



Helping children from the streets and slums in Kenya

Summer 2014



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updates**

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Alumni**



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Njoro**



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Trip 2014**



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Visit**

www.karibuni.org.uk

Registered UK Charity Number 1044872

Work Party visit to Kenya February 2014

On 6th February sixteen intrepid travellers met at Heathrow Airport with mountains of luggage, many cameras and much fear and trepidation mixed with excitement and expectation! Several had been on safari to Kenya before, a few had been with Karibuni on a work party, but for most it was a first-time experience of visiting what became known as 'the real Kenya'.

We divided into two groups of eight. One group worked at Tusaidie Watoto, Kibera where they cleaned and painted the whole mud building: Two classrooms, the church - which is used by the Baby Class each day - and three offices. They put up shelves, which was no mean task on mud walls, found the electrics were in a very dangerous state and found an electrician on site to put everything right - a magnificent job. The children were so excited when they returned to the nursery, and the staff were delighted with all the improvements.

The other group stayed with Kenyan families in Embakasi and worked in the project there. The iron sheet classrooms are unbearably hot in the sun, very cold out of it, and rain on the roof is deafening. Our job was to insulate the classrooms by lining the walls with plywood and the roof with soft board. The women painted countless plywood sheets and soft board before they were nailed to battens that the men had fixed to the walls. Although the church is still being built, it does have a roof, so when heavy rains came several weeks earlier than usual, we were able to paint the boards in there. We finally left the classrooms looking very bright and clean and when Joy Murphy visited later, the children spontaneously stood and clapped and sang their thanks!

The groups worked together at the Meru Township Programme, where the dining room was in urgent need of paint and there was no shelter for the children to queue for their lunch each day. The women set to cleaning and painting inside, while the men helped the local people to make a veranda - breaking stones for the foundation of the footpath and erecting an extension to the iron sheet roof to form a shelter. We actually had too many local helpers - all the carers turned up and we had to ask them to come in shifts for the rest of the week. The older youngsters came from their vocational training courses and enthusiastically helped with the painting. One of our group laughingly said, 'I know we asked them to paint the windows, but we only meant the frames, not the glass!' However, by the end it was another job well done and the children and staff were very grateful and happy with the improvements.

None of the work in any of the projects could have been completed without the skilled fundis (local artisans) who were our foremen and worked hard with us, the children's carers, church and management committee members, local ministers and others who came to work with us - and to marvel that we had travelled so far and even at our own expense, to paint and scrub and break stones! 'How much you must love us when you don't even know us' said one group. For us, what a privilege it is to stay in people's homes, when they don't even know us, and have the opportunity to get to know them!

One impression from a work party member:

"The students still live in the Kibera slum. It is hard to imagine how they have managed to keep up with their studies when they live in such poverty, in small homes with their families. They show a good deal of motivation and discipline to work at their education. We visited one or two homes during the week. It is difficult to describe what we saw and heard. They have nothing of the home comforts we take for granted, yet these are such warm, friendly and welcoming people who live and work to the best of their abilities."



Interested? Look out for news of our next work party - possibly February 2015.

Maua Methodist Hospital AIDS Orphans Programme

During our stay in Meru, the group took a day off from painting and breaking stones, to visit Maua Methodist Hospital and spend some time with both projects there. We were taken to visit the school at Athiru Gaiti which provides education for some of the many orphans in this area. We met the teachers who are themselves orphans and graduates of this holistic care programme run under the umbrella of Maua Methodist Hospital. It was a very moving experience. They also told us about the continuing shortage of water locally and the high cost of buying clean water for the children. We were told of plans for a borehole in the compound – when they have managed to raise the necessary funds. Some of the group later met together and decided to raise the balance of money needed to complete the project.

Amazingly they raised the £3,500 needed within two months. The money has been sent to Maua Methodist Hospital and we are waiting to hear that clean water is available free to the school, and to the local community at a fair price.

Trustees' visit to Kenya 2014

Immediately following the work party's departure, John Cotton and David Welsh joined Peter Wells and Joy Murphy for the start of the annual round of visits to the projects and to meet with the Management Committees. We all found this to be the most positive visit ever, with progress in every project.

