



Kenya Children's News

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www.kenyachildrencentres.com

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There are many ways that you can help the children. Here are some examples of people's kindness:

What a Great Wedding Present

Peter and Edina Mullin were married in July. They offered to help the girls by sending this note with their wedding invitations: "Edina and I aren't really short of toasters or crockery, so if you are thinking of giving us a gift we would be really grateful if you would make a donation to Kenya Children Centres who need it much more than us." We set up a page on our website so that guests could make their gift on-line. Peter and Edina and their guests donated nearly £3,000 and this has helped to fit out one of the homes in the new dormitory building. Thanks to you all for a great wedding gift

Healthy Competition

In August we received a donation and a letter from Jessica Chadwick, who lives in Warwickshire. In her letter she said "My friends Kirsten and Ellie and I held two fund raising competitions at our primary school. They were "Guess the name of the dog" and "Crack the combination" and both proved to be very popular. In total we raised £24.17 and I enclose a cheque for this amount which we would like to donate to Kenya Children." Thanks Jessica!

Grand Opening of Ngoingwa Centre

The official Opening of the new Ngoingwa Centre took place on Saturday 24th May. The ceremony was a very joyful occasion with about 200 people taking part in the celebrations. There was plenty of traditional Kikuyu food and lively music. The girls looked gorgeous in their matching dresses, which had been made by one of the local volunteers, and they entertained the guests with their singing and dancing.



The event was hosted by Peter Kenneth, the Assistant Minister for Planning in the new National Government. He said that the Ngoingwa Centre was a vital project for the area and committed his support for our future plans. He unveiled a plaque to mark the occasion and led a fund raising among the guests that raised almost £8,000.

There were several journalists in the audience and they generated both national and local press coverage of the event. On our return to the UK, BBC South interviewed Gay Goodall, one of our Trustees, and showed video footage of the girls, the home and the opening ceremony.

Cycle Kenya – A Challenge for 2009



Come and join the challenge of a lifetime. Cycle through the spectacular Kenyan landscape. See the incredible Mount Kenya, the wonderful wildlife and historic culture of the Kenyan people. Our trip takes us through the Rift Valley, which shears through Kenya from Lake Turkana in the north to Lake Magadi in the south, crossing from inhospitable desert through fertile farming country and back to desert. It is a fascinating volcanic landscape and although most activity ceased some 2 million years ago, forces are still at work.

Giving security to the girls

The staff at IRM, the information security company, decided they wanted to help the victims of the troubles in Kenya. So Gabriella Buonassisi, their marketing manager, organised a fund raising campaign over their company intranet. Their efforts raised almost £400 and this will pay for beds in the new dormitory.

Would you like to Help?

Please let us know if you have a good idea for raising funds for the girls. If you like cycling and seeing the world, why not help the girls at the same time and come on Cycle Kenya Challenge 2009?

We desperately need caring people to become "Friends" or to sponsor one of the girls, take an interest in their lives, follow their progress and provide them with a secure future.

Find out more at
www.kenyachildrencentres.com

Centre Manager Appointed

As we prepared to open the first building at the Ngoingwa Centre, we needed to appoint an experienced manager to recruit the new team and manage an expanding child care operation. Eventually the Centre will be home for up to 150 girls. We have been very fortunate to secure the services of Pauline Kabaka; an experienced manager with a career in banking administration and property management. She also has experience of the voluntary sector as leader of the outreach project to help the needy in Thika, which is sponsored by the Ridgeway's Baptist Church. During the past 4 years, Pauline has been leader of the Abigal Women's self help group. She lives in Nairobi and has four children.



Contact Us

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Revered by anthropologists as the 'cradle of humanity', Kenya is the heart of African safari country, boasting the most diverse collection of wild animals on the continent.

Complete the trip with a visit to our Children Centre at Ngoingwa and meet the orphans that you will be helping.

You will leave the UK on Saturday 21st November and be back on Tuesday 1st December. So you have 12 months to get in trim and raise some funds. For more details contact Liz on liz.eaton@kenyachildrencentres.com and ask for the information pack.

A Brighter Future for the Girls

Although not quite completed in time for the opening ceremony, the first dormitory building at Ngoingwa is very impressive and quite a landmark for the area. The interior will be simple and modest by western standards but it will provide safe and comfortable accommodation for the girls. We wanted to retain the family feel of the Thika Centre and so it has been designed with four wings on two floors (see photo). Each wing has six bedrooms and will be a family home for 10-12 girls with a house mother. Two "families" will share a kitchen, dining room, recreation room and a laundry on each floor.



Completion was delayed by the conflict after the election and the need to find additional funds to meet the steep rise in the international price of steel and materials. Building work is now complete and the upper floor is fully fitted out, so we are ready for the first 20 girls to move in. We aim to complete the lower floor in the next couple of months and then take in more girls in 2009.

Credit Crunch means Greater Poverty

The political situation in Kenya has stabilised since the riots in January, but many people are still suffering the after-effects. Unfortunately, turmoil on world financial markets and the global recession are going to make things much worse.

Tourism has already taken a beating this year. Remittances from relatives abroad, exports of flowers and vegetables and foreign investments, all absolutely critical to the country's survival, are falling fast. Most live on less than £1 per day, many can't get work and can't afford the maize to provide a meal for their family each day.

These problems will get worse and worse as the recession bites. There will be more orphans. Their relatives will not be able to look after them and orphan girls will be right at the bottom of the pecking order when food is scarce. More will be abandoned, left to scavenge for food and risk being exploited and abused.

We have a serious challenge: there are more orphans to help but our day to day costs have risen steeply and our income is under threat as a result of the recession. It is difficult for our supporters to help us when they see their houses fall in value, their standard of living reduced and their jobs threatened. But these girls really need your help now..... PLEASE, if you know anyone who might be prepared to support the Centre, do encourage them to become a "Friend" and give £10 per month. They can easily sign up by completing a simple form on-line on our brand new website.

Thanks to all of our Sponsors, Friends and Supporters for your generous support and encouragement.

Wilf Eaton