

kivuli NEWS

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Kivuli Project Inc is proud to be a project partner for J606N with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993) www.globaldevelopment.org.au



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jambo friends,

The October edition of Kivuli News is an especially exciting one for us. This month we are able to begin sharing with you some details of the new strategic direction for Kivuli Project Kenya. In addition to this we will share with you some reasons for arriving at each of our 4 goals. We are excited about the way in which God is using Kivuli as His hands and feet to show His love to our local town of Ndaragwa and to others within the wider district.

Other highlights for Kivuli Project in October include a visit from Brenda Rutherford, the Kivuli Social Worker's Conference facilitated by her together with Loise, our Social Worker, and the mid-term family visiting day. Throughout this month the twelve class 8 students have been busy preparing for their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education exams, which are going to be held between November 7th and November 10th.

We hope you enjoy reading.

Love, Dan and Dee Rutherford



A word from Loise Kariuki, Kivuli Social Worker and workshop participant

First and foremost I would like to thank our heavenly God who enabled us to see and have these two fantastic days. Secondly is to express our sincere gratitude to Brenda Rutherford, the Social Worker who arranged to come all the way from Australia to facilitate

social worker's workshop

the training. More than 40 Social Workers and Caretakers from the local Children's Homes, including the Children's Officers from the Nyandarua and Laikipia districts, attended the workshop.

The course was run in two one-day workshops and covered the following topics:

- Child Development
- Trauma and brain development
- Family therapy
- Tree of Life therapy program

Brenda also introduced the participants on the importance of social work supervision, something that is currently not practiced in Kenya. We had the pleasure of local Social

Worker and founder of Child Rescue and Counselling Services in Nyahururu, Grace Mburu, formally open both days as our guest speaker.

I had the pleasure of presenting and facilitating the session on the Tree of Life therapy program, something I use with the kids at Kivuli, especially those who have been sexually abused.

The two days were awesome and the comments from all participants were fantastic. They even suggested we meet and run sessions monthly. As a result of gathering together, the local Social Workers have decided to explore the possibility of starting Kenya's first ever Social Worker's Association!

strategic direction

Since Kivuli Project began its partnership with GDG in Feb 2010, the immediate goal was to house, care for and support the education of the children in our care. The new, broader goals aim to support the variety of vulnerable groups that exist in our local rural communities. This holistic approach is often overlooked here in Kenya, as there are so many Children's Homes where a child is supported, but cycles of abandonment, need, and poverty continue as other family members and families struggle. They are unable to access the social/community support that Western societies often take for granted.

Kivuli Project's four goals have a three-year timetable and aim to be achieved by the end of 2014.

Kivuli Children's Home – This is the only arm of Kivuli that is currently in operation. Kivuli Children's Home will house children who are in need of care and protection and who do not have any safe family environment in which to live. It is important for children to have strong social connections as they enter into adulthood so they feel like they 'belong'. For this reason we will modify the way Kivuli Children's Home is set up to attempt to replicate small family environments rather than an 'institution' or school camp styled accommodation.

Supporting Families – Where a child comes into the care of Kivuli Project and has a family member or relative who they could live with, we will be exploring the possibility of kinship care. There are many cases in which children, mainly orphans, do have other family members they could live with, however the financial burden is too great for the carer and the child ends up in a Children's Home. Kivuli will assess the family environment of each child and offer support to the family where possible so that the child can live with them. Throughout this process Kivuli will be exploring how to empower the family to generate income themselves so they are not dependant on welfare.

Community Development – We are currently searching for land within our local area to purchase and set up a permanent base for operation including the Children's Home. Once this has been done, we will engage the local community and work with them to try to solve some of the root causes that result in children being in need of care and protection. These could include education programs, sanitation and water projects etc.

