



SEEDS IN HIS GARDEN

children's home

“Cluck, Cluck,” We’ve Got Chickens!

by Deborah Kearney

In all the world, chickens give fun and love and now Seeds in His Garden has five 20-week-old hens. Chosen from a local grower, they arrived Friday, February 10, 2023. The children were excited after weeks of preparing their coop. Teams of girls and boys of all skills worked together to level the coop area and set the foundation blocks. The refurbished rabbit hutch was cleaned and then rough sanded. Useless nails were pulled and salvaged. Best of all,

the children creatively painted the interior. They designated a sleep room and nesting room with a montage of color on the coop walls. Everyone shared a great sense of responsibility for the chicken's new home. Since the chickens have arrived, there is a great sense of joy, awe, compassion and care.

These chickens are super cute, funny and affectionate. They are so distinctively adorable that the children had to give them special names. A contest was held and names were submitted by all the children. From the magic jar names were drawn. Now each girl has been named for her beauty and charm.

Jesse is a lovely orange who has to grow her tail back. She was the runt in the flock from which she came. It is likely her tail was pecked away by “mean” girls. In her new home, Jesse holds her own at the feeding trough. So, we know she feels safe.

Maggie, who is black with a brown back, likes to circle the chicken enclosure to keep watch. Update; Maggie turned out to be a Max and was exchanged for a similarly beautiful girl last week.

Emmy, black with a brown neck, just loves to eat. She even eats beetles. The children think this is yucky. They have to get used to the idea of bugs being great protein.

Stephanie, who is brown and white, is a favorite who loves to be cuddled. She is a bit timid and is a follower. She makes a great second in command at the feeder.

The biggest girl is Naphatania who is distinctly flecked with a black and white set of feathers. We hope she is our first to lay an egg. It will be easy to find her eggs, if she does not choose to use the nesting box, as she is always under the coop. She likes the coolness of that area. To watch her, the little kids just squat down and keeping an eye out, they hope for eggs.

Note: A custom feeder was built with love by J.K.

All of the chickens make the children laugh with their antics such as standing in the feeder. Still, they are becoming great pals. This, evidenced by the children sharing scrapes from their lunch. Every day they scrap plates to create a treat for the girls.

Our Chicken Keeping is an Educational Eggs-Experience

Each chicken is teaching egg-celling lessons about the natural world. They are great teachers. Once the eggs start coming, the children will learn about sustainable farming. Plus, with job sharing, we are having fun with a formative set of responsibilities. The girls and boys take turns opening and closing the coop for the chicken's safety from night predators. They have a structured set of routines for feeding and watering. All of the children are feeling the chickens' as great therapy animals. The chickens are teaching them to trust and to reduce fear of new slightly wild things. They are learning gentle touching.

Continued on reverse side



Thank You

My deepest appreciation for so many prayers and words of encouragement through all the medical issues, I have been facing. I am so grateful for everyone. Know that I am keeping laughter, jokes, a level of patience, and I remain steadfast in my faith that this too shall pass. It has been a journey, not fun, but certainly good for learning on different levels. I will be calling and checking in with you all as soon as I can. I am so blessed to be where there is more than adequate medical support when it is needed.

Again, my thanks goes to Baloian Farms and the Seeds in His Garden Family and my personal friends and family for their support and encouragement.

-- Becky

IT STARTS
SOMEWHERE –
PLANT THE TREE,
SO SEEDS CAN
DROP AND
CREATE MORE
TREES, SO THAT
THERE MAY BE
MORE SHADE FOR
THE CHALLENGES
OF LIFE.



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Our mission is to provide care for abused, neglected, needy, abandoned and orphaned children in Kenya and prepare them to be Africa's future leaders. We seek to provide the children with physical, emotional, academic and spiritual tools needed to develop their full potential.

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Thank You!

We've Got Chickens!

continued from inside

Some of the boys are also developing communication, play, safety, and interaction skills.

Chickens are wonderfully low maintenance pets with their easy to care for and easy to love nature. Our flock of 5 hens (with possibly an expansion of 10 baby chicks) requires minimal but important daily effort. The weekly and seasonal care schedule is easy for our kids to tackle. Even the toddlers are learning about water, food, and shelter. The best thing of all? Chicken chores such as coop maintenance, feeding and playtime will hopefully soon be rewarded with a trip to the nesting box for a delicious fresh egg!

In sum, our hens/girls are like the children, they are immensely cute, curious and cuddly. They are similarly

joyful, each of the children has begun to clue into the wonders of our five poultry personalities. Our girls are brainy and never boring. These hens are clever. They stay out of the hot sun. They are individually minded and adhere to the pecking order. Still, the best part is that they love being affectionate companions pets for kids.

About the author: *Deborah Kearney volunteered her time to Seeds in His Garden in Kenya for three months. She leads a very busy life in Massachusetts with friends and family and her work. She is a psychologist, a yoga instructor, sustainable farmer, writer who has written several articles, biographies and papers and is currently working on a book. She has also written a children's workbook called "Once upon a time". She was a blessing to Linda and maintained laughter for the after-hours stories that they shared. We hope to hear more from Deborah as she readjusts back to her life in the U.S.*