



FRIENDS OF THE KAREN STREET CHILDREN
www.karenstreetchildren.org

Spring Newsletter 2019

New Students in 2019



Elizabeth

Elizabeth comes from one of the most impoverished homes we have seen. Despite all the hardships she has done well in her Primary School and has now been admitted to St Mary's Girls' High School where she has settled happily into boarding school life.

We'd like to thank all
our donors for their
continuing support and
the difference this makes
to children.



Hassan

Hassan. His father is desperately ill and the family has fallen on hard times. Hassan has been admitted to Njoro Boys High School.



Joyce

Joyce was the last student we took on this year, after she was found wandering around the village desperate for help to get into secondary school. She had been admitted to State House Road High School, an excellent National School but had no hope of funding her studies.

"The most worth-while thing is to try to put happiness into the lives of others." Robert Baden-Powell

Our New Mentoring Programme



James bonding with Hassan (Above)



Brenda with a nervous Elizabeth (above)



Paul with an excited Moffat (above)

The Programme

At the beginning of this new school year we have introduced a mentor-ship programme to further the atmosphere of a caring family within the Karen Street Children's group.

Each of the students leaving school after four years and going into college will be mentoring one specific young student coming into the programme and look after them for the next four years helping with both school and social problems. The aim is to cement the group into a tight-knit and supportive "family". The idea has been very well received by all.

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Maya Angelou

Catering is a popular career option



Paul outside his place of work

Paul and Elizabeth have both chosen catering as their preferred careers.

Paul completed his secondary schooling last November and came to us saying that "Culinary Arts" was what he would like to study at University. It was gently suggested to him that his career might be better served by getting experience in a real restaurant situation. He is a gentle hard-working lad who has always been the first to volunteer for any task, and Nairobi's top restaurant, The Talisman, offered to interview him for a possible placement. He must have made a good impression for he was immediately taken on, given an apron and told to get to work in the kitchens. He is now happily working on the grill section making hamburgers and says "This is much harder work than I imagined but it is great!"

Elizabeth came to us mid-way through her secondary schooling. She is an orphan who was living with an aunt. Her schooling had been disrupted and she was not performing well, but was desperate for help. We agreed to take her on, but only to go straight into technical college. Initially reluctant, she soon settled into college life happily and chose baking as her preferred option. She grew steadily in self-esteem and in her final year was made Head Girl. She has now been accepted for an internship with Brood, Nairobi's finest artisan bread makers.

We wish both these students well in their chosen field.



Elizabeth (centre)



Elizabeth (second from left) with some of her college friends



Elizabeth (left)

[Click here to see our film of The Karen Street Children's Trust made by talented film student Maia Kenworthy](#)

A New Guest of Honour at our 2019 Prize Giving Ceremony



The Karen Street Children's Trust is delighted to welcome the support and involvement of a local church, namely District Six of the PCEA Church. Two representatives, Gachiku Muhu and Mary Mungai, were our Guests of Honour at our 2018 Prize Giving ceremony in December.

Gachiku is a highly-regarded member of the local community, known to all our students, and stood for parliament in the last Kenyan elections. She gave an inspirational speech to the students.

The members of District Six have generously decided to sponsor James Gachingu in Aquinas High School and have also been to his home where they gave James some vital items including bedding, clothes, shoes, a table, stools, a gas cooker and food supplies.



Gorgeous Greetings Cards for Sale

Talented artist Mary Spyropoulos has kindly donated these images for greetings cards to be sold to help us raise funds. They are 16x16 cms, plain inside and printed on high quality card, with envelopes.

A pack of six assorted cards costs £8 + p & p and they are obtainable from:

Claire Segrave (familysegrave@gmail.com).

In Kenya please contact:

Romi Grammaticas (romigrammaticas@gmail.com)

or

Dee Huth (deehuth61@gmail.com).

Thank you!



Mary's Story



Mary's story was brought to our attention by a well-wisher who had enrolled her in primary school, realised that she is bright and that she had no hope of going on to secondary school.

Mary's mother abandoned the family when Mary was four years old and her baby sister, just one. Mary now lives with her siblings in a cluster of sheds which have been lent to the family in a remote location. No parent is present and Mary is the care-giver for the family.

As well as full-time schooling she prepares the meals and keeps the simple compound spotless. We were very impressed by how neat and tidy the whole area was, despite the very primitive conditions.

Mary is tiny for her age (14 years) but has confidence and a bright sparkly personality. We are delighted to have included her in the 2019 intake and to be able to give a the possibility of a bright future.

She has joined the excellent Vanessa Grant Girls' School in the Rift Valley.

Any donations are very well received and can be made through:

MyDonate.bt.com

Then search for: **Karen Street Children** (in the Donate to Charity Box).

Please tell us if you are a UK tax-payer so we can claim Gift Aid.

DONATE WHILST YOU SHOP!

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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, Amazon, Tesco's Direct, Sainsbury's, Boden, Crew Clothing amongst many!

Meet Some of Our Team



Romi Grammaticas
Founder and Chairman



Rodney Sutton
UK Trustee



Dee Huth
Trustee



Elizabeth Spyropoulos
Trustee

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around." *Leo Buscaglia*

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