

Newsletter

**Harambee
For Kenya**



No 19 Feb '11

It is hard to believe the charity has now been going for four years. Time has flown by and so many things have happened. We look back at the time with affection as well as with a critical eye to see how we have fared and assess how we can improve. The Trustees both in the UK and Kenya always evaluate what has been done and try to learn from both the mistakes and the good decisions they have made.

We have received the second instalment of money from Africa 2000 Network and so the next faze of education for the children on Aids is about to start We look forward to hearing about that as it progresses, but we know that they have had to design tee shirts which will be worn when out and about to help inform the rest of the community. The design has to be agreed by the sponsors before they can get them printed. Following the last training, we told you that most of the boys were tested for HIV/AIDS and that only one of the younger ones was found to be HIV positive. Well he is receiving free medicine and is doing really well. He will be monitored regularly but at the moment he is very fit all things considering, Some of the older boys chose not to be tested. We can understand that they may be scared, but we hope to persuade them to re-consider so they know if they need to be especially careful when they eventually find wives.

We have just started to employ a Social Worker and as Nurse to help care for the boys in Nyakoe, We have to do this in order to be able to register with the authorities, which takes time. Both are part time and we believe that this should greatly help Elijah as well. He is doing a fantastic job with the children, but he needs their support and sometimes guidance on issues which may manifest themselves. He enjoys working with and caring for the boys, seeing them progress but we do all need to understand it is tough and the support will help him. We often get gentle reminders of just how hard he works, when one of the lads does something wrong and gets into trouble at school or with the Police. Elijah is there sorting out how best to handle it, showing them love while disciplining them when necessary. Many of us find it hard and we only have two or three children, so take time to remember Elijah in your prayers as he has 40 children to care for and love as well as three of his own.

We will put into play what we have learnt as we progress with the Meru project. The Nakuru project is different in the fact that all the children are fostered but this can still bring difficulties. We just hope and pray that as the children grow bigger, the foster parents will want to continue to care for them. We will work closely with Pastor Matthew in this as most of the foster parents are at his church, It is tough for them though as they are all living hand to mouth in difficult

conditions in the middle of a slum. Most of the foster parents are, what we would consider to be well below the breadline. Some manage to earn some money but maybe only the equivalent of £2 per week. So you can see that we really need to get the sponsorship programme working so that we can ensure that they get money to feed the child they care for. If we don't the children are likely to run away when they are a little older, just to find food. See project news for more and please consider getting three friends or work colleagues to join you in sponsoring one of these children. If four of you put £2.50 per MONTH to one side and sent us that £10 total each month, you can help us save a life. The same amount is needed for each of our children in the other two projects too.

100 Club

January 2011

£15 Megon Kutter

£10 Laurie Millard

£5 Babs Dann

**The 100 club will restart in March.
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
win £100.**

**You have to be in it to win it. So
contact**

Jackie@octoberhouse1.idps.co.uk

Our Thanks go to the following for their support.

Peter Haylock Sue Taylor & Liz Walters
Ray & Astrid Esdale.

The Kings Church Heathfield

The Pumpkin Patch Bridget Yorke

Staff at Jackson Rowe

Jo Poulton Kay, Keith & Phillip Davies

Coast Digital. Barbara Blundell

Paul & Julie Coppard

And all our regular supporters

For a change I thought you may like a little taste of Kenya. This recipe was given to me by a Kenyan friend. Hope you enjoy it.

Avocado Custard

This needs to be made fresh and eaten within a couple of hours of making. If left it can go a little brown on the top but this can be skimmed off and it is fine to eat.

One small ripe avocado per person

Milk, semi skimmed or whole

Sugar to taste.

Can be served with wafers or thin biscuits.

Peel and destone the avocado. Put flesh into a blender/liquidiser.

Put enough milk in to be level with the top of the avocado mass.

Add desert spoon of sugar to start with. Then blitz the mixture. Taste and add more sugar if required and blitz again. I

t should be the consistency of thick custard. If it is too thick add a little more milk and blitz again.

Pour into individual dishes or one large one and keep covered and refrigerated before serving.

Project News

All the projects are doing well at the moment with the children all enjoying their time with us.

Nakuru.

Pastor Matthew has written with lovely pictures showing the children being fed for Christmas. These children are a lot younger and are cared for in the homes of his parishioners as well as single parents or extended family members. They are seriously poor and without our help could end up on the streets. We strive to prevent this from happening as this would exacerbate the situation.

The feeding program continues to happen on a Saturday with the food that is spare, going back to the families who care for the children, to help them through part of the week. This does not amount to a lot, so we really need to try and find sponsors for the children so that they can be fostered properly within these homes. This would enable us to give each foster family £10 per month to pay for food for the orphan. This would take pressure off the carer. It is hard to imagine trying to feed ones children with very little money and then having an extra mouth to feed on top of that. But we are very grateful to the carers for what they are doing at the moment with what little they have.



Ugali and meat with vegetables was the menu for their Christmas meal. The children really tucked in.

Meet the children

This is Brian Oduor who is three years old. He lives with his mother in the slum in Nakuru. His father died of AIDS and his mother has been infected as has Brian but until we can get him tested we are not clear whether he has AIDS or is HIV+. He became ill recently and ended up in hospital. We were told that he had Malaria and was in hospital for three days. The bill amounted to 7100 Kenyan Shillings which is about £64. His mother could not afford to pay and was told that



he would not be allowed to leave until it was paid. Of course this would have increased the bill. Ridiculous. I hear you say....but this is Kenya! So we found a sponsor and paid the bill so that he could go home. Andrew (in Kenya) spoke to his mother who was in tears (of joy) and grateful to the sponsor. Matthew was also able to get him some fruit and other food to help them through the following week as well as his medicines.

