

Newsletter

*Harambee
For Kenya*



No 41 Mar & June 16

May we apologise for the delay in getting this out to you but the only excuse we have is being busy!! We do also have difficulty in communication from Kenya ie, being told up to date news so we are often working behind the times! So without further ado let us tell you what has been happening.

Firstly the boys who took their exams did extremely well. One lad in Meru, Dennis, got a very high score and was sent to a school we visited in March. We met the head who is very pleased with him. More on the Meru page. The boys in Meru are doing extremely well and they have won prizes for their efforts. We visited the school and the Head teacher was very impressed with the boys standard of work and behaviour. In fact we had taught Dennis how to work with the boys using the thinking step method, which, in case you have not heard of it, is where the children have to sit quietly and think about what they have done and why they did it. Then apologise for what they did. It helps them to take responsibility for their actions. So when the Head asked why their behaviour was so good at school, he explained what he did and the school have started to use the system. At both Meru and Nyakoe, the schools are really happy with the general behaviour of the boys, which is good considering their backgrounds. In fact it was in March that Jackie and I used consequences for one little mans behaviour. He had to do extra work for school. The following day when we returned from somewhere, he had got a pencil and piece of paper and asked Lydia to give him more to do as he enjoyed it so much. Looks like we will have to get a different consequence for him!

So generally speaking everything is ticking over in Kenya. Meru, as we explained last time, is registered and while we were there Nyakoe moved on to the final stage of registration. So we are hopeful it will go through in the very near future. We really need to be able to get the government help, as small as it may or may not be, to be able to continue the way forward. So please pray for that to happen quickly.

We had a couple of young people visit the project in February. Ben and Melissa stayed for a couple of weeks and had a great time. They even painted the name of football stadiums above their room doors. We were glad to see Brighton's Amex up there too. Cannot remember if they put Leicester up though!!! But I think the boys may not know who they are anyway! As we left, the boys asked us to send their love to you both and hope to see you again.

We had what we could only describe as a compliment recently. Meru is now officially registered so we await the certificate but we saw the report which said in it that "the Children's Officer briefly informed the members areas (this is the different areas in the whole district) that the committee was focusing on and commended the institution for being among the best alternative care provider for street children". Your help and support has helped to make this happen for which we are eternally grateful and we highly commend the efforts of the Kenyans who sometimes have found it hard to keep going with looking after the children alongside trying to earn a living.

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Project News Nyakoe

Nyakoe boys are all fighting fit and really settling in to the routines. While out there, Jackie helped Lydia to understand exactly what they were as it appeared that she had not had them explained, or indeed the reason for them.

It did not take too long to explain the reasons behind the ideas but it did take some time for Lydia to take hold of the fact that the routines were to help her in having things happening at the right times. Eg. Dinner at 6.30 because then there was time for the boys to clean up, do their chores and homework before bedtime. The boys get up at about 5.30 am to cook breakfast as the older boys have to be at school by 6.30am. So it is important they get to bed on time.

Derrick, who was originally fostered with his brother Alex, was finding it difficult at his foster home came to live at the safe house. Alex seems to be alright at the moment but will be moving in with his brother after he has done his primary exams in December. Derrick is trying very hard at school and always has a smile on his face. Every evening after they have eaten, he calls them all together for a sing song of hymns and choruses, a word from the bible and prayers. I was really encouraged to see the boys not only taking part but thoroughly enjoying themselves. We all commented on how settled the boys are now and the atmosphere is really relaxed. They all seem to get on so well now.



The weather was so hot during our stay that when it finally rained everyone was out in it. The boys were not wasting water here, the tank was overflowing so they made the most of it. Only a year or two ago they would not have set foot outside. Those mad Mzungus have taught them well!!!



The boys recently played a couple of football matches which they won. They play really well as a team and are quite formidable for the opponents.



Like all boys, they play football whenever and wherever they can with

whatever they have to hand. Last time we were there, they had damaged yet another football. Sometimes Andrew holds back on giving them a new one because they go through them rather quickly. So they went back to basics and made themselves a ball out of plastic bags. The way they moved it around, it was hard to tell it was made by themselves.

FUNDRAISING

In these days of the pound dropping, we need to raise more money to compensate the low exchange rate. We would like to appeal to any of you and ask if you would consider doing something special to help us raise the money needed to ensure the children are fed and cared for. Ideas may be a tea party during the summer (when it arrives!), A sponsored walk or run, a boot fair maybe or perhaps we could give you some soapstone goods to sell at a craft fair.

