

Newsletter

*Harambee
For Kenya*

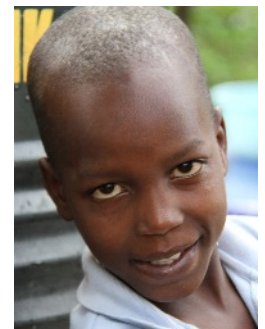


No 34. Feb '14

The time passes so quickly and already the newsletter is late! Where does the time go in our lives. What do we actually do to make it go so fast? Well the answer quite clearly is work, whether that is in studies or in labour to feed our families. This too is the case in Kenya of course and all over the world. But the difficulty to survive in Kenya can be seen clearly when we visit. Did you know that there are over 300000 children living on the streets? It makes our project look silly as we have 50 children in our houses which will rise to nearly 80 once the Meru project is up and running to its fullest potential. Plus the 8 children we support in a local village who are destitute. This will mean that we will have about 0.00003% of the "lost" children in our care. That is minuscule but when you look at each town and see that we have nearly 10% of those children in our care then we can say we are helping.

So what is my point? If we looked at the bigger picture it would be easy to give up and think that what we are doing is pointless. If we look at the local picture we can see that we are helping to make a bit of a difference. BUT if we look at the children we actually have in our care and we see how well they are doing at school; we see the boys in secondary school working hard to be in the top 10 of their year; we see young people enjoying where they live and their surroundings who are fit and well; we look at the 10 biggest boys who left the house three years ago who have homes and are working for a living and one who is now married with a baby, then we can be sure that we are making a difference. And by WE, I mean all of you who help make this happen.

Do not underestimate the difference you are making. Neither should you think we do not appreciate your help and support. This is a team effort and some may say "we couldn't do what you do", well we couldn't do what we do without all of you. So please accept our thanks and that of the boys in our care, who are always telling us to "please thank the sponsors, because without them we could have died".



*Trustees:- Roger Dann (Chairman), Lesley Dann, Patricia Musgrave, Jackie Cooper,
Mike Wilding, Ben Vince. 21 Cuckmere Rise, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 8PG 01435*

Project News Nyakoe

We have had little news from Nyakoe in the last two months. This is probably due to everyone going back to school, including Andrew (trustee) as e went back to his school for his final term before retiring.

We had some wonderful news that one of our little boys who had run back to the streets returned to the safe house in November and is going to school with the other boys at Mariba. He seems to be settled at the moment so we are hoping that he will stay with us as his mother is not able to care for him properly. This is the case with a number of our boys. The poverty can be so great that their remaining parents (those who have them) cannot give them the food and care they need.

Benard, or little man as we call him, is only about 9yrs old and before he ran away was beginning to do better at school. Unfortunately he had missed about two months of school last year when he ran back to the streets so he had to remain in yri in order to catch up. We don't always know exactly why some of them run back but part of it is that the friends they made on the street had become like family to them. Only a few may run back but there is often a good reason. One is if they have been in trouble a school and they worry about

punishment. Unfortunately, they still think they will get a beating, which could not be further from the truth as we do not allow corporal punishment in the house. It takes a long time for the boys to understand that as it is culture in Kenya to receive such punishments.



But we always look for them to "bring them back into the fold" and if there were any issues at home or school we try to sort them out. Like the story of the prodigal son, we all rejoice if any boy that ran away returns to the house as it shows that they are happy to be there.

Our Thanks go to the following for theirSupport.

4 th Horsham Scouts	1 st Horam Beavers.
Lindfield Cubs	3rd Hastings Scouts
Hertforshire District Cubs	Ashdown Park Hotel
Mary Wilding	Stephanie Lightfoot
Recycle.	Brenda Rankin
Graham & Joy Barden	Edward Buria
Joe Browne & Rupert and both their families.	
Bonnie & Richard Woods	

And all our regular supporters

Meru

At last 10 boys are moving into the new safe house. We are starting with a small number because there are many issues with these boys over and above those of the boys we had in Kisii. About 90% of

boys in Meru are sniffing glue. This will take some time to sort out and while doing so they can become quite aggressive so we have to be careful. Also they should be able to be rehabilitated more quickly as a smaller group which means that when the next lot of boys enter the house, these boys can help them to settle.

Once the boys have settled which may take quite a few weeks, then we can arrange for them to attend school. Normally we would allow 2 to 4 weeks before this happens but as these boys are so feral it may take a little longer. The important thing is to get them to a point of really wanting to learn and therefore they will adapt better to the routines of school.

We have been fortunate to be able to buy more land at Meru on which is planned to grow more bananas. It is not often that land becomes available in the area close to our project so the chance has to be taken as soon as it arises. It is a ½ acre plot and at the moment there are 50 coffee bushes all of which are producing a good crop of coffee beans. It has been estimated that if we wait to harvest the crop we should be able to make money to help feed the children and if we wait for a couple of years the plants will be worth quite a lot as they will be established. In the meantime we can plant 20 banana plants without preventing the sun from ripening the coffee. These 20 plants will produce three more plants each which will mean within a couple of years there will be 80 plants, each producing a crop of bananas two to three times a year. Once the coffee plants have been sold we should be able to have as many as 400 banana plants on the land.

With the bananas we already have at the bottom of the project land these crops should be able to subsidise the running of the safe house in Meru which will certainly help. The land is rich in this area and produces many bananas which are exported to the UK among other countries. So one day you may well be eating bananas grown by H4K.



The land is very close to our project so that an eye can be kept on it but there have not been any issues in the area with theft of crops. There should be more of an update in the next newsletter.

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE FOR THE RACE NIGHT WAS CHANGED DUE TO TOO MANY OTHER EVENTS
TAKING PLACE ON THE PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED DATE

RACE NIGHT

**HARAMBEE
FOR KENYA**

Raising funds

**1st HEATHFIELD
SCOUT HQ**

← for →

*** Tickets ***

£10 per Adult

£7 per child.

Includes Fish & Chip

Or sausage & chip Supper

7.30 - 10.30pm

**Sat. 10th May
2014 at Heathfield
Community Centre**

A fun packed evening for all to enjoy.

Bar available

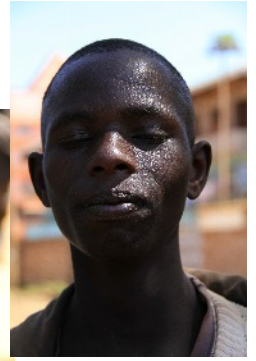
**Bring money for a raffle as well as your 50p's
to bet on the 8 races throughout the evening.**

**Sponsor a horse for £5 and win £20 if
it wins the race. Contact us to choose
your Nag/Champion.**

**Book your place now to avoid
disappointment**

Lesley 07941041616 or Jackie 07941313781

Gallery



*Some of the boys
due to move into
Meru Safe house*



The bananas are planted in Meru



NEWSFLASH

We have just heard that Naftal and Reuben have represented their school in Basketball and Samwel, Josphat and Vincent represented their school in football. Brian Mombo passed his grade 3 tailoring exam and is now on attachment. He was the only boy to pass.

This is not only a great achievement but shows how well the boys have integrated into school life as well as the fact that they are being valued for who they are. A far cry from how they were treated when they were living on the streets.

WELL DONE LADS