

Nyumbani Children's Home

THE NEED

Founded in 1992, Nyumbani Children's Home is an active response to the rising number of HIV infected children born in Africa every day. Because infants carry many of their mothers' antibodies through their first year of life, a number of newborns with infected mothers may give a 'false positive' and never actually develop the disease themselves. In fact, a full 75% of babies who test positive at birth will eventually be found not to have the virus. Tragically these children are often abandoned anyway, on the mistaken assumption that they are certain to develop and eventually succumb to AIDS.

At Nyumbani, 'home' in Swahili, children are cared for until a definite assessment of their HIV status can be made. Children who are eventually found not to have the virus are adopted or find other homes. Children who are found to be HIV+ are given the best nutritional, medical, in particular, anti-retroviral therapy, psychological, academic, spiritual care available and live at Nyumbani until they become self-reliant.

Nyumbani is home to approximately 100 children ranging in age from newborn to twenty-three years old.

Our children come from all over Kenya; as far as Mombassa, Kisumu, Kakamega, Marsabit, Nakuru, Isiolo; or as close as Ngong, Dagoretti, and other areas within and around Nairobi. They represent all tribes and ethnicities of Kenya.

Children are referred to Nyumbani through national hospitals and through Nyumbani's own community outreach program, Lea Toto.

HISTORY

1992 – Establishment of Nyumbani in a rental house in Westlands
Children's Home residents: 3

1993 – Nyumbani moves to Cottolengo Center in Lang'ata
Children's Home residents: 24

1995 – Nyumbani moves again to Dagoretti Road in Karen
Children's Home residents: 27

1996 – Groundbreaking for staff and residential buildings
Children's Home residents: 39

1997 – Children move into completed cottages
Children's Home residents: 75

1998 – Launching of Lea Toto Outreach Program and Laboratory

1999 – Expansion of Nyumbani facilities at Karen: Kitchen House, Laboratory and Driveway are completed;
Children's Home residents: 70

2000 – Solar panel systems and Fountain donated to Nyumbani
Children's Home residents: 73

2001 – Renovation of original Nyumbani buildings into present office block
Children's Home residents: 70

2002 – Ten Year Anniversary of Nyumbani.
Children's Home residents: 85

2003 – 2 acre land parcel adjacent to current site purchased for second expansion of existing Children's Home

2004 – Victory in landmark lawsuit against Kenyan public schools denying admission to children with HIV; 1,000 acres of land donated in Kitui province, construction of Nyumbani Village commences
Children's Home residents: 94

2005 – CORGI Head Office moves to remainder of plot of land adjacent to Nyumbani as it became available for purchase
Children's Home residents: 95

Information from the Nyumbani website www.nyumbani.org