Global Outreach Building Strong Foundations for Bright Futures: An Update

For the last three years, Deputy Steve Doucette, Deputy Jess Rodriguez and Sergeant Tom Giandomenico, assigned to the Special Enforcement Bureau, have jointly served on the Global Antiterrorism Team for the United States Department of State’s Antiterrorism Assistance Program. As part of that program, the deputies were deployed in March, 2014, to Africa to provide Kenyan police with tactical and emergency medical training.

During their deployment, the deputies went to the small, poverty-ridden town of Matuu, just northeast of the capitol city, Nairobi. While there, they met a Capuchin Franciscan friar, Father Chris Musyoka, who goes by Father Chris. When the deputies learned Father Chris operates a makeshift orphanage in Matuu, they were instantly filled with compassion for the children and a held high-regard for the work the friar was doing. Father Chris’s humility and unrelenting devotion to improving the lives of so many disadvantaged children noticeably moved the deputies. This was a powerful moment for them.

After leaving Africa with a promise they would do everything in their power to help change the lives of the young children of Matuu, they returned home with a plan. A few fund-raising dinners and after flying Father Chris to Los Angeles, the group of Special Enforcement Bureau deputies crafted a plan to accomplish this dream.

With the help of loving and generous friends and family members of this department this dream has become a reality. The first floor of the administration building has been completed. The Bishop from Nairobi will be blessing this building on November 22, 2014, and the first children will be accepted into the Kenya School of Angels in January, 2015.

With the continued support of family and friends of this Department these Deputies have faith that the entire 500 student school/orphanage will be in full operation by this time next year.

In January, two of the orphaned Matuu children will be living with Sergeant Giandomenico. Please feel free to monitor this story on the website below or to reach out to any of the gentlemen from "B Shift" SEB for current updates.
A quick recap: Life is difficult in poor communities such as Matuu, to say the least, especially if a child is without parents, education or job opportunities. Desperate for money, children often become vulnerable to the sex industry, putting their health, safety and lives at risk. Deputies Doucette and Rodriguez, and Sergeant Giandomenico were compelled to assist the friar to improve the lives of these children by way of the orphanage.

After much heartfelt discussion and planning, Deputies Doucette and Rodriguez, and Sergeant Giandomenico formed a non-profit organization to create a safe haven where young people could be housed and educated. They named the organization the Kenya School of Angels, which would fund the construction of a new orphanage-school, also named the Kenya School of Angels.

Fellow Special Enforcement Bureau team member, Deputy Jim Moss, and the deputies pooled their money and sponsored a 10-day trip to Los Angeles for Father Chris. During his stay, the deputies organized a fund-raising dinner, which was attended by approximately 100 people and raised over $30,000. With the help of many generous donations from deputies, family members and local businesses, the construction of a 500-student orphanage-school became more than a dream.

Since April, 2014, construction of the Kenya School of Angels has been underway. Additional funding will provide a new playing field, and of course, everyday things such as clothing, bedding, hygiene items, building maintenance, school supplies, etc.

In just a short period of time, these accomplishments have significantly changed the lives and futures of those disadvantaged young people. Deputies Doucette, Moss and Rodriguez, and Sergeant Giandomenico were grateful for the generosity and humanity exhibited by their colleagues at the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. It reached around the globe; all the way to Kenya.

For more information: [http://kenyaschoolofangels.wordpress.com/](http://kenyaschoolofangels.wordpress.com/)
Phases of progress…

Stucco gives the building a finished look.

Windows allow light, circulation and inspiration inside.

Paint gives a bright touch.
Finishing the interior…

A short wall will soon help corral the little ones and keep them safe inside the school’s perimeter.