



FRIENDS OF THE KAREN STREET CHILDREN  
[www.karenstreetchildren.org](http://www.karenstreetchildren.org)

## Spring Newsletter 2023

### So Many Applicants - Where To Start!

January is the start of the new academic year in Kenya and is the time when we have a flood of hopeful applicants coming to the gates of our centre. The selection process is an agonising affair - who do we take on and give a hopeful future to and who

do we have to leave behind. Some decisions are easy - those who are bright and whose home situations are desperate and who have absolutely no chance - but others are more difficult. Maybe they are in dire need but not quite so bright. Maybe if we delve deeper some distant relative might be able to help.

Sharon was an easy choice. A bright sparky girl living with a single mother in evidently difficult circumstances, her life would be turned around by the chance of further education.

Likewise Stella, living with her mother and younger siblings who were being educated by their local church.

Following extensive interviews and home visits we selected five girls and five boys, and are happy that we have chosen worthy candidates. We will follow the progress of those left behind to make sure that we have not missed any who should certainly have joined us.



The final group - minus two.

### Our Mission

*The mission of the Karen Street Children's Trust is to educate, guide and mentor some of the brightest and most deprived young people of the underprivileged areas around our homes in the suburb of Karen, Nairobi.*

## And some of our successes:

### Mercy Njeri

Mercy joined us in 2009 and went to study at Moi Girls' Secondary School, where she completed her studies with a creditable "B" grade. After a period of community service she joined The Kenya School of Monetary Studies for a diploma course, completing in 2016. She then worked briefly for a credit and finance company before joining Governors' Aviation in they office in Wilson Airport. She started working in the shop and making coffees, but soon developed a keen interest in the aviation side and studied Operations and Dispatch, gaining her qualification in 2019.

She is now married with two children and works in Reservations and Operations for Governors' Aviation. **Well done Mercy.**



Aircraft Orientation Training

### Jacinta Kanini



Jacinter was brought to us by her Primary School headmaster in 2014. She had come second in her end-of-Primary exams but because of lack of funds and family support it had been suggested that she should repeat the last two years of education. This seemed very sad for a bright sparky girl, and after interviewing her and verifying her family circumstances we took her on and sponsored her through secondary school and eventually university.

She worked hard throughout her school career, chose to study biochemistry and last November was awarded one of only two First Class Honours degrees in the subject. We were all thrilled with this great achievement. **Congratulations Jacinter!** She is now doing an internship at the Primate Research Centre in Nairobi, which she is loving.

### Sharon Muthoni

Sharon came to us in 2009 in obvious need and with shy enthusiasm. She joined Moi Girls' School, Kamangu and soon showed us that her sponsored place was well justified. She worked hard, achieved mostly good grades and from an early stage said that she was interested in accounting as a career "or something in tourism". In her Gap Year she stood in responsibly for our Administrator and then joined Musiara Limited as a trainee accountant. She is still at Musiara (Governors' Camp) and has completed her accountancy C.P.A. qualification and a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce specialising in Finance. She has now been with the company for nine years and is now the proud mother of two beautiful children, a boy and a girl.

**We are proud of you Sharon!**

**"Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen."  
Michael Jordan**

## Our Gold Medal Award Winner:



Each of the students we take on has an individual sponsor and we are enormously grateful to all those who commit to paying the school fees for these students.

Elizabeth Spryopoulos is a tireless recruiter of sponsors. To date eight members of her extended family sponsor our students and she says that when they hear her calling, they know it is likely to be expensive!

She is also a long-standing Committee Member and a patient controller of the petty cash! At a recent committee meeting we had a fun surprise presentation, presenting her with a "Gold Medal Award".

Thank you so much Elizabeth, from all of us and especially your sponsored students.

**It is a rough road that leads to the heights of greatness." - Lucius Annaeus Seneca**

## Meet Some of Our Team



Romi Grammaticas  
Founder Trustee



Rodney Sutton  
UK Trustee



Dee Huth  
Trustee



Elizabeth Spyropoulos  
Trustee



Catherine Muguru  
Administrator



Edith Muite  
Committee Member



Josephine Oliwa  
Committee Member



Benson Odima  
Committee Member

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Click here for our website  
And here for a video of the work we do.

**"A year from now you will wish you had started today." - Unknown**

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