Meru Children's Centre

The Meru Children's Home has been re-named as it develops into a community based service for the increasing number of children on the streets. A new Manager, Eric Kimathi, has been appointed and has brought new insights and leadership to the project. The vision is to work with a limited number of children at a time and then reintegrate them in their homes with support to enable them to return to family and school and live a normal life. The work with them will be intensive over a short period of time and only the truly desperately placed children at high risk will be admitted for residential care until a longer-term solution is found.

This means that the Centre will have a much faster turn-around, and be able to rehabilitate many more children than was possible since the Centre opened in 1999. It demonstrates an evolving pattern of care, which started when the only possibility seemed to be long-term residential care, and no doubt will continue to evolve with experience over the next few years. It is certainly more in line with the Kenyan Government's policy of caring for children, so far as possible, in their own community. Please pray for the staff, newly-trained volunteers and children as this process begins; there are many challenges ahead for them all.



**Eric
Kimathi**

Meru Township Programme

It was good to work with some of the older students when doing the refurbishment, including some who are waiting to go to university or college, and they took the opportunity to share their hopes and dreams with us. They are a splendid group of young people: Hard-working, motivated and eager to 'make a difference' where they live. One young man has a place to train as a nurse, another will study accountancy - others were waiting for confirmation of college courses. At the nursery end of the programme, we were told that although we provide uniforms and meals, most of the children can't afford to pay the nursery fees and were therefore not able to attend. The Trustees resolved to pay the necessary fees to enable these desperate children to take advantage of our sponsorship. Primary education is free in Government schools, but nursery education has to be paid for.

Tusaidie Watoto, Kibera

There are now 72 children in the nursery; fifteen pay a small fee and Karibuni supports the rest. All the primary children return for lunch each day, although some are not released from school until the evening. The Saturday programme continues and, with the extra tuition the children receive, the results are improving.

The alumni are becoming more active in their support and mentorship of each other and the younger ones. They are very confident, bright and assertive young adults and it is a privilege listening to them as they plan their programme of work together. Most impressive.



**Karibuni
Alumni**

Embakasi

Here we had a wonderful surprise! Historically, because primary education is free at government primary schools, our policy has been to sponsor needy children at the project nursery and then to support them at the local government primary school. This has always caused some difficulty with the management committee. This year, when the Chairlady gave her report, she very quietly said that she and the committee hoped that we would allow the children we sponsor to attend the Academy primary school free of charge. We looked at each other and wondered if we had misheard. We asked for clarification – and no, we had not misheard! This was the generous offer the committee was making to improve the lives of the non-fee paying children. From January 2015, the children will remain at the small Academy and have all the advantages of not being in a class of up to 100 children with one teacher. We thanked them and thanked God for this huge commitment on their part.

The Academy is in the process of employing a part-time social worker who will work with the families of the sponsored children and re-instate the micro-finance scheme within the project to empower the children's carers and help them toward self-support.



Limuru

This project had many challenges during 2013, including the loss of many children because their parents were made redundant from the very low paid work they had at the local tea plantations. Consequently the families could not pay rent or school fees, and they moved back to their home villages until the economic climate improves. In addition the church minister, preparing for his own retirement, was not hands-on in the project and without his leadership the situation had begun to deteriorate. Morale was very low, especially with staff who were not paid in November and December.

There is now a new minister, Rev Julius Kithinji, with whom Karibuni has worked very well in other projects, notably Njoro and Kibera, and he is already making great strides in getting the project back on track. We are confident that during this year the project will turn around and begin to grow again.



Wesley Empowerment Centre, Njoro

We visited Patrick, the father of two of the children Karibuni is sponsoring and found another distressing situation. He is terminally ill with AIDS and lives with his three children in a two-roomed mud house with a thatched roof. The only source of light is a paraffin lamp. One evening he went to get wood for a fire to cook their meal on, and the two younger children had the lamp in the bedroom with them. It got knocked over and quickly set fire to their clothes, which were hanging on the walls, and the bedding. The children escaped and neighbours rushed with the precious water they had carried from the river half a mile away to put out the blaze. All they have now is what their poor neighbours were able to give them. They sleep on the floor, have very few clothes and the roof is badly damaged and needs new cross beams and re-thatching. The trustees made another decision – to provide the money to make good the roof and provide necessary bedding and clothes before the rains arrived.

