

Newsletter

Harambee For Kenya



No 20 April '11

While writing this I am sitting in Rafiki House at the Nyakoe project with thunder rattling round and the rain pouring. It is so refreshing though as each day has been extremely hot and sticky. The group that came with us are now on their way back to the UK and I am remaining with another trustee, Jackie Cooper, until May. Nice you may think, and it is really but we have a mountain of work to sort out as the nine bigger boys have now left the house (more about that later) and the younger ones need to be settled.

We will be working with Elijah and Beatrice in order to strengthen their arsenal when dealing with the many issues they have with 30 young, feral children to support. We are also going to start to train two of the older boys who will be working part time at the house, helping to look after the little ones. So I am sure the time will pass quickly.

We have been privileged to have had a wonderful group of 22 from Manchester, with us for four days. Linnet Clough Service Crew are a group of Scouts of various sizes and ages (17 to 55yrs). They offered to come and do some work for the project for four days before moving onto a Scout project in Nyeri. They have been fantastic and worked liked Trojan's managing to lay a new path from the bottom to the top of the land and a concrete base outside rafiki house, so that we do not continue to slip on the mud and indeed carry it all inside. It has made a terrific difference. They also bought 22 chickens at point of lay and named them after each member of the group.....yes you can have female chickens named IAN, ROY and ROGER!!!!

Well done guys. We are so grateful to you all and look forward to seeing some of you at Gilwell in September and hope the rest of your trip went well.



Steve - Not sure if the bird was held too tight or just took a dislike to being carried, before it decided to mess down your shirt. Maybe you shouldn't have mentioned that you only usually see chickens wrapped in cling film!!!!!!

100 Club

March 2011

£15 Jackie Parker

£10 John & Hazel Savill

£5 Natalie Collings

April 2011

£15 Kevin Brown

£10 Hannah Rauh

£5 Tim Page

The 100 club has restarted. We have places available so please join.

For £12 per year (just £1 per month) you could win up to £15 per month except in December when you could

Help needed

We are now desperate for PJ's from any of you that can spare them. Age range 6 to 15yrs. We don't mind shorts and tee shirts either. We have now managed to get the boys to change into their PJ's at night as they used to sleep in their day clothes all the time We also need toothbrushes, toothpaste and vaseline . We have also managed to get them to learn to make beds. They just had not grasped the concept of sleeping between two sheets and having a blanket on top. They kept climbing on top of the sheets and just throwing the blanket over the top of them. But now they have grasped it, they love it and have been very proud to make their beds every morning. The next hurdle is to get them to change their sheets!

Our Thanks go to the following for their Support.

Lewisham Scouts
Linnet Clough service crew, friends & supporters
Dave & Shirley Prout
The stewards at Spring Harvest.
James Frost. Liz Walters Jenny Turner
Jo Poulton Gary Owens Peter Gilks
Friends of Hazel & John Savill

And all our regular supporters

TRIPS COMING UP

6th to 22nd October 2011.

Roger and Lesley will be going back to Kenya. (Earlier than usual as the flights are cheaper). If you would like to go with them, then let us know now as we will be

booking flights NOW!.

email lesley@harambeeforkenya.org for more information.



Project News

Nakuru.

We had the pleasure of having a day with the children in Nakuru. They were an absolute delight. As it is difficult to meet them where they are we decided that it would be fun for all of us to spend time with them where we were staying, at Lion Hill, Nakuru.

We had a lovely time playing games with them, & feeding them. I was a lovely warm day and the whole group went home shattered. (including us). At one point we taught them a game of lions and cheetahs which ends up in trying to catch each other. I am not sure who had the most fun - the kids squealing with delight or Jimmy, one of the Kenyan Trustees, who was instructing them and then in fits of laughter at the scramble that occurred as they chased each other. Brilliant!

We were able to find out about all the children's backgrounds and more than half of them have one or both parents infected by Aids. We have approached a local charity to see if we can have the children tested to see if they have been infected too. This is a sensitive issue and we are hoping that the relatives they live with will agree once we can organise it. We saw little Brian who was in hospital and there is no doubt that he was not completely well. It is sad to see one so young struggling to join in..

The children also sang us wonderful songs too and have lovely voices. Certainly the ladies who teach them are doing a wonderful job. The children get on so well and show so much love.



Marching round singing We are marching in the light of God. And when the Saints go marching in.



