

Clinton

THE TRANSFORMATION FROM THE KID'S PLASTIC CHAIR TO THE KID'S WHEELCHAIR WAS A HEARTWARMING EXPERIENCE.

BENEFICIARY DETAILS:

Name: Clinton Otieno Kola

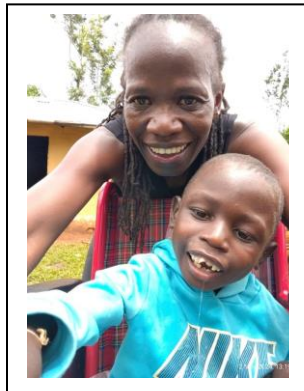
Age: 14 years

Father's Name: Dancan Kola Odenyo

Mother's Name: Irene Akinyi (She was not at home, she had gone to work)

Residential Place: Both reside at Ojwando

Profession: Clinton's father is a casual laborer, and his mother works as a cleaner at a slaughterhouse.



Clinton welcoming us

INTRODUCTION:

Making the decision to step out of one's comfort zone and visit homes or hospitals can be challenging. Some people assume that such visits involve giving money or material things. However, for me, happiness lies in assisting those in need within the community, whether socially or by sharing what little I have. Through these interactions, we learn about others' lives, their struggles, and the small gestures that can motivate or bring a smile. It's a reminder that we're not alone in facing life's hardships.

MEETING CLINTON:

When I first laid eyes on Clinton, my heart melted. Someone had recommended him to us, knowing he deserved a wheelchair that would significantly impact his life and that of his parents.

Clinton, the third-born in a family of seven, was only 14 years old. We expected to see a well-built boy who could perhaps move around despite physical mobility challenges. However, reality surprised us.

As we entered Clinton's home, his father introduced us to his son. With lovely eyes and a warm smile, Clinton sat on a kid's plastic chair. We shook hands, prayed together, and sat down. His tiny frame made us wonder if he was truly 14 or if there had been a mistake.



Clinton on his kid's plastic chair

SCHOOLING

Introduction to kindergarten: Clinton was introduced to kindergarten at the age of four. However, due to frequent illness, his attendance was inconsistent.

Diagnosis of sickle cell anemia: At age five, he was diagnosed with sickle cell anemia at a local hospital in Oyugis.

TREATMENT

Blood transfusions: Clinton's treatment began immediately with blood transfusions. Unfortunately, there was minimal improvement. His hands started to shrink, his tongue became heavy, and he could only consume semiliquid food. Simultaneously, his legs grew thinner.

Frequency of blood transfusions: Clinton's father informed us that he has received blood transfusions 15 times. Initially, he received blood thrice a year, but now it's once a year. The cost per transfusion is KSH 2500, excluding other medical expenses. Although there's no cure for Clinton, blood transfusions manage his pain and prevent complications.

ABANDONING THE FAMILY

Responsibility and blessing: When asked why he didn't abandon his family like other men do when their wives give birth to disabled children, Clinton's father simple answer was that he feels responsible. He considers himself blessed, having six healthy children. Together with his wife and kids, they care for Clinton, viewing him as a blessing rather than a burden.



Uncle, Father and Grandmother

COPING WITH SICKLE CELL ANEMIA

Emotional support: Clinton's family copes by sharing their feelings with friends from their church. They also connect with other families who have physically or mentally challenged children. This support network empowers them and reminds them that they're not alone in raising a special needs childlike Clinton.

IN CONCLUSION

How did Clinton and his family react when he saw the wheelchair?

Like a child receiving a lollipop, Clinton and his family were overjoyed when they received the wheelchair. His father, brothers, sisters, neighbors, and even strangers all gathered around, their faces lit up with happiness. They expressed their gratitude, telling me that my contribution was remarkable. The positive emotions in the room were so intense as they welcomed the newfound mobility that the wheelchair would bring to Clinton's life.



Clinton in his brand-new kid's WC

It's heartwarming to know that Clinton Kola shares a similar challenge with Mary when it comes to speech. Their resilience and ability to communicate through their facial expressions despite these difficulties are truly inspiring. Certainly! The wheelchair provided for Clinton will remain to be a life-changing gift. It has allowed him now to regain mobility and independence to some level.



Happy and proud father



Happy Clinton with siblings and friends

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Reported by PNM (Patricia Nyanchama Makori), May 2024