We also suggested that, to help their financial situation, the older girl should be fed at the project and given a meal to take home each day to her father who is very under-nourished.

We often come across situations where we are simply unable to help, but occasionally we meet desperate circumstances where we are able to make life-changing decisions on the spot.



Patrick

Tharaka

Ann Gakii now has a thriving dressmaking shop in Marimanti and has a contract to provide uniforms for a large primary school. She is able to support herself and her sick mother – the miracles just keep on happening! Ann is also making pretty bridesmaids' dresses and women's clothes and measured Joy for a very smart skirt and blouse, which will be ready to collect in 2015.

Robert Murithi managed to raise the necessary funds to study for a Master's Degree and will complete it this year. He is also developing a student hostel in a disused boarding school on a large plot. The land is being landscaped to provide a venue for wedding photographs and the outbuildings are fast becoming a small farm with goats and chickens. His vision for the future development on this site and in other business ventures is virtually limitless!

George Mwabu, the young and very energetic project leader is achieving good results and is an excellent role model to the children and young people in the project. He brought Philip to see us, who had been orphaned at a very young age and supported by Karibuni through school and a certificate course in management and procurement. Philip is now the manager of a Government Rural Development Project, travels around his area on a motorbike and is able to sponsor his two younger brothers through secondary school. It is very humbling and moving to meet these young people who demonstrate their responsibility to their families and communities so willingly and even happily. They are excellent role models for the younger ones following them.



**Ann
Gakii**

Other News

In 2015 Karibuni will celebrate twenty years of supporting projects in Kenya – it does not seem possible that we have been doing it for so long! We are planning a year of celebratory events and would like as many of our supporters to participate with us as possible. There are plans for several events, including a Quiz, which supporters will be able to organise locally.

In June or July 2015 we will have a Celebration Service and Concert in Aylesbury with a guest preacher.

As promised our sponsorship scheme is on the way and we have decided to launch it as part of our Celebration Year.

For information and suggestions for celebrating with us, please contact Michael Carr on: 01234 824504 or by Email: mcarr49@hotmail.com

Karibuni

Swing into action! Charity golf day

Aylesbury Vale Golf Club on Monday 29th September.
Registration from 1pm and first tee-time is 1.30pm.

WIN PRIZES

Cost covers green fees and a two-course meal and prize-giving afterwards. Bacon sandwiches and coffee will be available on arrival.

£55 ENTRY FEE

Enter as an individual or as a team (3 or 4 players).
Bring your friends. Register via our website:
www.karibuni.org.uk/golf-day
or by sending an email to: office@karibuni.org.uk

School Fees **Clothing** **Generating Income** **School Meals**

Helping children from the streets and slums in Kenya

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:	e-mail address:

This Bankers Order replaces any existing payment instructions relating to Karibuni Trust

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.

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made

today in the past 4 years in the future

Please tick all the boxes that apply

I confirm that I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (06 April – 05 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give/gave.

Title	Forename/s:	Surname:
Your Address:		
Postcode:		Signed:

Notes:

- Please notify us if you:
 - Want to cancel this declaration
 - Change your name or home address
 - No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.
- If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.
- If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, please contact us. Or you can ask your local tax office for leaflet IRI 13 Gift Aid.
- If you do not want further information from Karibuni, please tick this box:

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 locally** if you live in the Aylesbury area by helping at local ‘work-parties’.
- Leave a legacy to Karibuni Trust.**
- Take part in (or sponsor) a sponsored event.
- Gifts in lieu of presents** when celebrating a special birthday/wedding anniversary/birth.
- Gifts in memoriam or in lieu of flowers for funerals.**
- Through our Charity Gifts Scheme**
- Receive our Newsletters by e-mail** to help keep our costs down (and help the environment). If we don't already have your e-mail address and you'd be happy for us to communicate by e-mail, please let us know by sending us your email address or complete the box below:

Name:

e-mail address:

Phone number:

Please complete the form and send it to our 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**

Or you can e-mail us: office@karibuni.org.uk.

As our office is not yet staffed every day please continue to use the usual phone number (01296 681226).

