

kivuli NEWS

EDITION 20 – December 2011 GDG Project J606N Update



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,

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. All the staff, children and members of Kivuli Project wish you a safe and happy festive season. We hope you have had a wonderful time celebrating the best-ever gift God gave to His people – the Saviour of the world!

Three of our five staff had December off for holidays. Loise, our Social Worker used the time to undertake a VCT (Voluntary Counseling and Testing) course for people who are being tested for HIV/AIDS. Anne is well despite a motorbike falling on her foot, she was sore with swelling for

a few days but has recovered. And we believe our Night Watchman (the Mzee – respectfully meaning ‘old man’) is bored. He often comes to drop off passion-fruit trees (yes, trees) and other plants for our new block, fixing our water pipes as we try desperately to understand what he says.

For those left working, December has been extremely busy and we hope you enjoy reading as we joyfully serve God and those in-need in our community.

Lots of love,
Dan and Dee Rutherford



home visiting

We visited the homes of James, Joseph and Margaret and Peter this month. The class 8 boys had their right of passage ceremony at the beginning of the month and during this time have many people coming to visit them. We took the children who remain with us during school holidays to visit the families and this photo shows us having a meal with James (top picture, far right) and his Cucu (Grandmother).

We also had the pleasure of visiting Aunty Anne's house for lunch. She missed us so much during her leave that she wanted us all to visit her home. We had a great day trekking into the 'interior' to reach her home!

christmas day

We had a great day celebrating together with the 8 children left at Kivuli over the holidays. As all the staff were on leave, Dee had the pleasure of cooking breakfast, lunch and supper on the wood fired stove. We unwrapped some special gifts with the children in the morning after breakfast and then started preparing for lunch. We have been particularly excited about giving a model helicopter to one of the boys. This boy, Njagi, loves to learn about how things work and as such has managed to dismantle many things at Kivuli. Unfortunately, his talent at dismantling is greater than his ability to put things back together. So, we have been hoping that the intricate parts of this model helicopter will keep him busy for some time (and away from torches, watches and other breakable items).

We killed one of our chickens and made a stew, and our landlord gave us a leg of goat, which we roasted. In the afternoon our friends from the local supermarket (Msamaria) came by to drop of some gifts for the Kivuli kids – a bale of flour, carton of cooking oil, cordial, sweets and 14 loaves of bread! What a present indeed. We sung happy birthday to Jesus together and shared a birthday cake and chai. It was a wonderful Christmas!



jamhuri day

Jamhuri Day is on the 12th of December and marks the day when Kenya first celebrated its independence from the commonwealth. The local Chief asked Kivuli for representatives or a soloist who could perform the Kenyan national anthem with the police band during the day's celebrations at the local field. The local administration, officials and the general public would all be there. Two of our girls, Jane and Kui, volunteered to sing and did a fantastic job. We gave them both a copy of the attached photo so they can remember the day. After the girls' and other great performances by different community groups came the speeches. Dan sat valiantly through the hours of reports understanding very little.



meeting with global

In mid December Dan and Dee met with Global Development Group's Carey Westwood and Martha Waitaha in Nairobi. Carey and Martha had been travelling through East Africa for some weeks to meet representatives from their partner organisations. We discussed successes and challenges and covered things like working with local government and community members, AusAID, valuable ideas from other projects and theory of development work. Their experience and support were evident and appreciated and we look forward to continuing to develop the GDG/ Kivuli Project partnership.

christmas catalogue

A huge thank you to everyone for their support of the Kivuli Christmas Catalogue! We had an overwhelming response from people all over the world! The Kivuli team were amazed by everyone's generosity towards buying gifts and their heart for the children and families in Kenya. Within our first week we sold out of Goats and Blankets, opening up options for adding and selling more items! Two families from Kenya, with children in our home-based care program will soon have new additions to their families – new cows! These cows will provide the families with milk for their own use as well as milk to sell in order to raise their income.

In 2012 we're sending off 15 kids to high school, 12 starting for the first time. This will be a lot easier financially as many people, through the gift catalogue, were able to contribute towards school supplies, blankets, text books and school fees. To top things off, the new Kivuli land will be planted with hundreds of seedlings due to the amazing response to this item! In the future Kivuli will even be able to sell this fruit to generate some income, supplement the diet of the children and use the wood for fuel!

