



Kenya Children's News

www.kenyachildrencentres.com

July 2010

Charity No. 1103868

In This Issue

- "Education, Education ..." - Schools to give the girls a bright future
- "From children to adults" – our first girls are leaving home
- Volunteers making a difference
- New members of the Ngoingwa Team

We would like to sincerely thank everyone that has raised funds for the children in recent months. These are just a few examples:

- Yasmee Olafsson spent three weeks last summer volunteering in Kenya. She thought it was a brilliant experience but recognised we are desperately limited by resources. She decided to do a parachute jump on 14th July and raised a fantastic £1,600 for Kenya Children Centres.
- Torbjorn Tenmann decided to celebrate his 50th Birthday by helping Kenya Children Centres. As he said on his "Just Giving" page: "If you were thinking of buying me a present, well then this is the only item on my wish list. Instead of giving something to an old fart who already has much more than he needs, I would be endlessly grateful if you'd channel your generosity towards something a LOT more worthwhile". Thanks for raising an amazing £2,140 and Happy Birthday!
- Kaz Yashiro, who braved the rain and freezing cold weather to take part in the Tokyo Marathon. It was his first attempt and he said it was really challenging, with all his muscles stiffening up and getting cramp in the cold after 30km. But

"Education, education, education"

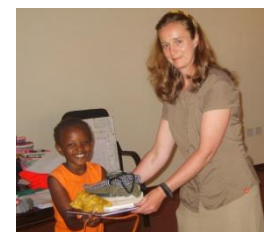
We believe strongly that the way out of poverty for our children is through education. Each of our children attend good local schools. We encourage them to aim high and many are achieving wonderful results.

Here is a picture of seven of our children that have been sponsored to attend one of Thika's best schools: Bambini School. Back Row L to R: Eunice, Ruth, Margaret and Salome; Front Row L to R: Esther, Mary and Ruth. They love going to Bambini. It is an Italian founded primary school with a loving and nurturing family environment. It provides good education in small classes, with sports facilities and a colourful garden in a secure and guarded compound. This was made possible by UK sponsors stepping in to pay for their school fees, books and new uniforms.



In the UK we take it for granted that education will be provided free of charge but in Kenya people have to pay. The investment in school fees, uniforms, books, food and transport to and from school, typically costs about £2 per day - compare that with £80-£90 per day for a crèche in the UK!

Star performer this term was Salome Wairimu, who attends St David's Junior School. Here's a picture of Joanna Stapley presenting her with a prize for best overall grades: 100% in English, Swahili, Maths, Science and 98% in Social Science - an overall grade A (498 marks out of 500). Fantastic!



From Children to Adults

It gives Sponsors a great deal of pleasure to see a child that had a tragic start to her life, blossoming into a lively, talented and confident teenager with promising future prospects. For our first "cohort" of children, the time has now come to leave home and start life as independent young women. Like any family, they will retain their links with home and our social workers will continue to support them.

Alice and Ann were the first girls to be rescued from living in absolute poverty when the project opened in May 1999. Alice has decided to pursue a career in beauty and hairdressing. Ann Njeri is going to join the staff at the Ngoingwa Centre as house keeper and will train in a local college to fulfil her ambition of becoming a chef.

Margaret and her sister Jerusha came to the Centre when they were 10 and 8 years old. Margaret is pursuing a career in dress making and has attended courses at the local college in Thika. Alice and Margaret have also attended the Hope World Wide entrepreneurial training on setting up your own business.

the encouraging comments from his sponsors on his Just Giving page spurred him on to the finish. Kaz raised £357 and completed his Marathon – well done!

Jennie Boston has been in training to take part in the Great London Swim in July - biggest outdoor swim in the South of England. The one-mile course took place in the open water of Royal Victoria Dock in the London Docklands area. A cool swim sounds nice in this warm weather! Thanks, Jennie for swimming and raising £200.

Please be a "Friend"

Education is a crucial factor in providing a positive future for the children that we rescue. In Kenya everyone has to pay for school fees, uniforms, books, food and transport to and from school. Our other significant cost is healthcare – and there are plenty of diseases to deal with in Kenya, including malaria, typhoid, hepatitis and dysentery.

"Friends" help us to meet these costs for the children by making a regular monthly donation. It would be wonderful if you could help us in this way. Any amount however small would help to secure their future. Sign up online at:
www.kenyachildrentcentres.com/page4.html

Can you or someone you know spare some time to help us?

We need to raise our profile through a wider network of supporters, friends and sponsors. This will enable us to earn more funding and achieve our goal of saving as many girls as possible.

Volunteers will meet and talk to people, groups and organisations to promote our work and expand support.

If you could give some time it would be a great help - and location is flexible. Visit the website to find out more.

Jerusha is waiting for confirmation from the University of Nairobi that she has a place to study for a law degree commencing in September. It is the most famous Law school in Kenya with a worldwide reputation – this is important for Jerusha because her dream is to specialise in International Human Rights.



The children presented Jerusha with a huge card and presents for passing her KCSE exams (A levels) in January. Since leaving school, Jerusha has been involved in a drama group and is the leading lady presenting an educational play to schools, which will soon be televised. She also attended a 3 month computer course at Thika College of Banking – and earned a distinction in all her modules!

Volunteers making a difference

As the number of children increase, we are looking for Volunteers to either help us care for the girls in Kenya or promote the charity and raise funds in the UK. Would you like to help us? See our "Volunteers" page on the website.

Joanna Stapley (in photo with Jerusha above) joined us in March for a 6 month assignment as a volunteer project manager at Ngoingwa to assess the future for our Health Centre and to start local fund raising. Joanna is both a medic and an ex Army Officer, with experience of setting up and working in a Field Hospital in the Iraq war and as a voluntary worker in the Congo. Her presence at the centre has provided an insight into the extensive work which needs to be done to support and meet the children's needs efficiently and effectively. She is carrying out a feasibility study for the proposed health care facility. She has also identified a need to improve our water supply because the current town water system is unreliable and inadequate. We plan to harvest water from the roof during the rainy season and possibly sink a bore hole, in order to provide a back up supply when the town supply is cut off.

Emma Greaves, a film director, is currently in Kenya filming a documentary on the transition of girls into employment based around the lives of the older girls at our centre. The children have been taking part in the filming and we hope to have some interesting video material at the end of the project.

New members of the Ngoingwa Team



Miriam and Josephine have joined our team as Social Workers. They are both graduates in their 20s, dynamic, with experience of working with orphans and vulnerable children. They are fluent in three languages (English, Kikuyu and Kiswahili), which is important so they can communicate with all the children and everyone in the local community. They will look after children's school and social activities and act as mentors. They have already settled in and are getting on very well with children.



Nguigi (also known as Gerard) was one of our security guards. Recently, we decided to change security firms and Nguigi was appointed grounds man. He will look after the compound and grow lots of vegetables for the children. Not only will it be healthier (as we know the source!), it will reduce the vegetable bill!

Visit Kenya Children Centres on

facebook

Thanks to all our Sponsors and Friends for your support. Wilf Eaton

Sign up as a "Friend" at www.kenyachildrentcentres.com