

**DONATE NOW !**

**USD 150:** monthly fee per child - to cover school, food, medicines and the support of the child at the village (including workers' salaries and other necessities)

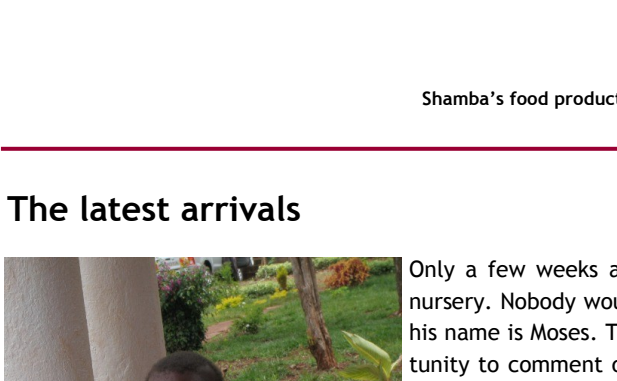
Dear friends, supporters and volunteers,

we are writing to you as we are back from a short visit to the children that, with your help, are happily growing in the New Hope (HIV) Orphanage in Nchiru. We have come back with a sense of great satisfaction for what has been done so far and with the positive feeling that the project is growing well; inevitably, though, we also bring back with us the awareness of the complexity of the issues that are constantly to be faced. There is great satisfaction for all the good work that Marek has done this first year, for the ever-increasing quality of attention and care that it is possible to give to the children. To all those who read us and support us we wish to send a big thank you, along with the hope that they all want to continue to be close to the children AINA.

*The AINA Staff*

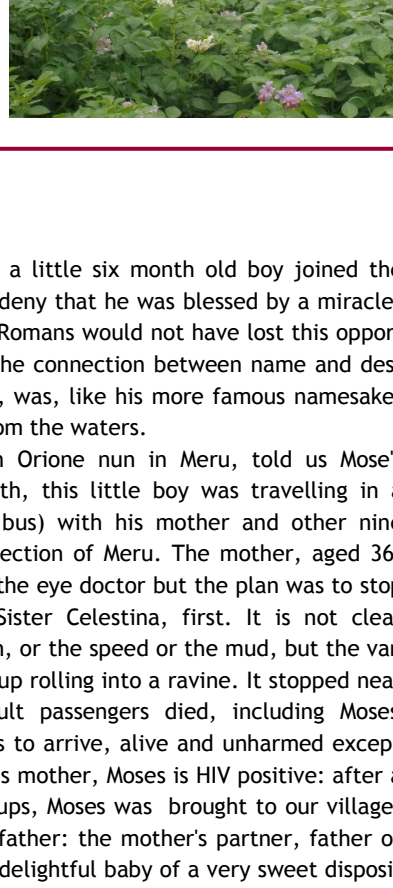
**New initiatives**

In October, Marek organized the first meeting between the AINA personnel and the "families" of the children who live in the AINA's Children Home. We speak of "families" because very often the children who live in the AINA home have only very distant relatives: grandparents, aunts, uncles, older brothers. In some cases, they have only one surviving parent. In some cases none. The idea that has driven this initiative is that it is essential for the children, both now (for their sense of identity, for the months of "vacation" from school) and in anticipation for the time when they will have leave the center, to maintain a contact with their original context and with at least one person, when it is possible, who knows them from birth. The event was attended by about 50 people who arrived in the morning and stayed until about four in the afternoon. Initially, they had a meeting with Marek, the house-mothers and Catherine, the nurse. It was explained to them what AINA does for the children and there was also time for questions. They were all grateful for the quality of care received, for all that the kids are provided with: insurance, school, clothing, school uniforms, a diet appropriate to their needs. After the meeting, a lunch for the "families" and they stayed after lunch for a chat. Such meetings will be repeated every three months.



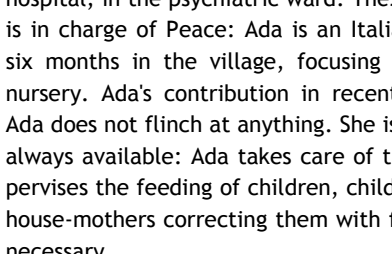
Families visiting the New Hope Orphanage

The production of the *Shamba* has been increased: beans, potatoes and zucchini have been planted in large quantities in the area immediately behind the dormitory of the older children. We must thank the "sicilian volunteers" and the other volunteers from Acquapendente and Pitigliano and their contribution for the improved productivity of our kitchen garden that - hopefully - will bring us closer to providing food for all the village.



