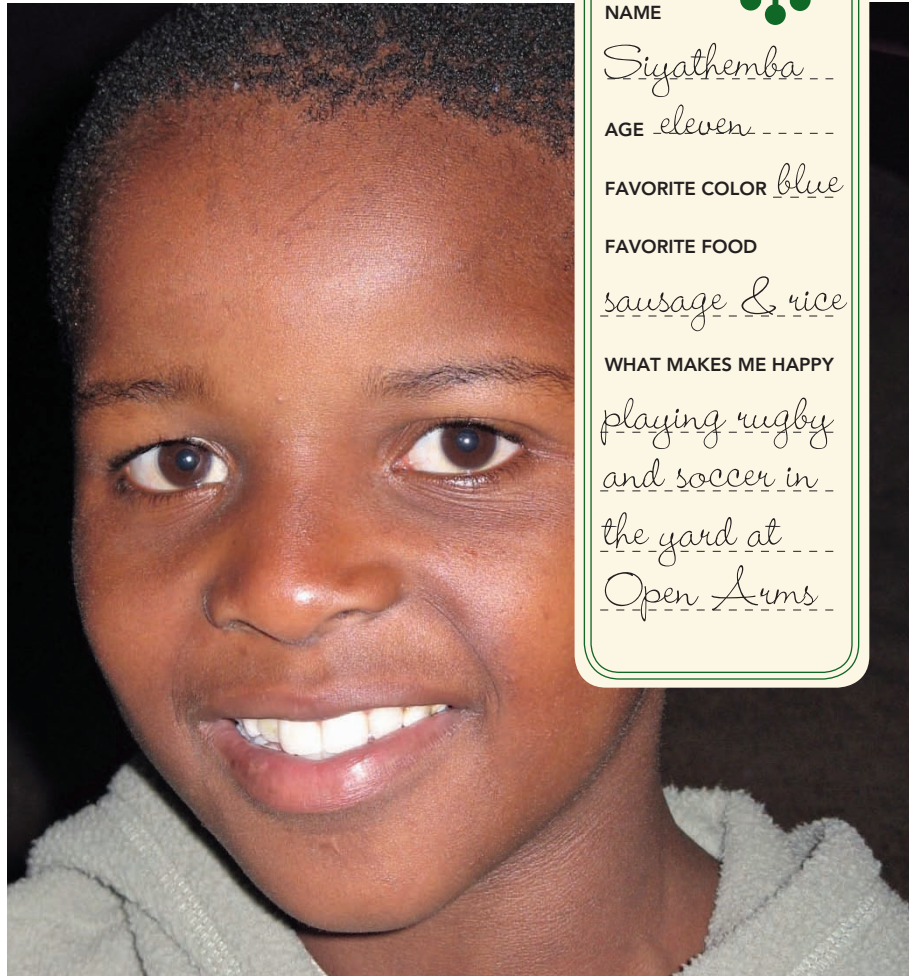


get to know:
Siyathemba

Siyathemba came to us two years ago with a brother and his cousin. He is 11 years old and is in the fifth grade at Morgenster Elementary School. He plays on the rugby team in school and is an excellent athlete. He is also a very tender-hearted boy who is a great role model for our younger kids. As you can see, he is very photogenic as well! He sends you his thanks for what you are doing for him!



NAME  Siyathemba

AGE eleven

FAVORITE COLOR blue

FAVORITE FOOD sausage & rice

WHAT MAKES ME HAPPY playing rugby and soccer in the yard at Open Arms

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Board of Directors serves a crucial advisory role for Open Arms and we are grateful for their service and commitment. The 2009-2010 Board is made up of:

- | | |
|--|---|
| BOB SOLIS
Litchfield Park, Arizona | TIM CHERVENAK
Spokane, Washington |
| SALLIE SOLIS
Litchfield Park, Arizona | DAVE NELSON
Sarasota, Florida |
| MARK PETERSON
Scottsdale, Arizona | DAVE HORAN
Edina, Minnesota |
| JEFF TOWER
Boise, Idaho | TED FREESE
St. Louis Park, Minnesota |
| | ANN PARSONS
Seattle, Washington |



Open Arms is a 501 (c)(3) organization and any tax deductible donations can be sent to the US address at right.

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open arms

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- WEBSITE**
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open arms news

VOLUME 1
ISSUE 2
OCTOBER
2009

A LETTER FROM BOBO

Friends,
Welcome to the second edition of Open Arms News! We are pleased to use this publication to let you know about our progress and our children, staff, volunteers and donors. As they say in Africa, it "takes a village to raise a child" and we could not provide love and security to orphaned children without all the members of the Open Arms family, including you!

As I write this column, I can't help but reflect on the past year. Twelve months ago, I was completing a walk across South Africa. Covering 700 miles in 30 days, I learned a lot. The first thing I learned is that next time I cross the country I'll be sure to bring bus fare. But the second and more important lesson is that it is easier to do anything if others are depending on you. When my ankles hurt on the walk and my blisters had blisters, I knew I had to go on because the kids and donors were expecting me to finish. Those expectations actually made the long walk

easier, not more difficult.

As I reflect on that, one of the things I'm most thankful for is that the children at Open Arms will forevermore have expectations placed on them. Because we're responsible for raising the children at Open Arms to adulthood, we expect a lot of them: that they'll be respectful, do their best in school, care for each other and say their prayers. We expect them to grow up to be productive people in South African society and to one day be good husbands, wives and parents. For our children, these expectations are a blessing for one important reason: we know they'll live up to them.

Sam Walton once said that "high expectations are the key to everything." We are blessed to serve the children at Open Arms but that is not enough. Through daily encouragement, hard work, and the prayers and generosity of many people, the children in our care are rising to the expectations we have for them.

