



FRIENDS OF THE KAREN STREET CHILDREN

www.karenstreetchildren.org

Easter Newsletter 2012

"You can make a living by what you get, but you can make a life by what you give"
Winston Churchill

5 NEW STUDENTS FOR 2012



We have managed to find the fees to ensure that these 5 new KSC students will have an education over the next 8 years. We welcome Antony, Jane, Nancy, Peter and Jacinta to KSC! Sadly we only managed to photograph 4 of the 5 as Antony rushed off to join his new school before we could whip the camera out!

KSC TERTIARY STUDENT NEWS



Judy has started her internship for Clinical Medicine at Moi Referral Hospital

Faith is studying Nursing at Daystar University



James is studying Aviation Engineering at Kenya College of Aviation

FOCUS ON ANN WAMBUI



"My name is Ann Wambui. I am in Form 2, Vanessa Grant Secondary School. I live near Kawangware market. I was born and brought up in a family of six children of which I am the first born. My father is a stone mason when he is able to find work. We live in a tin shack on the edge of a quarry and food is scarce.

I was a pupil at Kinyanjui Primary School for eight years until 2010. I had great dreams about joining High School and very much wanted to be the first person from my school to achieve the high score of 400 marks in my primary school leaving exam. Unfortunately I only got 340. I cried at I thought this was my only chance to get sponsorship for secondary school. Although my father comforted me and told me I had done very well and had not shamed my teachers, I knew they had no money to help me with my dream.

One month before secondary school started my family was told about the Karen Street Children. I was lucky that they took me and thank them for their support for my academic excellence and the advice they give me to strengthen me when I am weak.

Through the Trust I came to realise that many people lacked school fees, therefore I am trying my best so as to be a role model to my younger siblings. May God bless the work of your hands."

Ann is sponsored by Sheelah Mills from Australia. If you would like to sponsor a child, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

IN MEMORIUM

After a long and valiant fight, our Chairman's beloved husband, Aris Grammaticas sadly passed away in November 2011. Aris was a loyal supporter of KSC, providing much needed employment to dozens of our alumni through his businesses in Nairobi and the Masai Mara at the Governors' camps. His wisdom and advice made KSC stronger and more determined to succeed. His friendship will be much missed and we at KSC extend our heartfelt sympathies and condolences to Romi and all her family.

As an example, Peter Muchiri was one of our most "difficult" street boys at the beginning. After much perseverance, Peter was given the opportunity to work as a mechanic at Governors'. He has been promoted to driver which is a measure of the trust in him.



Classic Safari Camps of Africa has very kindly donated US\$ 480 in Aris' memory for which we are extremely grateful.

THE WELL-DESERVED PATS ON THE BACK

Huge thanks must, once again, go the Karen Country Club in Nairobi for all their support again this year. Also, the Karen Vineyard Church who managed to raise a whopping KSH 77,574 with their beautiful annual candlelit Christmas carols service. The Committee of the Christmas Craft Fair continues to support us and donated KSH 500,000 to KSC. Sue MacKinley and Mel Mellows hosted a fashion show in Nairobi on behalf of KSC raising £500 which was matched by Diageo. We would also like to thank our UK Trustees who sent us an impressive £8,000 at the start of the year.

A massive thanks must also go to Cranbrook School in Australia for their kind donation of laptops delivered in person for our University students who really needed some modern equipment to continue their studies.

We would also like to thank Mark Eddy of M Sparks, Dominique Berger of Tawi Lodge and The Exclusive Portfolio Safari Company, Kris de Pooter of Komsol Africa as well as the ever-going support of Governors who have all employed KSC alumni this year.

Katy Macintyre-Brown rose to the challenge and designed a wonderful unique Christmas card to be sold on behalf of KSC which raised £412. Look out for this year's card which will be advertised later in the year!

THE KAREN STREET CHILDREN'S TRUST

For the past 16 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 142 young people building worthwhile lives through education, training and employment opportunities and currently we are working with 48 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. 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.

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.

CURRENT SPONSORSHIP FEES FOR 2012

Despite rising costs in Kenya for education both in primary and secondary schools we are endeavouring to keep our sponsor fees the same aware that many of you are also feeling the credit crunch. It does mean we will probably have to find cuts somewhere along the line, but assure our sponsors that none of our children will suffer as a result. The sad news is that this puts education even further out of the reach of the majority of the population of Kenya.

PRIMARY SCHOOL BOARDING FEES KSH 63,250/£550 pa

SECONDARY SCHOOL BOARDING FEES KSH 92,000/£800 pa

This is based on actual costs and includes school fees, food and accommodation for boarding pupils, text books and stationery, all uniform, shoes, transport, tuck, pocket money, holiday tuition and activities, cover for medical emergencies and the pastoral care and support of our qualified counsellor, Catherine Gachui, our one and only paid employee.

DONATE WHILST YOU SHOP!

For UK based supporters - you can now donate to KSC whilst you shop online without it costing you a penny! www.Easyfundraising.org.uk provides a FREE fundraising service where you can raise funds for KSC when you shop online with shops like M&S, Amazon, Tescos, Sainsburys, Boden amongst many! Join and fundraise for free for KSC.

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