Shamba's food production

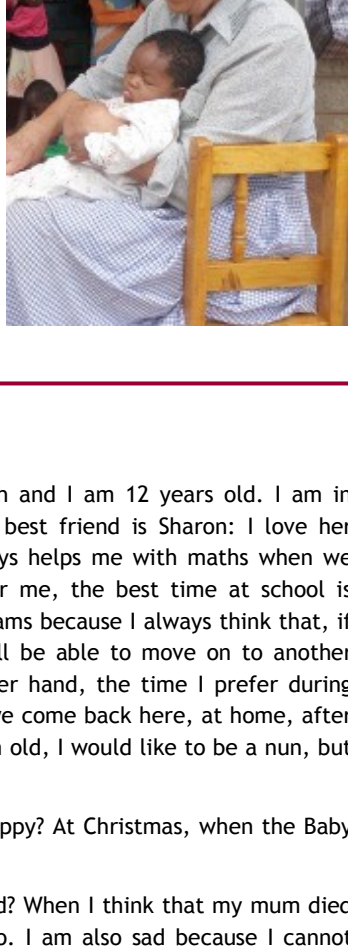
**The latest arrivals**



Moses, 6 months

Only a few weeks ago, a little six month old boy joined the nursery. Nobody would deny that he was blessed by a miracle: his name is Moses. The Romans would not have lost this opportunity to comment on the connection between name and destiny. Moses too, in fact, was, like his more famous namesake, dramatically rescued from the waters. Sister Celestina, a Don Orione nun in Meru, told us Mose's story. On September 9th, this little boy was travelling in a *matatu* (a local small bus) with his mother and other nine other people in the direction of Meru. The mother, aged 36, was going for a visit to the eye doctor but the plan was to stop and visit her auntie, Sister Celestina, first. It is not clear whether due to the rain, or the speed or the mud, but the van lost control and ended up rolling into a ravine. It stopped near the river. All the adult passengers died, including Moses' mother. The baby was found in the water by the first rescuers to arrive, alive and unharmed except for a small wound on the side of the ear. Unfortunately, like his mother, Moses is HIV positive: after a few weeks in hospital where he was subject to routine check ups, Moses was brought to our village. He only has a handicapped grandmother and a very old grandfather: the mother's partner, father of the older brothers of Moses, cannot take care of him. Moses is delightful baby of a very sweet disposition: kind to all, sociable, curious, easy-going, Moses saved from the waters, is loved by all.

The youngest in the village at the moment is the sweet baby Peace: she is just three months old and has recently reached the milestone of her first six kilos. Peace was born in a hospital near Nchiru: when the mother learned that Peace was HIV positive she went crazy, they said. She refused the small baby and is still in hospital, in the psychiatric ward. These days it is "auntie Ada" who is in charge of Peace: Ada is an Italian volunteer who is spending six months in the village, focusing her attention mostly on the nursery. Ada's contribution in recent months has been precious: Ada does not flinch at anything. She is tidy, energetic, rigorous and always available: Ada takes care of the daily cleaning routine, supervises the feeding of children, child care, and the training of the house-mothers correcting them with firmness and gentleness when necessary.



Peace and Ada, a volunteer

**Let me introduce myself**



Fridah Kangai, 12 years

My name is Fridah and I am 12 years old. I am in fourth grade. My best friend is Sharon: I love her because she always helps me with maths when we are at school. For me, the best time at school is when we have exams because I always think that, if I pass them, I will be able to move on to another class. On the other hand, the time I prefer during the day is when we come back here, at home, after school. When I am old, I would like to be a nun, but in America.

When do I feel happy? At Christmas, when the Baby Jesus is born.

When do I feel sad? When I think that my mum died and my father too. I am also sad because I cannot remember them and because I do not know if I have any grandparents left or not.

My favourite colour is black and I love to eat cakes. I also like to sing "Happy Birthday" but I do not know when my birthday is.

I like to read and I do not like to do bad things.

I will be happy when I will have passed my school exams. A message for AINA's friends? Well, yes, please, bring me some books.

