



FRIENDS OF THE KAREN STREET CHILDREN

www.karenstreetchildren.org

Spring Newsletter 2024

**the
seedsowing
network**



A perfect collaboration, and a perfect ending.

The Karen Street Children's Trust and the Seed Sowing Network have been working together for very many years with SSN having funded and built the smart "head start" nursery school premises (Mahali pa Watoto) which generously provide us with office space and a base.

For Lena it must seem as though she has been with us all her life. She first came to Mahali as a tiny tot to join this wonderful charity nursery school. Coming from a single-parent family living in a one-room shack she was then admitted to a free Primary School where she performed excellently coming top of her class with 70% overall. She came back to us to apply for secondary school sponsorship and finding her a worthy candidate we took her on. In her first term there she scored 10 "A" grades well justifying her sponsorship.

Lena is unfailingly helpful and has always shown great leadership skills. She was soon elected School Vice President and then President.

Her ambition has always been to work in the health sector, and having achieved an excellent final grade she did her community service in a Retirement Home where she was given a glowing letter of recommendation.

In 2019 Lena was admitted to the Kijabe College of Health Sciences. Here she was again generously sponsored by the Seed Sowing Network.

She is now a fully qualified nurse and has been taken onto the staff at Kijabe, where she is current working in the male medical department.

Lena's happiness and sense of achievement shines though in her photograph and we are so happy to have been able to take Lena on this path. Thank you to Seed Sowing Network (www.seedsowing.co.uk) and all her sponsors who have jointly made it possible.



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.

News

Self Help



KKSC is very much a “self-help” organisation and all the students are expected to help in various ways. Some are responsible for the library, some run errands such as going to the bank or various schools for missing school reports etc. and some help in the kitchen.

At the end of each term we read school reports with each student and listen to their individual difficulties and concerns, both at school and at home. If a student performs poorly in a particular subject he or she is directed to another student or graduate who can help. Our older graduates and able students will then tutor the younger ones in subjects where they may need help.

Raycard has completed his Diploma in Banking and is awaiting the results of a number of job applications. Here he is helping to sort out Maths difficulties and the students certainly look appreciative!

Sorting Out the Office

Elizabeth completed her secondary schooling with a creditable B grade and has been awarded a place at the Mater Hospital to study nursing starting in September. Whilst waiting to start her course she has done invaluable work in sorting out the files for each student going back to 1995. We are then creating a database of the achievements of every student who has passed through our hands in 29 years! This will be a valuable record of our work over the years.



“You’ve got to get up every morning with determination if you’re going to go to bed with satisfaction.” - George Lorimer

News

Student Intake

Covid 19 caused serious upheavals in education throughout the world, but in Kenya where most schools and pupils have no access to computers and the internet, this was especially disrupting. Almost all students missed an entire year of schooling and for the college and university students this set them back an entire year. Nevertheless all had to be supported with food and tuition where possible, so it has been an expensive time for us.

All this has meant that for two years we have hardly had any students graduating. We always depend of those coming out at the top to make way financially for new students to come in. Also Catherine, our dedicated Administrator, has been looking after more students than ever under difficult circumstances. As a result at the beginning of this year we decided not to take on any new students.

Another reason for this decision was that the Kenyan education system has been overhauled and a new syllabus instituted.

Children will now be sitting for a national exam in grade six at 11-12 years then proceeding to "Junior High school". The new curriculum includes sciences at this level for which the Government Primary schools are not equipped. There is thus a huge rift developing

between those students in private and government schools.

Until now we have taken students in after their Kenya Certificate of Primary education which was then at the age of 14 years. We are now faced with possibly taking in students two years earlier.

We will be reviewing this as the year progresses, and four of our students are due to graduate at the end of 2024.

We will keep our loyal sponsors and supporters informed as the year goes on. Our current students are mostly doing exceptionally well especially in times of great hardship. Kenya has been subject to severe rainstorms and flooding, and many of our students come from flimsy tin homes which are prone to leaks. They are about to return to boarding schools where at least we know they will be safe.

Thank you all for your support. We will continue to offer a real future to some of the most deprived young people in the area.



Home visits at the time of student selection.

**"The elevator to success is out of order. You'll have to use the stairs, one step at a time."
Joe Girard**

Meet Some of Our Team



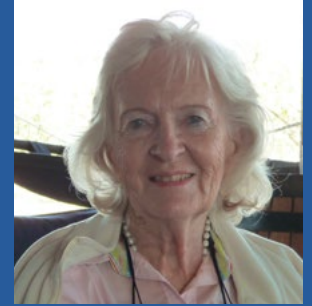
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Easyfundraising.org.uk provides a FREE fundraising service where you can raise funds for KSC when you shop online with shops like M&S, John Lewis, Boots, Tesco Direct, Sainsburys, Boden, Crew Clothing amongst many!

Easyfundraising partners with over 7,000 brands who will donate part of what you spend to a cause of your choice. It won't cost you any extra. The cost is covered by the brand.



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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