Brian is just one of 30 children in similar circumstances. We desperately need sponsors to help support these children to give them a chance they deserve. Contact us if you would like to help... Remember - it isn't his fault that he is in such need.



Would you like to give someone a gift. Why not consider giving your friend or family member a virtual gift by buying a couple of chickens, a goat or just give a donation to help look after the general needs of the children. Then you can send them this "Gift of Life" card so that they can see what you have done.

Give us their email address and we will send them a newsletter so that they can see how the children and our work are progressing. Contact us on for more information on

info@harambeeforkenya.org

Meru

Meru is ticking over well – a little too well really. John has been having problems with other boys arriving for food as they have heard it is being given out. We can't blame them. I think we would do the same if we were hungry! We find this type of problem encouraging in a way as it confirms that we are meeting a need.

Two of the boys have needed dental treatment but appear now to be OK.

We are now waiting to hear about land to be purchased. We plan to build a temporary structure so that the boys have somewhere to sleep away from the town. The purchase of land is key to the next phase. Once we have it we can look to build another house similar to the one built in Nyakoe.

We are awaiting details of the boys at this project. But we will be visiting there in April so you should be able to meet the boys afterwards, once we have been able to take details. Once again it is all boys that we care for.



We often get asked why that is. We have found that many people are happy to give a girl a room to sleep and she may help around the house. (It is quite normal for children to do chores in Kenya).

Many people find boys difficult to deal with and therefore they are left to their own devices – until we help them! You can meet some of the boys in the next newsletter.,

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 very soon.

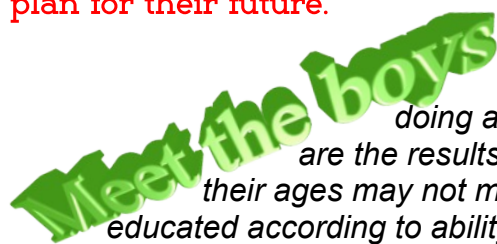
email lesley@harambeeforkenya.org for more information.

The children are generally doing well. We have received information that Christopher is doing really well and the jiggers in his feet have now all gone. We have had our share of difficulties too as many families do.



One of our older boys got into trouble with the Police as he was suspected to have stolen a motorbike. This is sad for us to hear but we are not 100% sure of the truth of the issues. But what we do know is that the owner of the motorbike caught up with him and beat him to a pulp causing his arm to be broken. This is wholly unacceptable! This is an assault and when we get to Kenya we will be asking a few questions. As for the accusation, the Police are investigating. As much as it is a disappointment to us to have one of our boys in trouble it is right that we share with you, the difficulties that we have sometimes. You need to know that we do have tough times and tough decisions to make. Our charity is not immune to problems and we like to be open and honest with you. It is good to feel that we can rely on your support through our hour of need..

The boys have returned to school after their summer holiday and reports are that they are working hard, which is encouraging. Dennilson has started more work with soapstone working out of the workshop that British Scouts built.. He is really enjoying himself and he is learning to save. Andrew says that he is giving him money to keep so that he can save. It is really heartwarming when you see these boys starting to save and plan for their future.



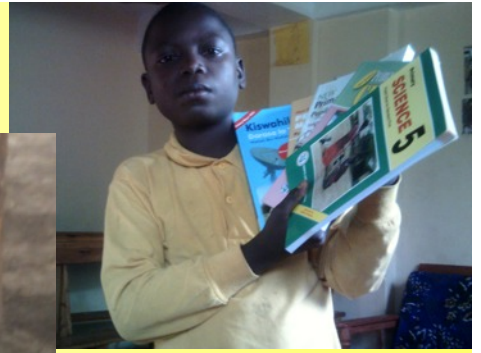
This time I thought you may like to know how the boys are doing at school. We had a wonderful email about their efforts and here are the results. Our boys are spread over four different schools and in Kenya their ages may not match the standard (year group) as in England because they are educated according to ability. So here we go...note that the names may not be recognised as they are Kenyan names but rest assured they are the same children!!

Std Name	Position	Out Of	Std Name	Position	Out Of
Ogori Maweba	24	28 Repeat	6 Josphat Nyakundi	16	73 Promoted
			John Nyakundi	23	73 Promoted
2 John Bosco	2	52 Promoted	7 Alvin Ochieng	3	41 Promoted
John Onsongo	12	28 Promoted	Reuben Peter	2	79 Promoted
3 Simeon Isaboke	7	32 Promoted	Carlos Mokua	5	79 Promoted
Malak Onbati	12	58 Promoted	Samuel Omaiko	92	92 Repeat
Dennis Kennedy	51	52 Repeat	Peter Makori	88	92 Repeat
Kevin Nyachio	91	106 Repeat	8 Victor Isaiah	13	48 Promoted
Emmanuel Onditi	88	106 Repeat	Naftal Onger	33	92 Promoted
4 Justin Ogutu	13	52 Promoted	Brian Mamo	10	92 Promoted
Moffat Otwor	13	104 Promoted			
Wilfred Momanyi	52	55 Repeat			
5 Julius Ainh	15	34 Promoted			
Daniel Ondieki	2	92 Promoted			
Bernard Orina	9	92 Promoted			
Brian Momanyi	26	55 Promoted			
Vincent Onsongo	60	73 Repeat			

It is worth noting that Julius and Simeon are now at private school to help to channel them. They were identified early on and now the other boys have upped the anti as they would like the same opportunity.

You can see those boys who could benefit from that experience but without sponsors this will not happen. So if you think you can help one of the other lads contact us. For a rough guide it costs about £500 per year to send them to private school.

Gallery



Julius - back to school 2011
Below right - Simeons first day
at his new school