Of course if you are involved in Scouting, by doing a fundraiser you would also be working toward some of the awards. Bill Compton, one of our trustees can advise you on this and you can contact him through us at h4kinfo@gmail.com

We send some of our stock to a lady in the North who does the odd sale and has raised something between £150 and £200 each time. This is so valuable to us and if you consider that we need about £12 per month to feed one of the children it helps a lot. So, can you do the same?



*Congratulations
To Tom and Ruth*



In Meru



Baby Nate
(short for
Nathanael)
mum and
baby doing
well.

**Our Thanks go to the following
for their Support.**

Sandie Potts CGNMB LLP
Nanny Byles 4th Burgess Hill Brownies.
"Uncle Robin and Auntie Zena"
The Moore Family
Jane Stodart Paul Myles
Cobnor Activity Centre 1st Horam Beavers
Skippers Hill Prep School
Sarah Kendrick, Steve Gaston
Andrew Masson Jennifer Turner
Dave Goodwin Welcome Baptist Church
Lewisham District Scouts.
Jo & Andy Caldwell and the boys.
Andy and Anna
And all our regular supporters

Meru

The Meru boys are doing really well. The government people have visited the home to see that they were happy with it as part of the registration and from the pictures could be seen looking at the star chart that was set up to help keep their behaviour on track. This is something I have

not seen in peoples homes or schools in Kenya. The chart can be seen to be fairly full which is encouraging to see. We are still waiting to hear who has received what rewards for their good behaviour.

We set up a "best bedroom" competition which is run weekly with a trophy that goes in the best bedroom for a week. Room 1 won the first couple of weeks but unfortunately we have not been updated by the Kenyans as to who has won it since. Come on you guys.....our sponsors want to know!

So it looks as though some of the routines implemented have been kept up so far, long may they continue. The school is still noticing how well they are behaving so I suppose that means things are working.



James, left, broke his arm at school. And Right, the government visitors looking at the start chart.



Over the last year there have been a lot of visitors regarding the registration, Not least one who was concerned about the dirty walls. The boys wash the

floor with vigour and a lot of water. Consequently they tend to splash the dirty water on the walls. We had always wanted to paint the lower half of the walls with gloss paint so that they could be wiped clean and not take the paint off the wall when done. One local government wanted the walls painted black so as to obscure the dirt.....He obviously doesn't realise that black would show up more dirt! I would have liked to have spoken to him and asked him if he has black walls in his "home". I know the answer would have been no and really wanted to point out that this was the boys "home" so how dare he suggest such a thing. Unfortunately, too many people see these children as being in an institution and do not see that this is their HOME! So we had to use money we had saved for something else to buy the paint and have it painted. So something else like the electricity to the toilets is now on hold until we can save enough to do it. We feel that the authorities think that because Mzungus are involved then everything can and will be done at the drop of a hat. They really do not understand the tireless work done to raise funds just to feed the boys, never mind the extras. But it is fair to say it is looking really good.

We would just like to assure those of you who followed our trip on facebook.....the weather was very hot with averaging temperatures of 90 degs BUT you will notice in the picture the woolly hats. Nanny Byles knitted them because the boys like them and they insisted on wearing them. Some in fact wore them in bed because they felt COLD!!!!!!



Do you work in a school? We thought you may be interested to see some of the resources used in the primary school the Meru boys attend. It may not look much but we are sure you can imagine that in the scheme of things, this is fairly well equipped.



Home Corner



Toy corner



Nature corner

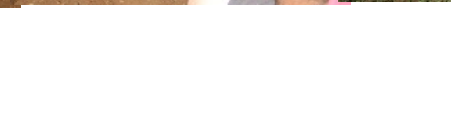
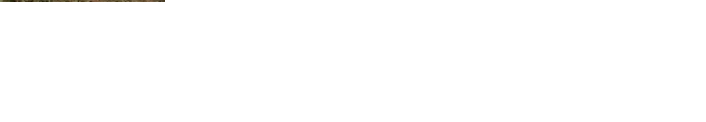
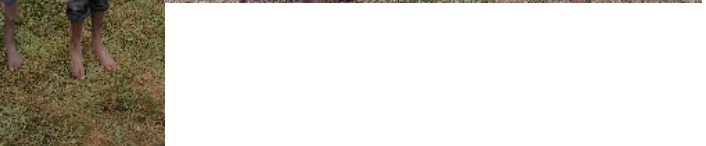


Musical corner and medical corner

These photos were taking in the "baby class" as they call it. They are studying similar things to our younger children but what a difference in resources. Even the tables are not ideal, with their rough edges. Notice the chalk writing explaining what each display is about. I particularly like the musical instruments.

Gallery

Meru



Gallery

Nyakoe

