



FRIENDS OF THE KAREN STREET CHILDREN

Christmas Newsletter 2010

STOP PRESS!

Please take the time to look at our new website:

WWW.KARENSTREETCHILDREN.ORG

END OF YEAR PRIZE GIVING

We are delighted to have so many winners this year for our KSC Prize Giving to be held on Wednesday, 22nd December and can announce the following winners:

Form 1&2 Seniors Highest Mark Winner is Juliana Makwata

Form 3&4 Seniors Highest Mark Winner is Faith Wamaitha

Juniors Highest Mark Winner is David Ndungu

Seniors Greatest Improved Award goes to Sharon Muthoni

Secondary School Leaver Awards go to Simon Kagiri & James Njoroge

Graduate Award goes to Peter Maina

Tertiary Highest Grades & Initiative Award goes to Philip Kamau

Most Helpful to KSC Award goes to Samuel Kinyajui

Senior Greatest Personal Achievement Award goes to Peter Maina

Junior Greatest Personal Achievement Award goes to Stephen Muchira

The Overall Achievement and Trustees Prize goes to Faith Wamaitha

Congratulations must also go to all the runner-ups and those who just missed out on this occasion.

FOCUS ON SARAH WAMBUI

My name is Sarah Wambui and I am 19 years old. I joined KSC in 2005. I come from a very poor large family.

Having completed year 8 in primary school with poor marks, KSC sent me to college to do a cooking course which I completed in 2009.

Having gained work experience in Karen Provision Stores bakery and the Rusty Nail Restaurant I was very blessed to be given the opportunity to gain paid employment making pizzas at Que Pasa in Karen for which I am very grateful.

I would like to say a big thank you to KSC for helping the poor and needy. I am now able to help my family by buying food and many other things.



FOCUS ON SAMMY KAMAU



My Name is Sammy, a young man of 22 years and the last born in a family of four. I am one of the proud beneficiaries of KSC. I joined KSC after my Kenya Certificate of Primary Examination six years ago. At that point my family was very desperate for we did not have any hope of continuing with my education due to lack of money to finance Secondary School. It was then that through a friend and neighbour that I learnt about the scholarships offered by the KSC Trust that I decided to give it a try. There and then I made and forwarded my application and having met the qualifications both in academic merit and a humble family background, I was offered a chance to further brighten my future.

I joined High School and after four years I completed and excelled in my Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education in October 2008. In mid 2009 I went to College to study Accountancy and hope to qualify at the end of this year. Meanwhile, I have already secured a job at Governors Camp, a company that is in the first line of sponsors and supporters of the KSC Trust. Here I am gaining professional experience as I pursue my course part -time to attain the highest possible academic qualification. Given the chance, I would like to study to PhD level, get the knowledge and skills and thereafter establish my own Charitable Trust to give the needy in our society a chance to brighten their future too.

With this done I will have reciprocated the generosity and love shown by the KSC founder Dr Romi Grammaticas whose name and charisma cannot go unmentioned, all the donors, trustees and friends not only to me but to over 127 needy children in Kenya. To the potential donors I say 'It is more worthwhile to teach one how to fish than to give them a fish' and that the best way to give is to put a smile on a child's face not only for a day or two, but for a life time.

Thank you and God Bless you as you give.

CATHERINE AND NICHOLAS HAVE A BABY!

Congratulations to Catherine, (the KSC Counsellor), and Nicholas who gave birth to a baby boy called Adrian on Monday, 13th December. Both mother and baby are doing well.



SPECIAL MENTIONS!

A massive thanks to the Karen Country Club in Nairobi for their continued support along with the beautiful candlelit Christmas Carol Service at the Karen Blixen Coffee Gardens put on by the Karen Vineyard Church which raised KSH 56,000. Thanks must also go to the Committee of the Christmas Craft Fair for their unrelenting support to the Trust.

With the assistance of your donations we are hoping to be able to support another 4 children in the forthcoming year.

A special mention must also go to M Sparks, Que Pasa Bar & Bistro, Sandstorm (Africa) Ltd, The Exclusive Portfolio Safari Company and Governors Camp who have all employed KSC young adults this year.

We would also like to thank Hordle Walhampton School in Lymington, Hampshire for their incredibly generous donation of 9 secondhand laptops; Mark and Rachel Ridley and the Beechwood Park School for their laptops and goodies; Alistair Humphreys, James Cubitt and Hugo Segrave amongst others for tutoring at summer camp during their summer holidays.

Finally, we would like to thank Harry Marshall, with the support and help of Robin Batchelor, who designed our new website.

THE KAREN STREET CHILDREN'S TRUST

For the past 15 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 134 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 BOARDING FEES FOR 2011

PRIMARY SCHOOL BOARDING FEES KSH63,250/£550 per annum

SECONDARY SCHOOL BOARDING FEES KSH92,000/£800 per annum

This is based on actual costs for the year 2010 and includes school fees, food and accommodation for boarding pupils, text books and stationery, all uniform, shoes, transport, tuck, pocket money, holiday activities, cover for medical emergencies and the pastoral care and support of our qualified counsellor, Catherine Muguru.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

We would like to thank ALL our donors for their continued support. Without you The Karen Street Children's Trust would not exist. From everyone at KSC we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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