. The staff said that it even seemed like Mary recognized them and was very happy snuggling in their laps. Mama Esther, our Manager at the home, said, "It was good to see Mary cuddling with her mother like she knew for sure it was her. Maybe Mary knew and felt it."

### Mary's grandmother with Mary →

Mary will be visiting her grandmother, mother, and siblings over Christmas break. The ministry will be assisting the family with some household items like a mattress for the family to sleep on, bathing items, and food. Please be in prayer for Mary during this time as she is reconnected with family. Please pray for the ministry as we meet with the family in the future to discuss resettlement and support needed for the family.



## Lunch Fundraiser on Orphan Sunday a Success!

Thank you to everyone for your support on Orphan Sunday at FBC Pflugerville. We raised \$1,500 from the lunch. Many thanks to Katha Kirkland and her family, who cooked a delicious meal!! Thank you to Kaleb Kirkland for his brilliant idea of doing another lunch fundraiser! Thank you to everyone who purchased crafts from the Rafiki Market!

## Christmas Wish List at **TARGET!**

I cannot believe that the Christmas season is almost upon us. Our Christmas Wish List was a HUGE success the past three years! We are excited to continue the tradition for a fourth year. We have created a wish list of items including new clothes, toys, and Bibles for the kids. The children were so excited last year to receive new clothes, a special toy, and soccer balls for outside play. We would love to bring a special item for each child again this year.

Rafiki Africa Ministries has created a wish list at Target. Please visit our **TargetList** by clicking on the following link or cut and paste it into your web browser → <http://www.target.com/ot/list/j96GEJPdeIvUiTA7ejLY8g>

You can find the ministry wish list by going to [www.Target.com](http://www.Target.com) or in person in any Target store. Just search for Rafiki Africa Ministries with the TargetList advanced search tool or search using the name Sara Kiwanuka.



It is easier than ever to send a gift. All you have to do is click on the link and make your purchase. You do not have to worry about gift-wrapping it or delivering the items – as the toys will ship directly to Rafiki Africa Ministries in Pflugerville. If you do not want to shop online, then you can make purchases at any Target store and then deliver the presents to 803 West Noton Street, Pflugerville, Texas 78660. The gifts will then be packed in suitcases and travel with us to Uganda when we return at the end of December. Please do not wrap the gifts because they will be opened as they go through customs.

**\*\*Reminder – We need to receive Target Gifts by Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> to give us time to pack!**

Joseph and Sara Kiwanuka will be heading back to Uganda a little earlier this year. They will be leaving Texas on December 17<sup>th</sup> to be able to spend Christmas with their Ugandan family. Please make purchases as soon as possible so that gifts can be included in the luggage that they will take with them to Uganda.



## Only a few more opportunities to Shop with Rafiki this year!

We have two more opportunities in the month of December to come out and support the ministry through your Christmas shopping! We have many great items for sale this year including lots of different and new items. We will have a sale table at our final Open House event on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Please come out for all of the great deals! Make your Christmas shopping have a purpose this year!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
▶ Saturday, December 6 <sup>th</sup>	10am-4pm	<b>Christmas Market held by Austin Stone Church</b> For the City Center – 500 East St. Johns Avenue Austin, TX 78752
<i>Christmas Market is a fun and very unique arts &amp; craft show of local and international ministries – don't miss it!</i>		
▶ Saturday, December 13 <sup>th</sup>	10am-2pm	<b>Open House – Jo and Frank Hamilton's Home</b> 803 West Noton Street, Pflugerville, TX 78660
<i>The Open House is an opportunity to see everything we have! We will also offer sale items! Come by and enjoy some African Coffee or African Tea.</i>		



## Ways YOU can pray for us this month –

- Praise God for the money that has been raised through the Lunch Fundraiser and Craft Shows!
- Pray for Joseph and Sara and their two girls, Abby and Zoe, as they travel back to Uganda on December 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Pray for us as we seek to follow God's direction in the purchase of land and building and pray that He will provide the money we need so that we can move out of our rented Rafiki Home.
- Pray for our children as they reconnect with family members. Pray that they will bond and build relationships.
- Pray that we will receive enough new sponsors to take care of all of James, Hannah, Ruth, Junior, and Janat.
- Pray for the children and staff as we strive to be more like Jesus everyday. Pray for the children as they learn more about the Lord daily and grow in their walk. Pray they will accept Him as their personal Savior.
- Pray for Rafiki as we continue to work with the local Police, government officials, and Social Workers on the placement of abandoned and orphaned children.
- Pray for excellent physical, mental, and spiritual health for the Rafiki Kids, Staff, Directors, and Missionaries.
- Pray for God's protection over Rafiki Africa Ministries, the directors, staff, volunteers, sponsors, and children from spiritual attack from the evil one.

- Pray for God to make His will for the ministry very clear to us as we seek to follow his direction.
- Praise God for his continuous provision and generosity of blessings we receive from Him.
- Praise God for our sponsors and contributors who have been inspired by God to give of their time, resources, money, and talents. Pray that we will be good stewards of all that is given to us.
- “In all things give thanks”. 1st Thessalonians 5:88

## Ways YOU can support the ministry –

- **PRAY** for the ministry and orphans in Uganda. “Brothers and sisters, pray for us.” (1 Thessalonians 5:25)
- **GIVE** financially. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 8:3-4 says, “For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people.”
- **SERVE** on the mission field and come to Uganda. We are in desperate need of teachers, childcare workers, nurses, etc. We can use anyone. “We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.” (Romans 12:6-8)
- **CONNECT** the ministry with local churches, rotary clubs, schools, businesses, etc. Connect us with your friends and family. Please email Sara at [sara@rafikiministries.org](mailto:sara@rafikiministries.org) if you are interested in arranging a speaking engagement.
- **SPEAK UP** and tell their story. What a simple way of obeying God’s instruction to us about the poor...simply tell their story. Proverbs 31:8-9 says “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

## Please Give by Sponsoring a Life

Prayerfully consider making a one-time donation or become a monthly sponsor. You can sponsor a child for only \$35 per month OR any amount you wish. Every little bit helps keep Rafiki Africa Home running. We are currently providing a home for 18 children (listed from youngest to oldest) Baby Junior, Ruth, Hannah, James, Janat, Aisha, Emma, Carol, Don, Jerom, Annet, Esther, Oscar, Fauziya, Joel, Brenda, Cocus, Mary, and Joshua. When you decide to sponsor a child you will be helping take care of their needs by paying for their shelter, medical needs, food, clothes, and education. Prayerfully consider sponsoring one of these children as a family or as an individual. If you decide to sponsor a child please notify me by email: [sara@rafikiministries.org](mailto:sara@rafikiministries.org)

### Methods for Giving:

Donate through PayPal using the link on our website → [www.rafikiministries.org](http://www.rafikiministries.org)

Please mail checks to:

**Rafiki Africa Ministries**  
**P.O. Box 3526**  
**Pflugerville, TX 78691-3526**

We are a non-profit organization in the State of Texas. 100% of money raised goes to helping orphaned and destitute children in Uganda. Rafiki is classified as a 501©3 charity and contributions to Rafiki are tax deductible under Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of the tax code. Rafiki is qualified to receive tax-deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the code. This exemption is retroactive from the date of filing the 501©3. For further clarification, **contact Frank Hamilton at (512) 771-0681 (USA)**  
 If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with “Unsubscribe” in the subject line.

**Webale! (Thank you!) We continuously thank God for you!**  
**Joseph and Sara Kiwanuka, Founders and Directors, Rafiki Africa Ministries**