

Newsletter

Harambee For Kenya



No 24 Feb '12

Well! We are now on the final countdown to the next trip to Kenya. Jackie Cooper and I will be going out on 15th March and then a large group of Scouts and Leaders will be flying out to join us on 31st March with Roger..

We will have quite a lot to do as we still have to do an inventory on 158 boxes that arrived in the container in December. 23rd Bromley Scouts are the group that are travelling out to join us and they have a fantastic program planned, working with the boys, visiting schools, small building projects as well as all the sightseeing they will be doing. It is really encouraging for the trustees in both Kenya and the UK when we have such support. But that is minor to the excitement and pleasure that the boys feel when they know a group is going to see them. They love the time people spend with them and welcome groups into their family with eagerness. So if you want to take a group out, please contact us and we can help you plan a trip of a lifetime.

This will be a short newsletter because all the news is about to happen!!!! But it is fair to say that everything is ticking over nicely in Kenya at the moment. We were told by Andrew that at the start of the school term in January, he arrived at the house on the morning they started back and all the boys were very keen, dressed and raring to go to school. He said it was a real pleasure to see and shows how settled they are and keen to learn.

All the boys are doing as well as they can in school. We certainly cannot say that they are not trying. Those who have the ability are near the top of the class which is great to see. When we have visited the schools they go to, it is great to see them totally integrated into the school and no sign of stigma attached to them being rehabilitated street boys.

When we started the project we initially thought of incorporating a school at the house but realised very quickly that it would be better for them to re-integrate and hopefully help them to be accepted by other children and parents in the locality. You cannot imagine the stigma attached to them because they are street boys. But when you look at the picture later, of the three big boys in their new uniform, it is easy to see why they just blend in with the other children. We have to be careful because sometimes, particularly at the start of term, our boys often look smarter than the local children! Mind you, as with all boys, it doesn't take long for them to get dirty or tear something!! They soon blend in!

We hope you enjoy this short newsletter and look forward to sharing more news at the end of April when we return and we will have taken plenty of pictures.

100 Club

Jan 2012

£15 Simon Deeprose

£10 Evelyn Watson

£5 Luke Lafferty

Feb 2012

£15 Ben Vince

£10 Carole Simpson

£5 Andrew Obiero

Congratulations everyone.

Please note that we are now stopping the 100 club for a year so would all of you who have set up standing orders please cancel them.

Thank you for your support and we hope you will consider rejoining when we start again.

Our Thanks go to the following for their Support.

John Chisholm
Bonnie & Richard Woods
Jeanette Miller
Veronique & Roger Stone & family
Sackville School Yr7's
Margaret Harris
Poppy from Bonners CP school, Maresfield
Rose Marie Riley.
23rd Bromley Scouts, Leaders and parents
Linnet Clough

And all our regular supporters

Meet the Meru boys

Here are some of the Meru boys. Remember that these boys are still living on the street and we are trying to start a building on the land we have so that they can be safe.

Boniface Kirimi lived with his parents, brother and sister. His parents turned to Alcohol and when drunk, he said, were violent and used to beat him, so he ran away. He finds scrap metal to earn some money to buy food and glue. (street children often turn to glue as it helps to take the pain and the cold away) He slept in the market place and has been on the street for two years. He says he would like to go to school and become a carpenter. He is 16yrs old.



Dennis Koome is 14yrs old and has been on the streets for 2yrs. He said that when his parents separated, he was chased away by his father, while his mother returned to his grandmothers home. He has been on the street for two years and gets food from the rubbish bins. He did sniff glue but says he has now stopped. Dennis would to become a driver

Benson Onyanza is 14yrs old. He has been on the streets for 5yrs and does not know where his father is. His mother remarried and threw him out. (this seems to be happen in a number of cases) To get money for food he sold scrap metal and he would carry peoples bags for a few pence. He has sniffed glue, but not regularly and has chest and breathing problems. He would like to go back to school and later become a driver.





Nyakoe

We had some great news after we released the last newsletter. We had three sponsors come forward to help Naftal, Victor and Brian through secondary school. Originally Victor was told that he would be going to a boarding school. But Andrew (trustee) who is a teacher, found a more local school for him and now all three boys attend the same school. It is in Kisii and a short bus ride away. The school is Daraja Mbili Secondary School and Andrew believes it is a good and said it has "better facilities, enough teaching staff and reasonable school fees".



Naftal



Victor



Brian

We received a breakdown of some of the expenditure to send the boys to school. These totals are between the three of them.....text books £100; Exercise books £10; Uniform £45; bus fare £15 per month. The school fees are separate to these costs. It is little wonder that many Kenyan families cannot afford to send their children to Secondary school.

They look so proud to be there, don't they? This is only the start.

Next year we will have four boys who will need to be sponsored. This situation is bringing us into a whole different realm!



So bare the next four boys in mind as we will have to find sponsors for them as well so that they can not only receive further education but help them to turn a dream into reality.

So watch this space and we will update you on how they are getting on.

Meru

We were able to visit the land we purchased in Meru District while we were there in October. It is about 0.2 acres and is on a slight slope but the views are beautiful. The fencing is almost complete and there will also be a gate put in.

The ground is very fertile and already has established trees including avocado and banana trees. We plan to start building the toilets soon and then a semi permanent building so that the boys have somewhere safe to sleep.

We are now waiting for the price of building the main building and toilets so that we can get it started. We hope that the boys will be staying there by the end of our summer. Hopefully we will have more to tell you after the Easter trip.

Our next trip to Kenya, which is open to anyone to join us, is 18th October to 3rd November 2012. We, Roger and Lesley, will be going and you are most welcome to join them. The estimated cost will be £1200 for the fortnight dependant on flight cost and whether you stay at the local hotel or self cater with us at the project. Contact us if you are interested in joining us. Lesley@harambeeforkenya.org This is not an organised charity trip, just an offer for you to join us and pay your way, sharing in such costs as transport.

Fundraising

We need your help!

We are looking for more people to help us fundraise.

At the moment we have a small but happy band of helpers who do craft sales and boot fairs to help us raise funds to care for the children. Can you do one or maybe two boot fairs a year to raise money. We will give you I.D. so that people can see you are recognised fundraisers. Or can you come and help us do ours. Contact us now before the season starts.

Ideas

Can you run a quiz night or race night to help us raise funds. What about a fork supper with friends and have a raffle? If each friend does a dish as a donation to the evening and everyone donates say £5 for a two or three course meal. Then you can send the donation to us for the kids.

What about a Kenya evening with Kenyan recipes?

Maybe you have a better idea. Share them with us and better still, run it and let us know how it went. Send us pictures and we can share your idea.

There must be many ideas that you have. Share them with us. You may even be able to think of more ideas that people can do in their own homes with friend. We can let you have pictures, videos and slide shows as well as leaflets so that you can share our work so that your friends/colleagues can know where the money goes. What about a mufly day at work or school? What about a group of 10 work colleagues putting in £2 PER MONTH to sponsor a child? It's over to you.