



FRIENDS OF THE KAREN STREET CHILDREN

Easter Newsletter 2010

THE NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK!

We are delighted to be able to introduce you to our 6 new arrivals to The Karen Street Children. They are Rachel Njeri (14), Joel Maina (17), George Njirani (14), Mary Nyawira (15), Juliana Makwata (16) and Mercy Njeri (15) pictured below with Sharon Muthoni who is at the same school.

Without a doubt we would not have been able to take on 2 of these children without the amazing fundraising efforts of the British Peace Support Team (Eastern Africa) who managed to put a large sum of money into our coffers in January with their remarkable Pantomime at the vital time of selection.

Over 40 children applied for our help this year and we are thrilled with the choices we have made, although the 34 we had to turn away made the whole process very stressful and painful for the Committee. Everyone at KSC wishes all the children the best of luck and a wonderful future.



Mrs Nicola Liddicoat, (Panto Director), Nelson, (BPST-EA Accountant), Spot the Zebra and the Commander BPST-EA, Colonel James Cunliffe hand over the cheque for KSH 385,000 to Dr Romi Grammaticas (far left).

MAIA KENWORTHY COMES TO KENYA TO FILM KAREN STREET CHILDREN!

Maia, a film student whose mother is one of our UK Trustees, has recently been in Karen filming some of our students in their own environment to raise awareness of the Charity both here and abroad. We hope this short film will be a huge success and thank Maia for giving us her time and leaving us with a brilliant film to use as a future marketing and fundraising tool.

The film will be posted on our new website when we have it up and running!



SECONDARY GRADES ARE IN!

Our 2 secondary year students James Mjoroge and Simon Kagiri have had their grades and are delighted with the results. James scored a B and Simon a creditable C. Having come from backgrounds which defy belief, we are delighted that these boys are managed to achieve so much. They are currently doing voluntary work (see overleaf) before they both embark on a four month Computer Course sponsored by Samsung. During this time they will be deciding on their futures and what they will go on to study in September. Congratulations must go to both of them!

4 GO OUT TO WORK

Anthony Ndekei is now working for Acacia Business Services as an Accounts Clerk, Sammy is at Governors Camp as a Credit Controller along with Jane Wairimu doing data input whilst continuing her accountancy exams in the evenings and Daniel Muigai has just started work as the Stock Controller for Sandstorm. Congratulations must go to all 4 who have worked so hard to get to this stage and we wish them very successful careers!

WORK PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE

We currently have aspiring Electrical Engineers, Accountants and IT students amongst others who would love to come and assist you in the work place. This gives valuable insight into a working business environment which would really benefit our prodigies.

If you think your company could help us by offering work placements for our hard-working and polite young students, please contact Catherine on 0721 861525.

VOLUNTARY WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

As part of our curriculum and contract with our students, we ask them to do voluntary work in the community after Secondary school and whilst waiting for their grades and deciding upon their futures.

If you think you can offer us places for our students to come and volunteer with your charity or school, or know of someone who might be able to help in this area, please contact Catherine on 0721 861525.



Simon and James are now working at The Nest children's home in Limuru for the next 6 weeks before embarking on a Computer Science course. The Nest were keen for Swahili speakers to help with the volunteers from the UK who are initiating a community cleaning project as well as encouraging local Kenyans to become volunteers for this Charity.

LAP TOP APPEAL

Many of our University students are in dire need of laptops. If you, or your Company, have any laptops available in good working order please let Catherine know on 0721 861525 or email us below.

SEWING MACHINE REQUIRED

Joyce Kakeya, one of our Gap Year students, has the opportunity to make some uniforms for a small school. If you know of a hand or treadle sewing machine that needs a good home, please call Catherine or email us.

THE KAREN STREET CHILDREN TRUST

For the past 14 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 127 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 2010

PRIMARY SCHOOL BOARDING FEES KSH60,000/£500 per annum

SECONDARY SCHOOL BOARDING FEES KSH75,000/£625 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 and a cover for medical emergencies.

A HUGE THANK YOU!

We would like to thank ALL our donors for their continued support. Without you The Karen Street Children's Trust would not exist.

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