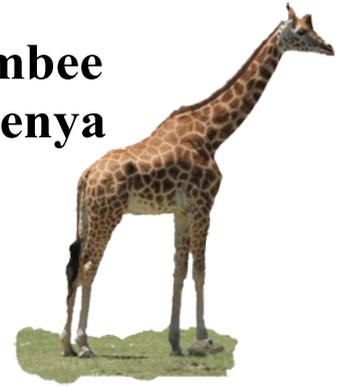


Newsletter

Harambee For Kenya



No 30 Apr'13

Hi everyone. It's that time again. Another newsletter rolls off the press - or computer in my case. It was great to get feedback after the last newsletter. We do value your comments and it helps us to know the sorts of things you would like to hear about. So I hope that this newsletter reaches the standard you expect.

It is four weeks since we returned from Kenya and we have not stopped! There have been assemblies to do, talks as well and that's without the everyday things we have to do like sorting out the stock of soapstone and packing clothes in boxes ready for the container.

You should see what we have,. It is amazing and still more goods are sent to us. We are packing clothes into banana boxes as they are a uniform shape and will stack well in the container. The plan is to pack boxes for Kisii and Meru and then we can send some straight to each project. So if any of you can come along and help pack, let me know. It would be helpful to arrange a day when you can spare a few hours and contact me so that we can get a fixed time. Please call me on 07941041616. When you come, it would be helpful if you could bring a few banana boxes with you, preferably ones with lids in tact too.

We have been thinking of new ways of raising money too. Do you have a lovely garden that you could open to the public this summer. We would be willing to find people to do tea and cake to help raise the funds. So if you feel that you can do this, please contact us on the same number.

So now for the news. We have had a lot going on over the last few weeks with buildings going up in Meru and the boys there, getting really excited about being able to move in and sleep somewhere warm and comfortable, while the boys in Nyakoe are coming on leaps and bounds at school as well as at home. The "feel" of the house when we were there was really calm. Yes you get one or two falling out over silly things but to be honest, they argue less than some of the siblings we have looked after in the UK. It was also lovely to visit the secondary schools of the big boys. We found that one of the schools was not very good and so changed that. Now three of the bigger boys are attending the same school which had a very good result in their final exams last year.

So over to the main body of the newsletter and I hope you enjoy and feel a part of what is happening out there. Thank you for your support.



Nyakoe

On Christmas eve, while the boys were in Kisii town giving gifts to their friends who are still remaining on the street, a little boy called Patrick was found. This would have been his third Christmas on the streets had he not wanted to come back to the safe house.. While in Kenya, Jackie managed to get his story.....

Patrick was found on the streets of Kisii by our boys on Christmas Eve 2012 when they went into town to share some 'gifts' with those living on the streets and invited he was invited by Andrew to live in the House.

We think Patrick is about 8 or 9 years old and he comes from the Kijabi area of Nakuru where we think his family still live. His Dad Joseph had eight cows and twelve goats and his Mum worked as a gardener. He had (when he left home) five brothers and sisters, Daniel (12), Mary Njoki, Mary Wacho and Michael who are all younger and another boy who hadn't been given a name when Patrick left home.

I asked Patrick why he left home as to me things sounded fairly stable and he told me that one night Dad came home drunk and asked Patrick to get water from the river, Mum said Patrick should stay in bed as it was late and not safe to go out. Mum and Dad quarrelled and the next day his Dad told Patrick to leave the home or he would kill him. Patrick left the home and spent the next three days on the street begging. Whilst wandering the streets he came across vehicles travelling between Kisii & Nakuru. As he didn't want his Dad to find and kill him, he decided to try and save enough money to leave Nakuru. He managed to get KSh 400 by begging and paid KSh 300 to get the matatu to Kisii. When he got to Kisii he stayed around the stage and group of boys with sacks spoke to him and as Patrick had money he bought them bananas and they became friends!

In Kisii, Patrick begged or did odd jobs to get money which he gave to a woman who sells tea by the stadium to look after. He spent his money on tea, chapatti, Ugali, fish, potatoes, samosas, veg and clothes when he needed them. He and some other boys slept in the 'tank' near Kobil filling station. When it rained at night he covered himself with a plastic bag and a sack to keep dry.

