

FRIENDS OF THE KAREN STREET CHILDREN

December 2009

Happy Christmas to all our friends and supporters



For the past fourteen years the Karen Street Children's Trust has been working to build a brighter future for impoverished and disadvantaged children from the slums surrounding the Karen suburb of Nairobi. To date we have helped 122 young people build worthwhile lives through education, training and employment opportunities, and currently we are working with 46 bright sponsored students. Each has been selected on the basis of hardship at home and the potential to benefit from a good education. We are proud that so many have grasped the opportunity and worked hard to achieve top grades. We currently have three students in top Universities – **Philip (Actuarial Science)**, **Joseph (Computer Engineering)** and **Jackson (Community Development)**. In addition **Mary** is studying for a **Diploma in Banking**, **Daniel and Sammy** are studying **Accountancy**, and **Peter** is studying for a **Diploma in Electrical Engineering and Electronics**. It is our policy to educate each sponsored student to the level from which each will benefit, and then to equip them with skills which will help them to earn in an increasingly difficult employment environment. We

have also been working with the Dynamic Business Start-Up Programme which assists young people with self-employment business skills.

At the beginning of 2009 six more students joined the Karen "family". **James** is a bright boy with a sad family story and just two years of schooling left, who had no hope of finding the money to complete. **Roseann** and **Sharon** had both finished Primary school with high marks but their families are destitute and could not find the funds for secondary schooling. **Joseph** is an ambitious orphan who had many years of disrupted primary schooling but had high marks and was desperate to go to secondary school. **Jacqueline** had also moved schools five times during her primary school career due to tragedies in the family, but was deemed to have high potential. She was asked to repeat the final year of her primary schooling to improve her chances of entering a good secondary school, and given the stability of a good boarding school she has been gaining excellent marks. She is now being interviewed for entry as a semi-sponsored student to a secondary school of excellence, and is featured in our **Special Christmas Appeal**. The link for Jacqueline is:

<http://www.justgiving.com/Kristina-Kenworthy>

This year we have four "graduates" – **Judy** has finished her Diploma course in **Clinical Medicine** with top-class marks and is starting her hospital attachment, **Sarah** has completed her **Certificate in Catering** coming top of the class in her practical work and has the offer of a good job in the bakery where she did her "work experience". **Joyce** has completed a **tailoring** course and we are raising funds to buy her a sewing machine, and **Joseph** has a certificate in **Electrical Installation**. For each of our students, these achievements are the result of many years of sponsorship and mentoring from the Karen Street Childrens' Trust. Their paper qualifications do not show the gain in self-esteem and complete change in life direction that they have achieved, and we are proud of each one of them.

With the continued support of our donors, we look forward to interviewing new applicants in January and to providing similar opportunities to some of them. So many bright children in Kenya have no hope of education beyond the state-subsidised primary schooling. All secondary schooling has to be paid for, and this is beyond the realms of possibility for so many.

All our students are in boarding schools and colleges across the country, where they are getting an education in a safe environment, with food provided and a bed to sleep in at night. Many of our students are not assured of even these basics at home. We are proud to be able to provide for a small group of bright children what so many elsewhere take for granted.

The costs of educating a child for a year are as follows:

Boarding Primary School:	Kshs 64,375.-	GBP 535
Boarding Secondary School	Kshs 80,625.-	GBP 670

This is based on actual costs for the year 2009, and includes school fees, food and accommodation for boarding pupils, textbooks and stationery, all uniform, shoes, transport, tuck, pocket money and holiday activities, and a cover for medical emergencies.

Faith wrote to me recently saying:

"You have embraced us wholly with all our weaknesses and treated us as a family. KSC is my second family which I can turn to whenever I have issues. I will therefore forever remain grateful for all your doings in my life. The only thing I can do in return is to do whatever is expected of me and to make sure that I succeed".

Faith is from a desperately impoverished background. She is entering her last year of secondary school, and has consistently achieved straight "A" grades. She certainly will succeed.

I feel so privileged to be able to transform these lives, through all the generosity of our friends, sponsors and benefactors.

KSC has made a dramatic difference to the lives of many children. Poverty, strife and illness are taking a terrible toll in Africa, and many children suffer. We are able to give a future of hope to just a few of these children, thanks to the generosity of our donors and friends. We are always grateful for any donation, however small. "A little goes a long way"

Thank you so very very much to all of you, on behalf of all of us.

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UK donations: c/o Kristina Kenworthy
Trustees of Friends of the Karen Street Children Trust
(registered as a Charity in England under number 1088188)

Or through Just Giving via the weblink:

<http://www.justgiving.com/fksc/supportus>