

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,

Welcome to another edition of Kivuli news. April has been a quiet month due to school holidays. During this time most Kivuli children leave the Project to spend at least a few days up to a few weeks with their relatives; this enables relationships to be maintained without the often-elderly relative having the financial or physical strain of caring for their child full-time. Kivuli Project encourages growing relationships with children's families where-ever possible because we know that after the children finish their education, it is overwhelmingly their families and their local communities that

they will return to for support as they move into a new stage of life.

In other news, Holly and Leigh Shera-Jones are back at Kivuli and are supporting Anne in managing the Project. They have settled in to their new Kenyan home and town well and have been busy looking after the children during the holidays. During this time they are working towards getting our building plans approved by all the relevant authorities so we can start construction.

Blessings,
Dan and Dee



happy easter

We had a wonderful Easter weekend. On Good Friday we held a small church service with the children in the Kivuli dining hall. On Easter Sunday we distributed dyed hard boiled eggs (Greek style) to each of the children after attending the service at our local Anglican church and ate the last of the old chooks on site – they had stopped laying eggs and so were only useful to us in one more way.... food! It is always very humbling to celebrate Easter in Kenya as there is no talk of the Easter Bunny or chocolate. Too often we get carried away with the commercialism of Easter that we lose sight of its one true meaning – the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We trust you and your families had a very special and blessed Easter.

one minute with our new project manager, patrick anyembe

Tell us a bit about yourself

I am 40-year-old man from Butere, Western Kenya. I am married to Everline, a secondary teacher in the outskirts Kisumu. We have three kids, Akwany, the oldest, who is in form 3, Shute, our second, is in grade 2 and our little girl Hidaya, just started baby class. At two and a half years old, she is the most jovial member of our family.

Since completing college in 1995, I've been involved in teaching and school administration. My last station was at Royal Girls High School in Nakuru, where I was the school's director of studies. I have also been actively involved in student guidance and counselling.

I love talking with my kids, or any other kids for that matter. I love taking a walk with them as we talk about their concerns, and share ideas. I also have a passion for helping disadvantaged kids, particularly those at risk of dropping out of school due to economic or socio-cultural reasons.

Do you have a nickname?

Well, most of my friends call me Wamzee. This is how I like to refer to my close friends. It's a colloquial version of 'my brother' in my mother tongue.

What are you most looking forward to in your new role?

Ensuring group cohesion; that we all read from the same script, understanding each other's strengths and foibles



and working with them. That is what I look forward to.

What do you think will be most challenging?

I remembered a book that I read a few years ago with the curious title 'HERDING CHICKENS'. This book likened project management to herding chickens, and referred to the project manager as the Chicken-in-Chief. Funny, isn't it? I guess my biggest challenge will be getting to know the kinds of chickens on the farm;

understanding their character and temperaments, and to get everybody to understand me as well.

And finally, if you were one of the 'Big Five' African animals, what would you be and why?

The buffalo is my animal. A buffalo does not nourish itself by eating up other animals. It hardly attacks unless seriously provoked, but effectively defends its turf when under siege.

thompson falls

This month we took four children to the nearby Thompson Falls to celebrate achievements in academic results and behaviour for the term. The children who went this term were Regina Wangui, Margaret Wangui, Benson Kaniaru and Benedictah Wambui. They all had a fantastic time and were able to ride a camel, have their face painted, view the Falls and eat a tasty lunch! Well done kids!



shamba

Rain and sunshine in April has been great plant-growing weather and has enabled the first fruits (or rather vegetables "sukuma wiki" – similar to spinach) of our labour to literally be picked! After a tractor ploughed about an acre last month, Anne and her small team of local, casual staff planted maize and potatoes. The high school boys got to work on the farm for a short while whilst they spent some time at the Kivuli during their holidays.

Next on the agenda: plant the food crops for our future dairy cows. This is very exciting as dairy farming will be our first official income-generating project!

social worker

Our Social Worker, Loise, is due to give birth to her first child in mid-May and as such finished work at the end of the April. She is due to return and continue in her important role at the beginning of September. Since joining Kivuli in June 2010, Loise has provided a great service. She has counseled children who have endured various suffering and abuse; she has held group sessions that have encouraged, challenged and supported the children, and she has participated in and led training sessions for various District Children's Officers, Social Workers and Managers from neighbouring Children's homes. The children and staff will miss her greatly and pray for God's blessings upon her and her husband Stephen as they enter this new and exciting season in their life

In the meantime Kivuli has appointed Winnie to replace Loise for 4 months. Winnie is 24 years old and comes from a neighbouring town. She will assume Loise's duties as Social Worker and evening teacher. She has spent the last two weeks having induction, is fitting in well and is very keen to learn and use her skills. These attributes are invaluable. Social Work in Kenya is not well recognised as a profession and after their training social workers are left to their own devices, without mentorship and support. We've heard of volunteer Social Workers doing no counseling but rather washing clothes and nursing babies during their placements. We are very excited to welcome Winnie to the team, we look forward to the great work she will do and to see her use her skills and learn new ones whilst at Kivuli!



sponsorship

We are seeking sponsorship for our new Manager, Patrick Anyembe and our Australian Aid and Development Workers, Dan and Dee Rutherford. Kivuli Project depends on the generous donations of individuals, businesses, as well as volunteers and sponsors, to help us carry out our work in Kenya. If you or you know of anyone who is interested in supporting the project financially by way of contributing towards the salaries of our frontline management team, please contact Corinna, our Sponsorship Coordinator, via email corinna@kivuliproject.org for more information.

save the date

Keep Saturday night the 21st of July free for the Kivuli Trivia Night in Melbourne. Last year's event was so enjoyable that we have decided to do it again. So, start putting together your table of 10 and lock the date in your diary. We're planning to have a very special guest attend on the night and all will be revealed next month!

for those that pray

Praise God for

- For the safe return of Holly and Leigh after 6 weeks of travelling around Africa
- For the provision of Winnie to cover Loise's maternity leave
- That the work at the shamba is providing employment for various local labourers, enabling them to use their skills and expertise

Please pray for

- For a safe and trouble-free birth of Loise's baby next month
- For Holly and Leigh as they settle into Kivuli and learn to live in a different culture
- For continued growth of local community support for the project



to donate

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

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