Simple play was also the order of the day for the little ones



Lunch...everything was eating



Fun with bubbles

Meru

Meru was our first port of call on this trip. We had not visited this project before although Ben (UK Trustee) had been there in October for a couple of days and given us feedback. The boys, officially about 30 of them, (although we counted 43 for lunch) are still living on the streets. They had been sleeping in a market area but the local council have taken it over and are building on the land. So the

Boys were ousted and sent on their way, so they have had to find other places to sleep. It was very strange to be with boys who are still openly sniffing glue as we have become used to seeing this as good as eradicated among the boys at Nyakoe. (certainly they do not have glue in the house) So we came to a deal with them that they would not use the glue in front of us....had we just taken it away they would have run from us. It is very difficult to know what is best but when we have a building there for them, then we can enforce rules. We believe that the number we help will lessen because a number of them will not be prepared to give up the glue. But hopefully most will be happy to.

There has been some land identified as suitable for the project but John, a Trustee, is still trying to negotiate a price. Hopefully it will not be too long before we see progression.



This is where the lads sleep amongst the rubble, mainly hiding behind the wall hoping that they will not be found.



They had big appetites and quickly left to go back to sniffing glue. So many of them sniff it.



Lunch was meat, beans and veg, with chipatis, which was graciously prepared by members of John's Church

There have been exciting times at Nyakoe. The nine big boys or should we say, young men, have now moved out of the house. It was quite a significant time for them. They have each found somewhere to live, some sharing and others alone. They have each been given a head start with equipment to set up their homes including beds and bedding, a lamp, pots and pans etc and food for one week.

Nyakoe

We have a volunteer called Kennedy who has had experience with helping boys to be rehabilitated. He had been teaching them about how to budget when they start working on the businesses that they have chosen to do. Then he took them to buy the things for their homes ensuring that they got the best Kenyan prices. A few asked for the money which of course we were not prepared to give them! They had to get receipts for how much was needed before they paid for the items. These lads rose in stature as they progressed in buying what they needed.

They then went to pay for their rent for three months.. Of course an adult went with them or a few of them were likely to walk off with the money!!!!!!! But they all did us proud and waited for that to be done.

Denilson and Osoro Juma were the first to move out. The day before they got all their bits and pieces, they went with Gary, one of our team, and paid their rent. That evening they moved their clothes in and their belongings. They were so excited and proud. The cost of their rent is 1500 Kenyan shillings (about £12) per month. Which between the two of them should not be too difficult to find. They will have to save up and then pay their first payment in July, which should give them time to raise it.

The other boys that are sharing are Dennis & Kevin, The other boys, Adam, Rich, Doctor, Victor and Peter. They all want to do selling of one thing or another. Each will be bought stock to start them and they will start by trying out different areas before they have a shop structure built so that they can be sure they succeed in the right area for their products. The type of "shop" they are talking about is what we would call a stall or kiosk.



While Denilson and Osoro (middle and right) move into their new home, some of the other boys load up a pickup to take their belongings to their new homes.

There were great cheers as they left the Safe House and tears of joy, excitement and trepidation from some of the lads, as they left. Needless to say a few returned to the safe house to see us. We had to tell them to go so that the younger boys could settle and that we would have them back for a cup of tea in a week or so. We have Kennedy on the ground, available for them, so they have someone to guide them and help. It is amazing how full of confidence and demanding they were in the safe house and yet are now quivering a little, yet they had been self sufficient on the streets before we helped them.

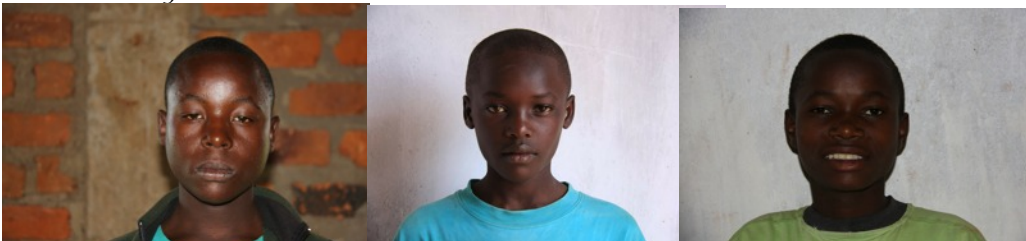
Gallery



Meet the boys

From street boy with no hope to ace student with plenty of hope. These three boys have made it to standard 8 and they have been selected as candidates for assistance at secondary school.

If they pass their exams in October with flying colours, they will be assisted by the government to go to one of the good secondary schools. We are hoping that they will be able to go to Kisii Boys High School which is one of the best schools in the area. If they do make it they could easily make it to university.



Left to right, Victor Isaiah, Naftal Onger and Brian Mombo.