**New numbers**

- 3 - Peace, the youngest child now in the village, is only 3 months old
- 9 - The young girls from the nursery who will move to primary school in January
- 12 - The goats in the Shamba
- 25 - Days of rain in October
- 54 - Kilos of tomatoes collected in November in the Shamba
- 82 - The visitors to the village in a year (June 2010 - June 2011)

**Wishes and Swahili**



**Jambo rafiki,**

**watoto wa AINA lakini si ndovu wa Nchiru twasema pole pole kwenu wote  
Krisimasi Njema na Mwaka Mpuya Mwema.**

**Asante Sana!**

**Tutaonana: karibou tena!**

Have you used the words we have given you in the previous newsletters to try and understand what this means? Here, anyway, is the translation:

Hello friends,

the children of AINA but not the elephants of Nchiru say slowly slowly to you all Merry Christmas and Happy new Year. Many thanks! See you soon: you are always welcome!

**And.....if you want to look at us singing a Christmas song, [click here.](#)**

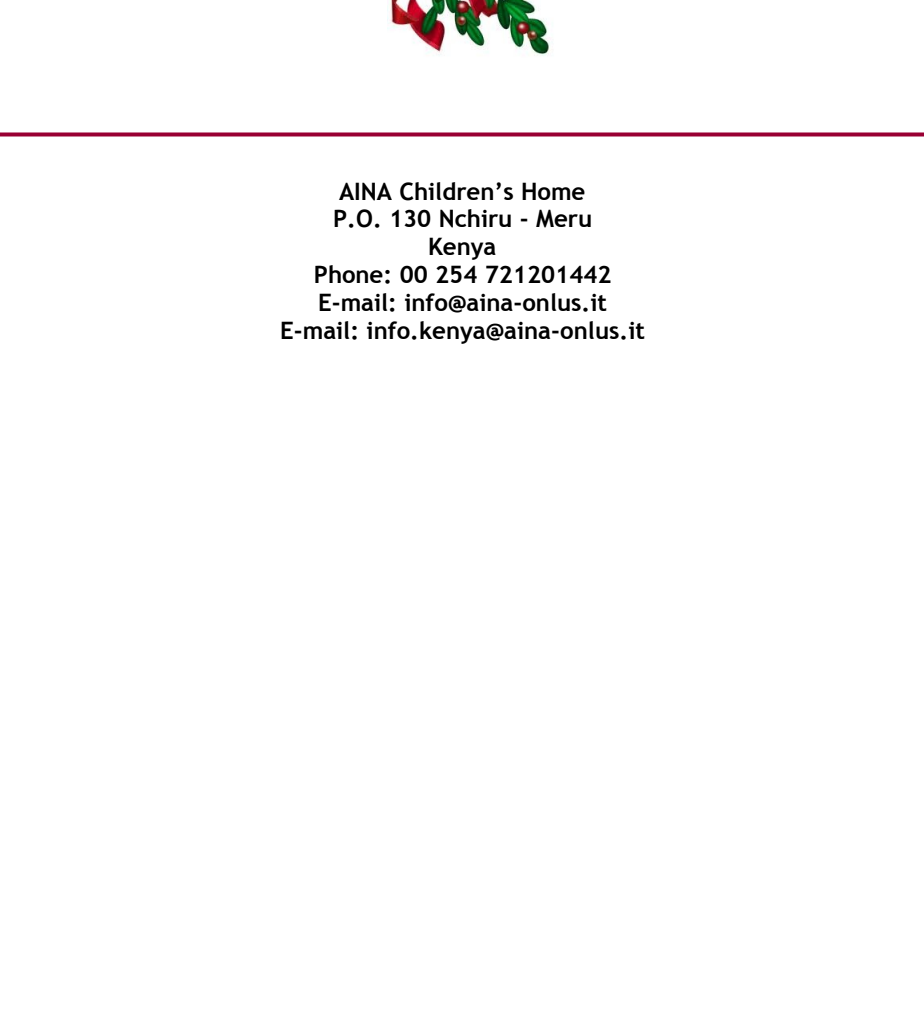
Making melodies in my heart,  
Making melodies in my heart,  
Making melodies in my heart to the King of Kings

Thumbs up!  
(refrain)

Bend your head!  
Thumbs up!  
(refrain)

Thumbs up!  
Bend your head!  
Tongue out!  
(refrain without words)

Thumbs up!  
Bend your head!  
Tongue out!  
Bend your knees!  
(refrain without words)



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*



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