Patrick never sniffed glue while on the streets but his friend Henry did until he blacked out, which frightened Patrick. Patrick bought Henry food and gave him his old clothes. He advised Henry to stop glue or he will die!

Patrick has been on the streets for at least two years. He only knows this as he knows he spent two Christmas' on the street. First Christmas he ate crow, which the boys caught, killed and roasted. The second he was given a treat by an Asian man and had so much soda and mandazi (like doughnuts) it gave him tummy ache! This Christmas Andrew and the boys found him. When he came to the House he asked Andrew to take him back to the lady at the Stadium to get his money and the clothes he had bought and left with her. When he went to get the money from the tea lady his savings were KSh600. He spent 50/= on food and took 200/= in cash leaving a balance of 350/=. He has not yet returned for the balance and the clothes he had bought and left with the lady. He did give the 200/= to Andrew to look after

who has given it to him back little by little as pocket money! Patrick said he knows to have savings is good!

Patrick and some of the younger boys have started their own 'shamba' in the compound. They had planted some maize and beans and were taking great care of their little patch. It was however too small for the amount of produce they seem to be planning to grow so we asked Julius (the gardener) to dig up some of the green vegetables he was growing to give them a bit more space. When Patrick told us about his Mother being a gardener we realised where he got his 'green fingers' from.

Patrick now attends Mariba School where he is in Standard 3 and really enjoying it. He is doing quite well and during exam week came home every day waving his results whether they were good or not!

Patrick says he knows he now has a good place to live, it helps the young ones and gives them food, accommodation and education. It is home. If given the choice between living at Harambee House or Nakuru he would say Harambee House, but would like to visit his brothers. If taken to Nakuru he says he could find his family home.

(It's amazing as it appears that Patrick would have been about 6 yrs old when he ran away.)



Patrick in the garden

Dates for your diary

AGM Sat 13th July

Venue TBC

5th October 2013

Race Night in Heathfield

Ticket only. Book now

info@harambeeforkenya.org

16th November 2013

Swimathon at Bedes School.

More information later.

Our Thanks go to the following for their Support.

Oathall School
Jonathan & Matthew (5th West Wickham Scouts)
Bedes School Sackville School.
Arnold Maughan The Moore Family
Monique Saunders Shirley Williams
Cedars group from Welcome Church.
Jo Poulton. Ben Murray-Brown
Wealden Agricultural Marketing Ltd
23rd Bromley Scouts.
Smile International
Jessie Gorwin

And all our regular supporters

easyfundraising
.org.uk

We need you to sign in to easy fundraising so that when you do any online shopping you go to the store through easy fundraising. Then they will give our charity up to 7.5% commission. This means you can make your shopping work for us!!! So please sign up as soon as you can - every penny counts! Also if you sign up to "sign & remind" then you immediately earn us 50p and every time you search the net through this it earns us money.

Meru

Things have been moving on really well in Meru and with Tom and John on their case, the builders have done well with progressing the 1st building.

Hopefully the boys will move in very shortly. John and Tom have identified the boys to be taken in. This is no easy job as so many of them need help, but at the end of the day the boys that are chosen understand that they will have to go to school and give up sniffing glue. The latter will be the hardest thing to deal with as about 90% of the boys are still sniffing it. But God willing, they will be so keen to have a home they will work with us.

Once the boys are in the house, they will be given a chance to settle down with the help of a foster carer. As yet we have to find someone to look after them. This will be left to the Kenyan trustees and will probably be a local couple as having people who know the areas and ways of the locality is important.

This building will be quite different to the one in Kisii, not least the fact that there will be a sink and running water in the kitchen. This is because there is mains water running alongside the land. It is amazing that we will be able to have a tap in the kitchen and everyone is quite excited about having these mod-cons!

But enough of this. Here are the very latest pictures we received today. I am glad the newsletter is slightly delayed or you would not have seen these. The team in Kenya are really excited at how near they are to getting the boys in.



