



Did you know... VICODEC

- educates 363 children
- enrolls pre-school – grade 4
- provides training for families interested in starting their own businesses
- feeds 650 children

Children in Need

Many children associated with VICODEC need your help. A \$300 sponsorship will provide a child with food, education, clothing and access to medical care for an entire year!

If you can help, contact Jen Peeters at 920-735-7185 or jpeeters@usventure.com.



OCTOBER VISIT PLANNED



Do you sponsor a child? Now is the perfect opportunity for you to reach out to them. The kids love to hear from their sponsors and what life is like for you in the United States.

Don't sponsor a child, but still want to be involved? VICODEC needs supplies! Please check out their wish list to the right. If you can help with any of these items, contact Terri Green (tgreen@usventure.com or 920.831.8818). Keep in mind that space and weight limits are always a concern. For example, there may be room for 3 boxes of bandages, but not enough for 4 dolls.

Can't decide what to donate or don't have time to shop? A cash donation is a perfect fit... you can even specify what you want purchased! The shopping will be done for you in Africa...and most of the time, your money will go even further!

Please send any donations or letters to Terri Green no later than Monday, October 22. Thank you for your support!

VICODEC WISH LIST

School:

- Crayons
- Washable Markers
- Toys
- Dolls
- Story books

Vocational Training:

- Magazines - Embroidery, Knitting, Interior Design, Hairdressing/Beauty, Fashion and Design
- Barbering Machines (clippers)
- Manicure sets

Clinic:

- Bandages
- Disposable Scalpels
- Reinforced Skin Closures
- Medical Strapping Tape
- Betadine Solution

Social Work:

- Construction paper
- Soft manila paper



News from Africa

A brief summary of events and happenings in and around the VICODEC community

by Joe Wachira, Director of VICODEC



VICODEC News

- The schools numbers have increased to 363
 - 188 in preschool, and 175 in primary school with numbers increasing in January
 - 191 boys and 172 girls
- The primary school moved into the new block of classrooms which are bigger and well lit
- Vocational training has 31 students
 - 8 students in beauty and hairdressing
 - 23 students in garment making
- The feeding numbers have come down to 650 because of the public school teacher strike. The numbers are increasing gradually. We hope that normalcy will return soon.

Kenya News

- The Members of parliament just awarded themselves a retirement package of 2 billion Kenyan shillings. The people are very angry because everybody else is surviving on peanuts. The prices of everything have gone up and life has become very unbearable. We live through debts hoping to see better days.
- The Alshabab from Somalia continues to attack sporadically now targeting the churches. Last Sunday they hurled a grenade at a church in Nairobi killing one boy.
- The Kenyan army has defeated and reclaimed the major Alshabab city of Kismayu. There will be no longer ship piracy and now the Somali people can live in peace. It is almost 20 years with no stable government. This is seen globally as a major achievement and Kenya is getting a lot of support now.
- The teachers strike ended two weeks ago with a 300% salary increase. The country is in a crisis raising taxes on phone communication and VAT (value added tax) to come up with 15 billion Kenyan shillings to pay the teachers from October.
- The doctor's strike also ended last week with a big salary increase. It is good news because many people were dying in the public hospitals but again, the big concern is how the Government will raise all the salary increases which was not in this year's budget. Obviously we are going into an election period and the government wants to look good- wooing the workers with money so that they can get the votes.

For more information about VICODEC and the Sponsorship Program, go to www.usventure.com or contact Terri Green, tgreen@usventure.com

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