Once again, we would like to say a big thank you to everyone for their support of the catalogue and their kind donations. Through the Kivuli website we will continue to sell items during 2012 in support of the children and families in Kenya, and as more needs arise more items will be added. So continue to check out the website for new things to purchase and remember Kivuli when shopping for gifts throughout the year!

Dan and Kate Hickingbotham



happy birthday uncle dan

Dan celebrated his birthday this month, and in usual Kenyan style, the kids decided to once again "wash" him. Dan had once again prepared to strike back and had a stash of water balloons he had filled the night before. They all enjoyed a great water fight in the morning, and whilst Dan put up a good fight, he was severely outnumbered and his small water bombs were no match for the kids' buckets. The result: a very wet Uncle Dan.



benson and regina

This month we have welcomed two new kids to Kivuli. Benson is 10 and his sister, Regina is 7. We don't know their exact ages for certain as they have no documents and don't know when their birthdays are. Their family history is quite desperate with a cycle of pregnancy, abandonment, no education and poverty. We have taken the two children but are aware that there are more (in this family and indeed the community) with a high possibility of entering the cycle.

Both Benson and Regina have never attended school and are both looking forward to starting Standard 1 in January together at Ndaragwa Primary.

In January, we will be meeting with the local chiefs of this neighbouring area to discuss the problems within this community and ways to assist those in need. As with all meetings of this type, solutions must come from the community leaders and our challenge will be to make it clear that we do not come with answers and blank cheques.

funny of the month!

On Christmas Eve... a serious conversation took place.

Dan: "You'd better go to sleep girls or Santa won't come"

Girl 1: "Who's Santa?"

Girl 2: "Was he in the bible?"

Girl 1: "Was he Jesus' friend?"

nairobi

On Boxing Day, Dee's parents arrived in Kenya for a 3-week visit. Given that it was Christmas we decided to surprise the children and take them to Nairobi and to the airport to pick up Cheryl and Con (who also weren't expecting us to collect them). The kids were so excited to see aeroplanes for the first time and to stay overnight in a (very budget) hotel. We got two dorm rooms, one for the girls, one for the boys, and had a great time using showers, flushing toilets and swimming in the hotel's swimming pool. Of course none of the kids knew how to swim so spent most of the time in the toddler pool. We walked through Nairobi and went to a large shopping centre, which has escalators and lifts. Some of the kids had never seen such things and could not stop talking about the "magic stairs" and "magic opening doors". There were several squeals of excitement!

We look forward to spending the next few weeks having Cheryl and Con here, who are keen to paint the existing house on our new block of land!



kcpe results

We received the final Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education results for the 12 students who finished primary school this year. We had fantastic results that will enable all of them to obtain a place in a High School next year. Well done kids – we are so proud of you all!



for those that pray

Praise Points

- For the 12 children who finished Primary School with great results.
- For the safe arrival of Cheryl and Con to Kenya.
- For God's wonderful provision through the Kivuli Christmas Catalogue and for Dan and Kate Hickingbotham who donated so much of their time and resources to making it possible!

Prayer Points

- For the upcoming meeting with the local Chiefs, to work with mutual understanding to assist those in need in their area.
- For Benson and Regina as they start school for the first time.
- For the staff as we visit various High Schools to try to obtain places for 12 children.

ndaragwa high school

As part of our Community Development goal, Kivuli Project has joined the planning committee for the community sponsored, Government secondary school that is to establish in Ndaragwa in January 2012. Support for the school is small but growing and as yet Kivuli Project has not contributed financially. We wish to gauge the level of community action first and will assist in other ways if required.

The plan is to construct a temporary building for Form 1 students by the end of January 2012. It will be made using iron sheets over a timber frame and a stone foundation. The aim would be to use the sheets as roofing for the permanent structure in future years. Kivuli Project will explore funding possibilities through AusAID and will look to apply for a grant through the Direct Aid Program that would fund part of the permanent structure.

to donate

Donations to this Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993) approved aid and development project J606N Kivuli Project are tax deductible.

ANZ Bank

Account Name: Kivuli Project Inc.

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Account Number: 3692 81295

Please email rachel@kivuliproject.org with your name, address and amount deposited to claim your tax deductible receipt, or for additional payment options.



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