



Contact:
We Canceve Movement
PeopleWhoCare@wecanceve.org
202.491.3586

For immediate release:
August 22, 2014

Local Children Ship School Supplies to Songhor, Kenya Orphanage

(Abingdon, Md.) – Board of Advisors from the We Canceve Movement, a charity founded by Grace E. G. Callwood, 9, of Abingdon, shipped boxes of school supplies to the Achego Childcare & Orphanage Center in Songhor, Kenya today. This is one of two major school supply donations undertaken by the all-youth board of advisors.

“I really like the school supplies drive because I can see how much people really cared about these kids and believed in We Canceve to do good,” said Callwood, who started this movement when she was seven. “I was getting excited because there were so much back to school supplies and I was thinking about the kids there at the orphanage, and how excited they would probably be.”

To gain a clearer understanding of the children who live at the orphanage, We Canceve Movement teamed with Ambrose Abuto, a Kenya native, and his wife Carol, of Cecil County, to sponsor an afternoon of fun, food and education learning about the East African Country.

“Explore Kenya event was really nice and fun because we got to learn new words. We got to taste different foods and we also got to watch a video to learn about their culture,” remembered Callwood.

Ambrose Abuto’s father established the orphanage in 1970s and since his passing, the family has maintained the compound that contains several living quarters, school space for vocational and academic training, a garden and small farm where they grow their meals. The orphanage is home to about 200 children from infants to college age, who are orphaned as a result of war, poverty and disease.

Abuto’s sister Lillian Awimbo, a child psychologist and land owner from Mombasa, taught We Canceve Movement board members and families Swahili words while Margaret Amokey, also of Kenya, provided lessons in traditional Kenya cooking. The group tasted Sukuma Wiki, a dish of collard greens sautéed in light oil and simmered with stewed tomatoes and seasonings and ugali, a corn-flower dish that’s stirred with water until it makes what looks like a pot-sized grits patty. But the favorite by far for the youth was a curried chicken dish and Mediterranean seasoned basmati rice and the mandazi, a Swahili coconut donut that looks and tastes a lot of like a New Orleans beignet.

Their shipment included 28 school packs, which were plastic cases filled with pens, pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners and other supplies for high school and college students, and similar items plus crayons for elementary and middle school students. Older youth there will also receive 45 pocket folders, 35 spiral notebooks and additional 30 pens, 150 pencils and 5 large bottles of glue. The younger children there will receive an additional 20 composition books.

Later this month, We Canceve Movement hopes to donate remaining school supplies to teachers who provide home school services to students too sick to attend class at the school house.

We Canceve Movement is a charity founded in 2011 by Grace E. G. Callwood to bring immediate help to sick, homeless and foster children. The charitable organization creates giving opportunities that can be supported by the community to bring happiness to children who are in vulnerable situations. With faith in God as its inspiration, the We Canceve Movement believes that love is active, strong, urgent, practical and possible. For us, solutions are swift because happiness shouldn't have to wait.

###



TOP: Lillian Awimbo, from Mombasa, talks with Megan Knight, WMAR-ABC 12 Baltimore, about the orphanage in Songhor that her father helped establish while board members Heaven Faust, Addison Simpler and Grace Callwood (back to camera) write notes to children living at the orphanage. Bottom, Knight helps mic Callwood, 9, for an interview about the We Canceve Movement, a charity she founded at age 7.





LEFT: Board of Advisors Zwen Olushola, Alexis Bell and Grace Callwood enjoy the activities at the "Explore Kenya" event hosted by Ambrose and Carol Abuto in Cecil County.

Below Right, Margaret Amokey shows the board how to prepare Ugali.

Bottom, Ahmad Smith, far left, the oldest board member watched younger board members Zwen Olushola, Alexis Bell and Grace Callwood, and Bell's younger brother Landon inspect the inventory of supplies he helped provide. Smith left for Morehouse earlier this month.

