



There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children.

Nelson Mandela

MAKING THE MOST OF YOURSELF!



In May 2012 a group of 9 KSCT and 5 Friends of Dagoretti Children KCSE leavers (seen here with Susan MacKinlay, one of KSCT Trustees) united for a three day intensive course on good communication skills, entitled "Making the Most of Yourself". The aim of the course is to equip these students with the skills they need for the next stage in life - tackling CVs & application letters, interviews, the consistent use of good style and grammar and crucially - time management! It was an action packed 3 days with a great deal of role-playing, individual and group presentations, laughter and firm handshakes! From their initial self-conscious introductions on day one it was encouraging to see confidence grow, as well as an appreciation of how to help themselves and each other, by day three. This is a course that will be repeated for each KCSE leaver year - the importance of being able to write a good CV and application letter, and present themselves well at interview cannot be underestimated in this highly competitive course and job market. Louise Roest, who ran the course for the students, said it was a pleasure to teach such an enthusiastic group of students.

KSC STUDENT ALUMNI NEWS



The Alumni organised a big clean up at the Grammaticas' farm in to show their appreciation to Romi in honour of Aris Grammaticas who passed away late last year.

FOCUS ON ELIUD MACHARIA



I am Eliud Macharia. I completed High School education last year at Kahuu Uhuru High School and scored a grade B in the national examination. My original dream was to become an aeronautical engineer. After doing a great deal of research it came to my attention that aeronautical engineering was not the career I wanted to pursue the rest of my life. I instead focused my effort in finding another career which I would be comfortable with.

In January I went to do voluntary service at the Nest Children's Home, which is a foundation for the rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of children in conflict with the law and children of imprisoned mothers. It is there that I was given a chance to help on a construction site and where I got interested in knowing the people who are involved in the building industry. My effort to get to know those people was not in vain as I got an opportunity to meet the quantity surveyor who was involved with the building. I spent quality time with him and I asked him a great deal of questions which he gladly answered. He helped me to understand the work which quantity surveyors are involved with and where I developed an interest in this career.

When I finished the voluntary service, I was lucky to get a chance to gain work experience in a firm of chartered surveyors called Baker & Baton Kenya (BBK). For the last 3 months I have learnt how to prepare bills of quantity, how to take off from a drawing provided by architects, abstracting, valuations for builders work, preparation of financial appraisals, communication skills in the office and also how to handle office machines. I have also had my opportunities to attend to site meetings and site visits.

I am now sure that quantity surveying is the career I want to pursue and having gained this work experience, would like to go to University to continue my studies in this field.

Having achieved that I will be able to give back to society and also help the needy and be a good ambassador of K.S.C.T.

Huge congratulations must go to James Njoroge and Jackson Kiarie have both finished their tertiary studies this summer. James has his Diploma in Banking and Jackson a Degree in Community Development. James has secured work experience for 3 months in Gulf African Bank in Upper Hill and Jackson is currently on secondment working as a social worker for the Christmas Craft Fair Trust.

Our Gap Year students, Ezekiel, Johanna, David, Paul, Wilfred, John, Joseph, Margaret, Nancy, Eliud (our Focus student on the front page), and Stephen are all doing voluntary work placements in the community in organisations such as The Nest Children's Home, Dream Children's Home, The Red Cross, KSCT and the Kenyan Epileptic Clinics whilst planning and securing places for their future education.

Joseph writes "I am really thankful for the opportunity to do my attachment at Governors at such short notice. I enjoy every day that passes here because each present a new task to deal with which mean a lot of experience on my side. I particularly enjoyed visiting Loldia House in Naivasha to deliver some stuff and was lucky enough to find the Kenya Power & Light guys doing some maintenance on the power lines. I also got hands on with the stand by generator on its basic operations. The job, as it presented itself, seems to be a very good match for my skills and interests.

Now on my fourth week which means I'm half way through my attachment. I appreciate very much working with Tom and for all the assistance he has been providing me; his expertise and help have been invaluable during this attachment process."

THE WELL-DESERVED PATS ON THE BACK

Susan and Scott MacKinlay raised an impressive KSH 67,000 (£500) in a house sale and coffee morning.

A special mention must go to the Robin Hood Foundation who continue to sponsor our high flying achievers, Philip Kamau, Joseph Muchina, Faith Wamaitha, Joseph Kimani, Margaret Wanjiku and Eliud Macaharia.

The Marie Rehima Dawood Charitable Trust has donated one year's school fees for Jacinta Mkwata and should she do well during that year they will review their position to continuing their support.



Faith and Catherine receive a very welcome cheque for KSH 40,000 (£300) from Imperial Bank.

And news just in, the Mugs Mug Polo Tournament in Kenya raised KSH 23,250 (£175) during an auction last week. Thank you!

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, Argos, Tesco's, Sainsbury's, Boden amongst many! Join and fundraise for free for KSC.

Dr Romi Grammaticas
Chairperson
Trust

The Karen Street Children's Trust
PO Box 49396, Nairobi
KENYA

grammat@africaonline.co.ke

Kristina Kenworthy
UK Trustee, The Karen Street Children's

PO Box 359, Leatherhead
Surrey, KT22 2EF
UNITED KINGDOM

kk@jonathankenworthy.com

www.karenstreetchildren.org

mydonate.bt.com/charities/karenstreetchildren

Email: karenstreetchildrenstrust@gmail.com