

Karibuni



Helping children from the
streets and slums in Kenya

Summer/Autumn 2010



Exciting happenings within Karibuni Trust...
challenges, changes, new people, skills, logo,
website and a new format for the Newsletter!

www.karibuni.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1044872

First, some of the challenges...

Along with other charities the Trust has been hit by the recession and for the first time since its foundation 2009, saw a drop in income. But, because the work we support is overseas, we've had a 'triple whammy' – not only lower income and very low bank interest rates, but also adverse foreign exchange rates (we need to send 12% more sterling to give the same amount in Kenya shillings) and increasing costs for all commodities in Kenya! We thank God for the wisdom of setting up a reserve fund which has enabled us to continue supporting the projects at the same level again this year. This was partly in response to the comments of an ex-Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church in Kenya who reminded us of the story of Joseph in Egypt and his interpretation of the Pharaoh's dream being seven good years followed by seven lean years! We hope that our present and future supporters will cut short the seven lean years!

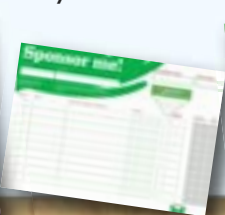
The challenges we face pale into insignificance beside those faced by our partners in Kenya, where the cost of living continues to rise and high unemployment, especially in the informal or casual sector, compounds the problems. Fortunately most Kenyans are extremely resourceful and the slum areas where the projects are situated are hives of activity with people eking out a living in many innovative ways! In addition to the soapstone and wood carvings, baskets and fabrics we are now also buying jewellery for sale which is made by women in the Kibera slum, including lovely paper bead necklaces in pretty spring and summer colours, and strings of tiny beads as necklaces and bracelets direct from them. The women work together in cooperatives giving them the support and encouragement of others in similar situations, enabling them to feed their children and provide them with uniforms. We have also extended the range of cards from the Jesuit Refugee Centre and now have batik note-cards for use throughout the year – a bargain at £1.50 each. Although there is only a small profit after costs for Karibuni Trust, we feel it is part of our mission to support groups such as these as they strive for independence.

The Trust is supporting over 1,200 children – most of whom would be back on the streets, at least during the day, without the support of Karibuni Trust, and many would not even have survived. The miracles we witness when we visit each year are of children who look healthier, are more responsive, are learning and developing into responsible young people. Financial constraints mean that we can only pay for the brightest children to go on to secondary and further education, but we have promised to make sure they all have training to provide them with a marketable skill when our support finishes.

The changes are exciting...

We are grateful that the members at Stoke Mandeville Methodist Church have agreed to extend our tenancy by a further 3 years. Our four volunteers in the office there have revolutionised the place – filing, data input, collating information – all efficiently undertaken and we can now find what we need – almost always! The stocks of merchandise are well under control by Lesley (woe betide anyone who takes an item without recording it) and re-ordering is becoming a simple matter. Fund-raising will soon be taking new paths with Michael heading it up. Increasing numbers of people are volunteering to do many of the tasks at our 'Global Headquarters' – stuffing envelopes, sticking on stamps and address labels, pricing and packing new stock, preparing and packing Christmas cards, etc.

Jamie Currey is working hard to redesign all the marketing material including this newsletter, and generally 'modernise' us! We hope you will like the result – we feel there will be a new vitality about our fresh image.



Read Corinne's thoughts on the founding of Karibuni Trust

In 1990 I saw two young children lying, almost curled up at the bottom of a lamppost on the streets of Nairobi. They were dressed in very little. The clothes they did have on were torn, fraying and filthy. They didn't move. They were starving.

It was rush hour and noisy but, standing not far from the children, I could hear them. Just.

Their crying was weak. They looked so fragile. They had no energy. I clutched my Mum's hand – I desperately wanted to gently pick them up and take them away.

"No" we were told. They 'belong' to someone. They are 'owned'. Tears came to my eyes.

I wanted to reach out... but was told I couldn't.

I wanted to love... but felt my love was forbidden.

