

Newsletter

Harambee For Kenya



No.3 December 07

The last three months have been amazing which included a trip back to Kenya to see the children we have in the safe house (Harambee House) We were privileged to have played a part in the taking a 5 year old boy called Victor from the streets to the house. Victor can be seen here with his friend Duke (holding him) and John who was also taken off the street. Victor thinks the world of Duke and when



Duke went to the safe house, Victor was not around. Duke told Victor what had happened later and Victor asked our friend Malloy (who helps find the children) if he could "sleep on a mattress with a blanket". He cried when he could not find Duke, so when Malloy found him, with Dukes help, it was a day to celebrate. He came willingly to see us and I will never forget when I first saw him walk into the hotel with Malloy. He came bounding up to me and held his hand out to shake my hand. He wasn't scared at all.

We didn't have to make a decision! How could we even consider letting him go back on the street....we couldn't!

Victor was born on the street to a street girl and has not known any different. His mother is still on the street even prostituting herself. She has been described to us as being "mad", so Duke was looking after Victor. Duke

is only 11 years old and has a beautiful smile and cares very much for Victor. They are virtually inseparable. Victor is fairly well but is suffering from a nasty patch of ringworm for which we have paid for treatment. He has had new clothes given to him and when we left, he was smiling widely and playing happily with a few toys that we left for them in an effort to keep them amused at the house which will help to stop them erring back to the town centre.

We were amazed how disciplined the boys are in the house. There are rules in the house, like no glue sniffing, no smoking of Bhang (Cannabis) and Vincent who is 18 years old and is their football coach and leader makes sure that everything is clean and in its place. We watched on one day when he was preparing to serve up their lunch, rice! He got all the plates out, 18 in all, and shared the rice he had cooked equally amongst them. Then he found that more children had arrived than plates supplied. So he counted the lads and then ensured that there were enough for one between two. He then made all the boys wash their hands in a bowl with soap; they rinsed them and then the plates were handed out. It was staggering to see that they did not make any move to touch the food until they were told to. In fact they had to then wait a little longer because they all said Grace before they were told they could eat. Then they went off in their twos and shared their plate of food without any arguments. Each looked after the other. We commented at the fact that many of our children would have been picking at it and whining about the fact that they had to wait, let alone the thought that they may have to share! A truly humbling experience!



Roger with Victor

Meet Hudson.

Hudson is 9yrs old and until October he was the youngest in the safe house. He had been on the streets since he was 7 yrs old due to problems with his father beating him and telling him to move away!

His mother had died when he was young and his father was regularly drunk which was when he would beat him.

Hudson loves being in the house and says "It is good here" In fact he will not leave the house to go to town anymore. He says he would like to go to school, and he would "like to see the children in England.



Hudson in his new shoes!

Right;
The rickety
bridge to the
safe house
Far right;
Peter had new
shoes too.

To complete our project next year we are going to buy the land below on which to set it. We are now fundraising towards the cost of purchasing it. If you have any ideas or would like to actively help, then please contact us.



Our thanks go to the following people for their support.

Now Accessories (Crowborough)

Mrs Stokely. Oathall PTA.

Helen & John Hart (Craft Zoo)

The ladies of the Heathfield Crop.



Our new little family at Harambee House.



Thank you for your support.

If you have any ideas for this newsletter please contact us at

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