

AID TO ORPHANS OF MADAGASCAR

AOM is committed to offering assistance to child centers and other programs in Madagascar that help children and their families in need by providing food, education and job training. We work to help families stay together so they may avoid putting their children in orphanages for economic reasons. Your donations are precious gifts that transform the lives of children who live with so little hope. Our very small organization with its equally small budget is able to succeed because we know each person we are helping and can keep in touch with the results of each project. This year we were able to make significant improvements in these children's lives because of your generous donations.



Herina is a star student thanks to her mother's help.



A new roof to stay dry under during rainy season.



Prepping for a garden in a bag.



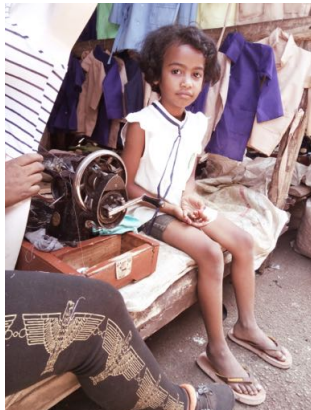
Isaia is a good student ready to embrace his future.

SHE DID RISE UP!

Oh Lalaina, you are like a phoenix rising up from the ashes. A few years ago our director, Jacky, found you beneath the dark burden of grief after losing your husband to a lung illness caused by working in a cloth factory. You became the only provider for your 6 young children including the one you were carrying. Everything in your life was a bigger burden than any one person could possibly bare. All it took was one glimpse into your circumstances before Jacky and our school director dove into action. They immediately placed your two school age children into our AOM primary school, which includes lunches. Then they assured you that you were not alone and worked with you on a plan. You decided to take sewing lessons while building your strength back.

You rose up and turned your tragedy into a fountain of courage and energy for positive change. You have created an amazing life for your family and community. Every Wednesday and Saturday you go to the AOM Center to be the librarian. You know exactly how to encourage all the students to be excited about learning and reading while respecting the books. You now have another job teaching mathematics in a small private school 8 hours a week. In between all of this you have found time to expand your sewing business and are now able to support your family. Even when your daughter, Herina, needed surgery, you were able to pay for it. Not only that, Herina and her sister are in the top of their classes so you are probably making sure your children's schoolwork is in order and they are understanding their lessons.

Your positive outlook on life and opportunity has been such a bright light in the many lives of those you have touched.



PLANTING SEEDS

Lalao's courtyard is the hub of daily life. She earns a living by washing clothes here from morning to late afternoon. Her family uses this yard to cook in, children gather to play here and neighbors and friends stop by to visit, making it a community center of sorts.

This busy place is also where Lalao plants green beans tight against the courtyard wall where they won't get trampled. Her children have placed nets over the seedlings to keep animals and toddlers out. She proudly guards her plants like a mother hen. After all, this is how she will provide her family with fresh green beans to accompany their plates of rice during the rainy season.

This courtyard inspired us to start a little experiment called the bag garden. Interested AOM members came together to give this pilot project a go. Hands of all ages joined to mix sand and compost and soil into a nutritious mix that was shoveled into bags. Next the bags were distributed to families and taken home where holes were cut into the sides of the bags and seeds were planted in the slots. Now seedlings are popping out of the bags creating wonder for many children and parents.

We look forward to seeing delicious vegetables adorn the plates of our avid bag gardeners!





RAINY SEASON IS HERE!

From top to bottom, help is on the way! After Eloi's father died several years ago, tough decisions had to be made. AOM was able to ensure he and his sister would receive an education by enrolling them in our school. They also had daily lunches so his mother could find work outside the home. His sister has since graduated from school and recently married. Eloi continues his education through our scholarship program and is doing well in school. He shared with his mother that he would really like to do his homework in a dry place! Financially though, this was beyond what their careful budget could tolerate. Over the years, they continued to overlook a leaking roof and water running into the house during rainy season. Under these uncomfortable conditions, this sweet family stayed strong and true, making the best of life.

This year a group of AOM families is working together to improve their own living conditions. They are teaming up to lighten their loads, especially for weary widows. The group arrives with shovels and begins by digging a trench around the water prone houses and using the soil and cartloads of additional soil to elevate the floors while directing currents of water around the house rather than spreading through the house.



After all the heavy digging and lifting is done, new sheets of tin donated by you, our donors are placed on the roof. Life just got better!

2021 fiscal year includes scholarships for 228 students.

2021 BUDGET

EDUCATION BUDGET: School supplies: \$5,594. Registration: \$1970. Uniforms: \$2,070. Tuition: \$5,500.

Lunch fees: \$8,852. After school: \$890.

New Books for Library: \$600.

Salaries: \$4,420.

Rent: \$5,600.

Medical: \$ 6,500.

Office supplies, internet, phone, newsletter: \$4,000.

Family income enhancement programs: \$3,700.

Misc: \$2,600.

TOTAL \$52,296.



Little baby Elyse used to cry and vigorously rub his eyes when he woke up in the in the morning. His mother said it was like a glue was attaching his upper and lower eyelids together. He would wave his hands in front of his face. When Elyse was old enough to help his mother, she would ask him to pick up a plate and he would say he couldn't see any plate. He often waved his hands in front of him when he moved about. When he started school this year, Elyse would try to play with other children but would always be crashing into them and falling. His teachers put him in the front row and used very large letters to try to help. Finally they had a conference with his mother and said she had to get his eyesight checked or he had to leave school.

AOM sent him to an eye doctor who said he was in danger of losing his sight. He is now using prescribed eye drops and wearing glasses. The transition has been difficult because he gets headaches, but improvements happening. He can now see the board and is able to play with his fellow students without problems. He still has trouble reading and seeing small objects but is gradually improving. **Your donations make life so much better! Thank You!!**

HOMEWORK RULES!

Our students live in homes where all furniture has many functions. They often study on their knees using a couch or bed as a makeshift desk, often ending up with wrinkled, messy, or lost papers. Books can be lost in the stir of family life.

This season we are teaching beginning carpentry skills to interested families creating a designated study area as one goal. Backpacks fit below on the shelf and homework remains in a contained space. No longer will the children be laughed at for wrinkle homework.

AOM Graduate carpentry student Mandry will share his carpentry knowledge and help AOM families become more skilled.



FUTURE OF A THUNDER SON

Isaia loves school so much he wants to be a headmaster when he grows up. Perhaps he was influenced by AOM's past school director, the sweet and wise Mr. Henri.

Isaia, now 10, has been with us since he started preschool. At that time his mother was single, trying to make ends meet with sewn goods she sold in the market. Life was hard but fortunately they were able to live with his grandparents.

Two years ago, his mother married a man who lives and works in a distant village where they will soon be moving. Isaia will continue living with his grandparents in order to continue his education at the SOS Village d'Enfant School. He is not able or interested in finding his biological father and is quite satisfied to stay with his present community of family and schoolmates. AOM's scholarship program allows Isaia to stay and flourish in a stable, familiar environment.

Thunder Son is the term given a boy born of a different father. It is believed he should seek out and live with his biological father.

