

SHERIFAH'S STORY

Two Hearts that will be
eternally connected forever...
Transformed by the power of love



HOFFMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION

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My introduction to Africa

began September 2007 through an organization called World Vision. I sponsored 4 children and just for \$35/ per month per child I could change their world forever. Through the gift of sponsorship these 4 children who were living in extreme poverty would now have a chance for a better life. World Vision would provide clean water, healthcare and education for my children. I sent extra money along the way so beds could be purchased for my children instead of them sleeping on the floor. My relationship with these children grew over the years and I had thought maybe someday I would pay them a visit. Little did I know my life was about to be changed forever.

It was June 10, 2010 when an unexpected surprise party was planned on my behalf. I had been 100% healthy my whole life when I received the devastating news that I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I was in shock and disbelief. And to make matters worse the tumor was one of the most aggressive forms that I would be dealing with. I would over the next year and a half be in the greatest fight of my life. I decided to embrace this journey and instead of asking "Why" I would ask "Why Not". This new journey in my life would teach me some very valuable lessons about myself that only I could learn and understand. I would now have the chance to focus on the most important things in my life. Instead of attending my party with the companions of fear, doubt, dread, anger and bitterness I chose to bring hope, strength, peace, joy and love. I had many beautiful unexpected gifts along this journey. I was blessed with an amazing family, friends and doctors that would walk beside me.

Before | September 2014



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After | April 2015



On the outside I felt like everything was falling apart, but I knew on the inside God was making a new life for me. I was learning, growing and knowing a new way as never before. Not a day went by without His unfolding Grace. The chemotherapy treatments were now taking a toll on my body. I keep hearing God speak "Be still and know that I am God." This gave me a sense of peace and comfort like I had never experienced before. The surrender of letting go was freeing for a woman who had to plan and control everything. I was now letting go and now letting God do what He needed to do in my life. November 2011 would be my last treatment. It was time to get back in the game of LIFE. But this time I would do things differently. I would not take for granted anything. I would enjoy the sunrise each morning listening to the birds sing as they greet each new day. I would embrace each day with joy and anticipation and focus on "the present" and see and appreciate the things I might have otherwise missed. My life would now be full of purpose, meaning and happiness. I would savor the "NOW" and would seek the things that would bring me love and joy. I was now grateful for the springs of refreshing and change I had now experienced in the midst of this life changing trial. God's love had transformed me day by day to perfect his glorious plan for my life. And the great adventure was about to begin.....

In September 2012 my husband and I traveled to Africa to visit our sponsored children. After meeting them I knew that I was called to bring them a message of hope and peace wrapped in LOVE. Meeting these children change my life forever. Little did I know God had a much greater purpose for this journey than I could have ever

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imagined in my wildest dreams. I returned again in September 2013 visiting my sponsored children and leaving a bigger piece of my heart in Africa. On February 9, 2014 our church hosted Children of Uganda Dance Troupe (26 kids) to share their native dance and culture with us. I planned a surprise Valentine's Day party for them and wrapped it in LOVE. It was that day that would hold yet another unexpected GIFT. These were all orphaned children that had lost their parents and had grown up in this orphanage and they were touring the US fundraising. They captured my heart.

I shared with the children my love for Africa and they asked me if I would ever be coming to Uganda. At the time none of my sponsored children were in Uganda but I told them you never know what God may do. Later that afternoon I was sharing with the artistic director for the dance troupe, Robert Kiwanuka and I saw how tenderly he took care of this group. I saw seeds of greatness in this young man. He was full of life, love and joy. Our spirits joined together that special day. We talked



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everyday going forward and I found out he was orphaned at the age of seven when his Mother died and he had never known his Father. He would no longer be orphaned because now I would be his adoptive Mother going forward and he would have a family to call his own. Adoption is partnering with God to see lives transformed. Two hearts that would be externally connected forever transformed by the power of love.

In July 2014 my husband had the opportunity to travel to Uganda. He met our son Robert and experienced "The Pearl of Africa" first hand. It's a beautiful country with many people. There is immense poverty and vulnerable children in much need. Two days into the journey Robert was taking my husband to the Ewaldi Community Primary School and said he needed to drop off some food to a blind lady with four children who had been abandoned and forsaken. That day this women's life was about to change completely. My husband sent me some photos of her house and the living conditions. I called my son Robert immediately and asked him to please get this woman a bed so she would not have to sleep on the floor. He said he could do this but there was a problem. Because she is blind someone could possibly steal her bed from her house because she has no door. I said okay let's get her a door for her house. He said we could but there was a problem. Her house is falling apart. So I said okay let's build her a new house. And so began our first project together.

In September 2014 I came to Uganda. I had a beautiful reunion with the 26 children from the dance troupe and also meet my 3 new World Vision sponsored children. I went to the village and met Sherifah for the first time and my life was changed forever. Here is a lady that is the poorest of the poor and yet she radiated with joy from her heart. She sang to me and I was at loss for words. Our spirits joined together that day. Her new beautiful house was under construction. Her conditions were about to change 100%. Sherifah would now be in a house with her children that would be dry, no more leaks when it rained, a door with a lock and key to keep her and her children safe. Running

water and solar lighting. Her life would now be adorned with dignity. All because my son Robert and my husband stopped one day in July to drop her off some food, her life had been miraculously changed forever. In May 2015 I went back to see the completion of her new house. I was impressed with all that we were able to achieve in such a short period of time. With God ALL things are possible.

This would be called an "Extreme Makeover" in America. It was beautiful to see. Two hearts that would be eternally connected forever... transformed by the power of love. And we are just getting started. Now I am blessed with 12 sponsored children, new friends, and another new country that has attached to my heart.

The people of Africa have taught me lessons about community, beauty, and simple pleasures. I have come to understand once again what it means to be privileged. That life is about giving, not getting, experiencing, not racing.....

To learn more about what HFF does in Africa please go to our website for information, photos and updates on the current projects we are working on. We are involved in Child Development, Health and Sanitation, Housing Projects, School Construction, and Women Empowerment. Our journey has just begun and I would love for you to join us with your partnership in "Leaving a Legacy of Love transforming lives and communities" for a lifetime. Your prayers are so appreciated as we move forward with each project before us.

*Thank you.
With Much Love,*

*Hoffman Family Foundation
Tami Hoffman , Director*

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The Hoffman Family Foundation's vision is to leave a legacy of love,
transforming lives and communities around the world.

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