So we now have glass in the windows and doors on. I believe the walls have been screeded too. So we are nearly there. The next big expense is to get mattresses for the boys to sleep on. While we were in Kenya we sorted out mountains of bedclothes to send over there along with clothes so that the boys would be comfortable in their new home. The second picture makes the building look very small. But remember this will be the day room, kitchen and dining area once the second building is built. That will have accommodation for the carers, more storage and bedrooms for the boys.

When we send the container out this summer we will have sorted out many items for the project which will need to be stored. It will be good to get a good supply of clothes and shoes for the boys. Hopefully they will f"eel like princes" as our mission statement says.

At this time, the UK trustees would like to say an enormous thank you to the Kenyan Trustees who are doing a sterling job out there. But particularly to John and Tom who have managed the building of this home and have kept on cracking the whip with the builders to ensure a relatively quick completion. THANK YOU!

THE CONTAINER

We are now starting to seriously get organised for the container. We have yet to firm up the date but in the meantime are starting to pack boxes.

Smile International have very kindly allowed us to store items in their warehouse and a friend who owns a farm in Herstmonceux has said once packed, the boxes can be housed in a barn AND we can have the container loaded from there too. We have had offers of help to pack but can always do with more. So I have set aside a few days to get the back of the packing done and would ask any of you that can come and help to let me know which day you can come. The more the merrier and the more fun it is and I don't want to be on my own!

ONE DRAWBACK!!!! But not a serious one - would those that are coming please collect Banana Boxes (with lids) from your local supermarket and bring them with you. We are using these because they are a uniform size and easy to pack in the container, but also they are not too heavy when packed to manhandle at both ends. Please come and help pack.

Of course on the day the container arrives we will also need some help with loading to form a chain to pass the boxes up to the team in the back of the container. This will not be an all day thing! We usually only get about 2 hr for a 20ft container, But we think we will be having to have a 40ft container so hopefully will get longer. It would probably be a "first thing in the morning" job so that the container can reach the port in plenty of time. But more on that later. At the moment we just need to know who can come and help. So please email me at lesley@harambeeforkenya.org and let me know which day you can offer to help pack at our house and if you are willing (dependant on date) to help load the container.

Days for packing at Cuckmere Rie, Heathfield

Monday 10th June Day - 10am to 1pm Eve - 6.30pm to 9pm

Tuesday 11th June Day - 10am to 1pm Eve - 6.30pm to 9pm

Saturday 22nd June Day - Anytime btw 10am and 4pm (please specify time)

Friday 28th June Day - 10am to 2pm.

Email me or text on 07941041616 and don't forget to leave your name.

If you have anything you think we may need to send please call me or email me so that we can see if we can fit it in.

Many thanks for your continued support. ☺

NEW SCHOOLS



Carlos is being sponsored to go to St Pauls secondary by Yr8 at Sackville school. They have raised his funds by sponsored events like selling cakes to other pupils. Without their help Carlos would not be able to go to secondary school. He is so grateful and has sent a message of thanks expressing how important education is. Carlos hopes to become an Engineer.

Right - presenting the cheque for Carlos' fees



Naftal was going to a local school and travelling everyday. After the other boys went to boarding school he felt alone as he is so much older than the other boys in the house. So it was decided that he should be able to go to the same school as the other boys and board. Naftal's sponsor is a science teacher. Naftal also wants to become an Engineer.



Reuben was going to a more expensive school than the other boys but when we went and saw it, it was in a terrible state and he was not very happy. We were disgusted at the state of the place so a decision was made that he would also go to St Paul's with the others. He was delighted. Reuben is sponsored by a very dear couple and their daughter. He is very grateful to them as he really wants the chance to become a Doctor and this is an important first step to his future.

Alvin is going to a different school to the other boys. He is going to a small, fairly new, secondary school near Lake Victoria. There are about 81 students there at the moment and he is really enjoying it. His sponsor is a science teacher too and Alvin would also like to become an Engineer. He too has expressed his gratitude to his sponsor for giving him this chance.

More about other boys at school/college next time.



Next year we will have 8 boys doing their end of primary exams and will need sponsorship through secondary education. If you want to help please contact us.

Gallery



Laptops were donated by Computers for Africa.