The Good Book says "as a man thinks, so shall he be." (Proverbs 23:7). We think our children are special



people, created by God for a wonderful purpose. More importantly, as each day passes, our kids come to believe the same thing and that is indeed life-changing for them.

Thank you for expecting us to continue the work you make possible. And thank you for allowing children who have had a rough start to life to know that we expect the best for them and that we all stand together to make those expectations a reality.

For children who were once alone in the world, that is a very special thing.

Blessings to you,



from St. Croix with love...

Open Arms gets a lot of help from many places, but a lot of our friends on St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands have been extraordinarily helpful. A very special group of quilters on St. Croix has made a personalized quilt for every child at Open Arms. Led by **KATHY MACKAY**, the **NEW IMAGE QUILTERS** have done a remarkable job of providing

every single child with a hand-made quilt of extraordinary quality. We thank them for providing warmth and love to our kids through this very special effort. As we grow, the women in the group have pledged to keep our supply coming!

In addition, one member of the group, **CAROLYN ROBYLER**, recently spent two months at Open Arms



painting everything in sight! Carolyn is a very talented lady who painted incredible murals in many places and turned our preschool into a real work of art! Carolyn is a remarkable person and we thank her for sharing her talents in such a meaningful way!

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: BHUKO WITH NEW MURAL IN BOYS' COTTAGE, KATHY MACKAY WITH HANDIWORK, CAROLYN PAINTING NOAH'S ARK IN OUR NURSERY

Davey Nelson CELEBRITY GOLF CLASSIC

DAVEY NELSON, Open Arms board member and a former professional baseball player who is now a TV baseball analyst in Milwaukee, held the first annual Davey Nelson Celebrity Golf Classic benefiting Open Arms on June 22 in Kohler, WI. The tournament was a smashing success and featured many local sports celebrities, including baseball Hall of Famer Robin Yount. Everyone had a great day and we thank Dave and the tournament committee for a wonderful day to benefit the kids at Open Arms. We look forward to the 2nd annual tournament on Monday, June 7, 2010. **THANK YOU, DAVEY NELSON!**



DAVEY ON A VISIT TO OPEN ARMS IN JANUARY, 2009 AND WITH RITA MONTGOMERY, OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AT THE TOURNAMENT

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES...

Four new cottages are nearing completion at Open Arms, thanks to everyone who contributed to the walk effort last year. We plan to dedicate the new cottages at a special celebration on January 30, 2010. Each cottage will serve as a home for 10 children, bringing our capacity to 70 kids. We can hardly wait to welcome our next residents!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

This past summer, we had six terrific student volunteers join us from the States — great stuff! Four came to us from the Univ. of Notre Dame: Kassie Barbee, Sarah Furman, Kenzie Bowen and Erin Hendricks. Tyler Christiansen, a high school student from California also came as did Brad Roberson, a recent graduate of Texas A&M. So we say Go Irish, Gig'em Aggies and thanks Tyler! You will always be special members of our family!

wish list

CURRENT NEEDS



COMMUNITY DINING FACILITY & KITCHEN

\$150,000.00

This will allow our expected 75 children to eat together and allow us to cook for so many!



INSTALL A FENCE

\$35,000.00

An electrified fence and gate is needed to protect our kids and staff



PAVE THE DRIVEWAY

\$20,000.00

Our current drive-way is dirt and needs constant grading



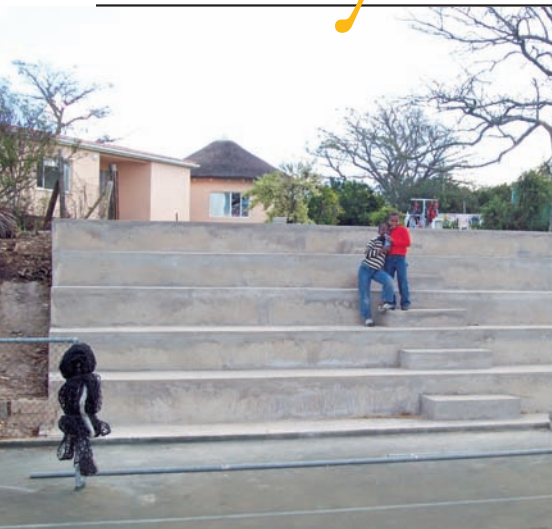
BUILD A STORAGE FACILITY

\$10,000.00

For tools, yard equipment and supplies

WE NOW HAVE A NEW AND REVAMPED WEBSITE! GO TO WWW.OPENARMSHOME.COM TO CHECK IT OUT!

did you know?



An amphitheater was recently built overlooking the beautiful valley below in memory of **ELLEN WOLLAN FREESE** who directed her memorial gifts to Open Arms. Ellen is the late sister of our development director, Ted Freese, and was a person who loved gatherings of family and friends. We now have a lovely spot to gather **THANKS TO ELLEN AND HER GREAT FAMILY.**



WE RECENTLY COMPLETED A 5 STATION COMPUTER LAB thanks to Karen Sullivan of Milwaukee and Robert W. Baird and Co. The kids love the new laptops and work on their math, reading and English skills while having fun!

Super-volunteer **BRAD ROBERSON** spearheaded a large garden project to supplement our food needs which will bear our first crop of veggies in the next few months. **THANKS BRAD!**

OPEN ARMS DEBUTS ON YouTube!

A **VIDEO** on **OPEN ARMS HOME** can now be found on YouTube. Just go to youtube.com and type in "Open Arms Home for Children" to see it. A very special thanks to **RICK AND PATTY DEBRUHL** of Phoenix who came to Open Arms as volunteers and produced and made the video at no cost to us. Rick and Patty have done so much for this ministry — **THANKS A MILLION!**



ERIN AND KENZIE WITH LINDOKUHLE