I had to walk away. I had to leave them.

Three years later I was involved in a car accident. My injuries were severe. I was paralysed and had a major operation on my throat. The treatment I was given saved my life.

Six months later the memory of those two young children came back to me. Where are they now? Still on the streets? Sniffing glue? Still crying weakly, praying for a little food to be given to them that evening? At least enough to enable them to cry the following day.

Those children became a vision.

A vision that became the Karibuni Trust.

A vision to stop that happening to any other child.



Karibuni Work Party 2010

The group visited the Nairobi projects briefly before going to Limuru to help build verandas with concrete paths for all the classrooms and the kitchen, paint all the doors and window frames and make and fix pin boards in most of the classrooms.

What a difference this made to the basic classrooms – shelter from the sun, wind and rain and water harvesting from the new guttering on the roofs draining into a huge underground water tank, dug by the parents and teachers. The whole group worked here and although they didn't see the finished work, the Trustees who followed a couple of weeks later were able to see it and were very impressed.

We then went to Maua Methodist Hospital and helped to improve some classrooms in two schools. The group who worked at Maua Primary School felt less satisfied with the results of painting rough stone walls than the others who painted walls in a newly built classroom for nursery children at Athiru Gaiti School. However, the children and teachers at Maua were very pleased with their clean, fresh room and sent a 'thank you' to the group!

As the group wanted to visit the coast and go on a short safari, we were also able to visit Hunajeza Feeding programme at Tsunguni near Nyalani. The heat and humidity were incredible, but the women's group and the children were delighted to see us all – the first group to visit there and we were entertained by the children before they returned to school. We were then given a meal by the women in the home of the Chairlady. It was another very moving experience for everyone.



News from the Projects

Tusaidie Watoto Nursery and Kibera Primary Schools

This project continues to struggle – the abject poverty of the area and the confined space of the compound make the work very difficult. A new social worker has still not been appointed and Esther Mukiri has a young newly trained assistant social worker working with her.

Despite the obstacles, however, many of the children achieved good grades at the end of Primary School and have been able to go to Secondary School. Others have gone to Vocational Training courses. This project is the most expensive one for Karibuni Trust and so far they have not been able to attract other funding from elsewhere. The children are being well fed and are happy in the project – they love to have visitors!



Kawangware Academy – The standard of education of education here remains high and the children we support (3 new ones each year) are all doing very well. We now support 65 children, 11 of them in secondary education – and next year the first ones will graduate from Secondary School and we expect them to get good grades and be eligible to go for further education.

Meru Children's Home – The children are growing up fast and some are now in their 20's, three have finished their courses at College, one girl will start nurse training in September and others have gone to Secondary School. The emphasis of the home could start to change as the Government policy is for orphaned children to be cared for in their communities with the extended family where possible, or with foster parents. The carers in the community would need financial support to bring these children up, feed and educate them, and the home would become a rehabilitation centre for children from the streets and the support from Karibuni Trust would be directed towards community support – more on this for a future newsletter.

Meru Township Programme – The children here are very motivated and despite their very basic, poor homes are achieving higher scores in exams than most of the children in the children's home. We met some of the youngsters who have completed their 1st year in Secondary School – they are so excited and motivated it was a joy to be with them and listen to their hopes and dreams for the future. James and Frances, his wife, continue to be parents, counsellors and constant sources of support to them – as well as cooks!

Tharaka Women's and Children's Project – Although this project has been through a difficult period the young people have worked hard, several are now on Vocational Training courses, Daniel and Robert are both at Nairobi University and Sarah is at College training to be a Clinical Officer. Others are still trying to get into nurse training and we hope they will start in September. The younger children in the nursery and Primary School are looking smart in their new uniforms and thriving on the feeding programme – they stand out from the non-sponsored children who have tattered uniforms and remain hungry and without shoes. Most of the 750 children would benefit from sponsorship!



Edward's mother is a disabled single parent.



Karen's mother is also disabled and single and is epileptic..



