

WIDOWS PROJECT INFORMATION



A HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROJECT

"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me." Mark 9:37_ "Sing to God, sing praise to him name, extol him who rides on the clouds - his name is the LORD - and rejoice before him. A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows is God in his holy dwelling." Psalm 68:4-5

With no support systems provided by the government and usually few family members alive, widows in Kenya do not have an easy time. To make matters worse, it is not uncommon for in-laws to come and take anything of value, leaving the widow with literally 'nothing'. We can scarce imagine the hardships they face on a daily basis as they struggle to provide for themselves and sometimes their children or grandchildren. Many will own a 'jamba' which is a short handled hoe. They will go out looking for work on someone's land. If they are fortunate, they will bring home a few shillings or some food, maybe enough to feed the family for the day. Some of the widows are just too elderly to work, relying on the generosity of others in order to survive. When everyone is poor, they can easily slip through the cracks.

In January 2010, Agape in Action launched the 'Upendo Wanjane' Program. Local sisters Adelaide, Rophence and Margaret provide the widows with the basics. They make regular visits and deliver care packages of food and other essentials (such as clothing, a blanket, water, seeds etc...) and take a hot cup of tea to share.

The widows who are part of the program were all so thankful, even at the thought of being helped. After the launch of the program, the Agape in Action team met in Kimbilio and were excited about the opportunity to help. However, it wasn't until we visited some of their homes later that afternoon that we really understood how needy they really were. There was one very elderly widow who had come in the morning and she was so tired and hungry when we later visited her house that she couldn't get off her makeshift bed. In the corner were some leaves that she had been cutting up to eat - she hadn't eaten anything all day! This experience highlighted how important the regular visits are. The first things donated in the program were mattresses as most of the widows were sleeping on the ground with nothing underneath them. The surprise deliveries were greeted with scenes of such gratefulness! It was both humbling and heart warming to see something we take for granted every night, bringing so much joy to someone's life.

Thank-you for your support of this program!

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." James 1:27



AGAPE IN ACTION

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