



FRIENDS OF THE KAREN STREET CHILDREN

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2023



Prize Giving and Speech Day

On 23rd November we held our annual Prize Giving and Speech Day but what a very special day it was! For the very first time we invited our past students and alumni to come along to join us.

The Karen Street Children's Trust was founded in 1995 so some of them are now in their 40s and some have not been back since. Around twenty attended, past students who have created a wide variety of careers: a doctor, several accountants, a quantity surveyor, mi-

crobiologist, lawyer, nurse and several businessmen.

We concluded a busy day with a concert given by the young musicians of Ghetto Classics, an organisation which inspires young people from the slum areas to take up a musical instrument and join the orchestra. They were able to interact with our group and have offered to teach our students in the future.

It was a great way to end the year!

**"I feel like people are expecting me to fail. Therefore, I expect myself to win."
- Lewis Hamilton**

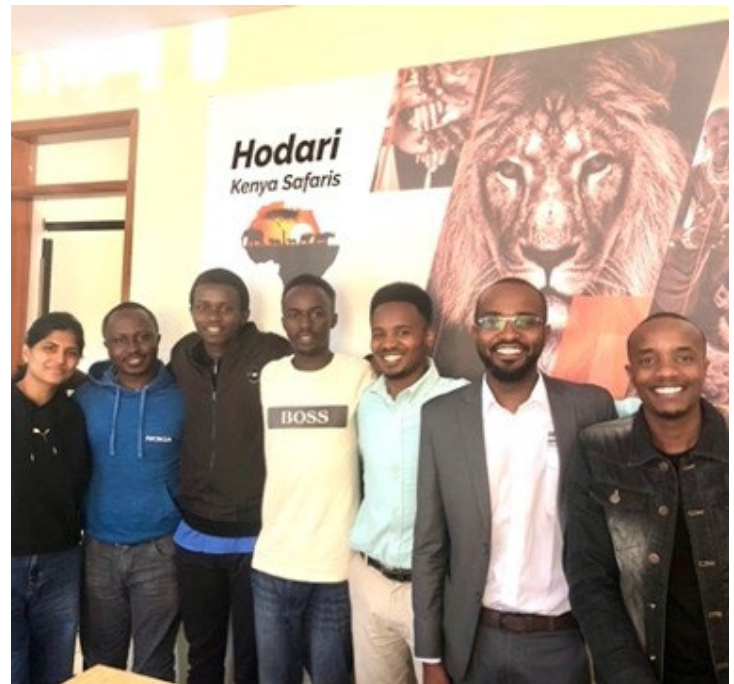
Prize Giving and Speech Day

Sammy and Dennis

Sammy came to apply for our sponsorship in 2005 as a skinny 15-year-old orphan who had completed his primary school with excellent marks. We interviewed him and were impressed, and he entered Lenana School where he consistently came top of his class. After completing secondary he travelled to the Masai Mara where he volunteered as a class assistant in Mara Rianta Primary School for his community service incidentally learning the Maa language at the same time. He chose accountancy as a career and joined Governors' Camp in 2009 as a trainee accountant, being sponsored by them to complete his accountancy qualifications and staying with them until 2018. In 2018 he started his own tour operating company, Hodari Africa Safaris and later also Hodari Africa Hospitality Solutions providing software to the Kenyan tourism industry.

His company grew and in 2020 he took on Dennis Nyamu, another KSC "graduate", as a junior accountant.

We are thrilled to see our KSC old boys creating successful companies and taking on their younger brothers to join them. This is a perfect example of job creation and self-help within our organisation. We are proud to have helped them both in their careers and wish them great success. This is a perfect example of job creation and self-help within our organisation. We are proud to have helped them both in their careers and wish them great success.



Sammy (2nd from the right) and Dennis (in the green shirt) in their office in Karen.

Lawrence (left) & Ken



Ken and Lawrence

Ken and Lawrence were amongst the earliest recruits to KSC in 1995, and both went to Kilgoris Primary School to resume their interrupted early schooling. Lawrence proved to be quite a handful: fun and lively but very naughty! Ken was more academic and focussed. Ken qualified to go to secondary school but surprised us all when he said that he would prefer to go into business and could I help him to set up a flower stall. We helped him to get a licence to open a business in a good position on a crossroad and his business has flourished. He earned enough to purchase a car, now runs a taxi service as well and is well-known in the community. Lawrence trained as a mechanic and had a more chequered career but finally was taken on by Ken to help in selling flowers. He always greets his customers with a huge smile. Yet another K.S.C. team!

Click here for our website
www.karenstreetchildren.org

And here for a video of the work we do.

Click here for Ghetto Classics Orchestra

Paying it Forward

A group of our Alumni have come together to help their younger "brothers and sisters" by mentoring and sponsorship. They gave inspirational speeches during Prize Giving, telling their stories - of success and hardship. A couple of brave young men told of building good lives, with good jobs, marriages and family and then a downward slide into drugs and poverty. They were salutary tales for our younger students to hear, and the explanation of how they climbed out of addiction and despair was courageous and inspirational. We thank them all.

They concluded by saying that as a group they would like to sponsor one student each year. For 2024 the student selected is Jephthar Reeves, who will be going into his final year at Kabianga High School. He was an academic prize-winner this year, and has also been extremely helpful throughout all the holidays in giving tuition to younger students who might be struggling.

The Dinka people of South Sudan call this "throwing the stick forward". We are proud that our former students have chosen this path.



Jephthar Reeves



"Being brave isn't the absence of fear. Being brave is having that fear but finding a way through it." - Bear Grylls.

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS



The great achievements that these students have made would not be possible without a great deal of hard work and very many generous sponsors and donors. We thank them all, including the Robin Hood Foundation who sponsor some of our expensive tertiary students, very many friends and members of the Spyropoulos family, the "Anonymous Trust", and many others.

An especially "Thank You" to Summit Recruitment who give interview training and CV writing assistance to our older students. Very recently they came to give us a magnificent cheque together with a gift of sanitary towels purchased by their staff.

We realise that times may be tough for you right now but anything you can give to continue the education of these street children is much appreciated. Each life transformed by the gift of education touches a community of people. It is a fact that education reduces poverty.

If you are able to then please consider sponsoring a child. £750 for a year or £65.50 a month covers their boarding, teaching and all school equipment as well as meals.

If you can't pledge to sponsor a child, please consider giving monthly:

- £20 a month goes towards a university degree
- £10 a month provides a child with school uniform and books for the year
- £5 a month goes towards a feeding program during the school holidays

If monthly is too much right now, please do think about giving a one-off pledge

- £45 provides ten school books
- £55 provides a school uniform for the year
- £20 provides two school children with shoes

Every little really does help. All proceeds raised go direct to the children and their needs. Please consider them this Christmas.

Pledge by clicking the link Peoplesfundraising.com.

Thank you!



DONATE WHILST YOU SHOP!

For our UK based supporters, you now have the option to donate to KSC whilst you shop online at all of your favourite stores. And what's more, the donation does not come out of your own pocket. It can provide us with valued donations without any cash input on your part - a Win/Win for us all

Easyfundraising.org.uk provides a FREE fundraising service where you can raise funds for KSC when you shop online with shops like M&S, John Lewis, Boots, Tesco Direct, Sainsburys, Boden, Crew Clothing amongst many!

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