Erick's mother is single and is a squatter – they have no home.

Wesley Empowerment Centre, Njoro

This project is a delight to visit – the compound is big enough for the work being done, the staff are totally dedicated, from the head teacher through to the watchman and caretaker. Everyone takes great pride in their work and in the compound – the caretaker has planted flowers and tomatoes around the borehole office and in the land where they eventually hope to build a Vocational Training Centre, there are maize and vegetables for the project; the cook has made a weekly menu which is nutritious and as varied as funding will allow; the teachers are second to none! The first group of sponsored children will finish at Primary School at the end of this year and if they reach the required standard will hope to go to Secondary School.



Banker's order form

To the Manager:

Bank PLC

Branch Address:

Postcode:

Please pay to The Karibuni Trust £

every year / quarter / month.

Starting date

for

payments (state number or ongoing) to:

Barclays Bank PLC Account number 70692697 Sort Code 20-03-18

Title

Forename/s:

Surname

Signature

Date

Your Account Number

Your Sort code

Your Address

Postcode:

Please complete the form and send it to **The Karibuni Trust, Stoke Mandeville Methodist Church, Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP22 5UJ, UK**

The Banker's Order will be sent to your bank after registration at the Karibuni Trust office.

If you are a tax payer, please consider signing this declaration authorising the charity to reclaim the tax you have already paid on this amount of money, from the Inland Revenue.

THE KARIBUNI TRUST GIFT AID DECLARATION

I want The Karibuni Trust to treat this and all donations I have made in the previous six years, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

To be eligible for Gift Aid you must pay Income or Capital Gains Tax in the UK equal to, or more than, the amount that we will reclaim on your donations. If you pay tax at a higher rate, you can claim further tax relief for this donation on your Self Assessment Tax Return.

Title

Forename/s:

Surname

Your Address

Postcode:

Signed:

If you do not want further information from Karibuni Trust, please tick this box

Registered Charity number: 1044872

How you can help...

Please tick the box(es) that appeal to you:

- Become a Regular Giver** – sign a Bankers Order form and commit to giving on a regular basis.
- Sign a Gift Aid form** so that your giving is increased at no cost to you as we reclaim the tax you have already paid!
- Organise or help with a fund-raising event.** As we move forward we need people across the country who will undertake awareness-raising and fund-raising events for Karibuni – some already hold Strawberry Teas, monthly market stalls, occasional quizzes, concerts and sponsored events – one person has bees that have produced over 100lb of honey – for sale in aid of Karibuni Trust. We can supply information, photographs, support and suggestions, or put you in touch with those already supporting us.
- Get involved with us** if you live in the Aylesbury area by helping at local 'work-parties'.
- Take part in (or sponsor) a sponsored event** – currently we have two brothers planning to cycle up Mt. Kenya (<http://www.justgiving.com/bikesonkenya>) and two cousins and their friends driving an old 'banger' from London to Venice! (<http://www.justgiving.com/karibuni>) Two 'senior citizens' have completed the Red Kite Ramble – 10 miles on a very hot day in the Chilterns (<http://www.justgiving.com/Bill-and-Joy-Murphy-Red-Kites>). You can sponsor any of them directly to Karibuni Trust or through their web pages.
- Have information about leaving a legacy to Karibuni Trust.**
- Gifts in lieu** of presents when celebrating a special birthday/wedding anniversary/birth.
- Gifts in memoriam or in lieu of flowers for funerals.**
- Buying a virtual gift through 'Gifts to share'**

Please complete the form and send it to our new postal address which is to be used for all Karibuni Trust correspondence:

**The Karibuni Trust, Stoke Mandeville Methodist Church, Eskdale Road,
Stoke Mandeville, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP22 5UJ, UK**

We will soon have new e-mail addresses so you will be able to contact the relevant person – our old address (karibunitrust@uwclub.net) will continue to be in use as well for some time. As the office is not yet staffed every day please continue to use the usual phone number (01296 748128).