Business Development – For long-term sustainability, Kivuli Project needs to generate income locally. For this to occur, a number of local, income generating businesses are being investigated to supplement the funding from Australia. This will also assist the local community by creating employment.

visiting day

On Saturday the 15th we had our mid-term family visiting day at Kivuli. Many children had family members come to visit them. We invited one of the Children's Officers to attend and speak to the family members about home-based care. Many of the children at Kivuli do have family members (whether it be a Grandparent, Aunt, Uncle or older siblings) however due to various reasons they are unable to care for them. As part of our new strategic direction we are exploring the possibility of supporting the families of the children and encouraging them to live at home. The families responded positively and we look forward to working with them into the future to explore this initiative.

Sadly, there are several children who do not have family members or anyone to come and visit them. For these children, visiting day is not such a great day. It just highlights the importance of family, no matter how much we love and care for these children; nothing takes the place of family.



professor wangari maathai tree planting

Wangari Maathai, the first African woman to win the Nobel peace prize, sadly died of cancer on the 25th of September at the age of 71. She was an incredible Kenyan woman who was renowned as a fearless social activist and environmental crusader. Her Green Belt Movement, which she founded in 1977, planted tens of millions of trees.

A tree-planting event was announced in her honour to take place on October 15th, so we decided that we'd do the same at Kivuli. It was visiting day so all the family members were able to take part. The children planted an African Olive tree, known to be Wangari Maathai's favourite, at the gate of the Kivuli compound.



baldo's children's seminar

On Thursday the 20th of October (also Mashujaa Day, Kenyan public holiday celebrating the 'heroes' of the nation) 20 of our children were invited to attend a day seminar at the neighbouring Baldo Children's Home. Over 500 local children attended the seminar, which covered topics such as adolescence, drugs, peer pressure and HIV/AIDS. The children found it very useful and relevant in their lives and enjoyed the way the teachers presented the topics.

christmas gift catalogue

We are currently putting together an online gift catalogue for Christmas and will be available on our website (www.kivuliproject.org) by the end of November. Perhaps you might like to purchase a gift of a different sort this year for a friend or family member? It might be a solar powered light for a local family so the children in the house can do their homework at night, or perhaps a high school uniform for one of the 12 children who will be transitioning into high school early next year. A card explaining the gift will be provided for you to give out. We will let you know when the online catalogue is up and running!

compost, gardens, rabbits and chickens

Thanks to Brenda's recent visit, Kivuli's rabbits and chickens are much happier and we have vegetable gardens and a compost bin. Whilst here, Brenda asked children who were interested to form teams to look after the rabbits, chickens, compost and gardens. The children dug out various small veggie patches around the compound, helped Uncle Dan construct a compost bin out of metal sheets and wood and made a food scraps bin to keep by the kitchen to sort out daily for food for the animals and the rest for the compost. Each team has a team leader and the children are enjoying their responsibilities.

Thanks again to Brenda for her assistance!



security check!

A story by Dan

There have been grenade attacks in Nairobi recently in response to Kenya entering into Somalia to track down Al Shabaab (terrorists). This has increased security levels across Kenya as we found when we went to visit some friends working at a mission hospital in Kijabe. We were stopped at a boom gate that is located outside Kijabe and an armed policeman came to my driver's side window. He politely asked if we worked in the town and we replied that we were visiting for the day. He then asked to see our passports and I replied that Dee had them (in the passenger side), he walked around and Dee handed MY passport over. He studied it for a few moments and then asked to see MINE!

for those that pray

Praise Points

- For the Social Worker's Training Day & Workshop and the encouragement it was for those that attended
- For Brenda Rutherford and her willingness to practically help and get involved during her recent visit to Kivuli
- For one young girl who this month decided that Jesus is her Lord and saviour – we're partying with the angels!

Prayer Points

- For the provision of land
- Please pray for the 12 class 8's as they will sit their final KCPE's in the 2nd week of November
- For the children at Kivuli who have no family to come and visit them – that they would know that their Father in heaven loves them dearly and will never abandon them



to donate

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