

# kivuli NEWS

EDITION 30 – October 2012 *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](http://www.globaldevelopment.org.au)



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## jambo friends,

It is wonderful to be back in Kenya again. We arrived here at Kivuli on the 7th and were welcomed by some very excited children jumping up and down by the roadside - the feeling of excitement was mutual. It was a very special reunion with everyone. We're now well and truly back into the swing of life here in Kenya, so much so that it feels like we never left. It has been such a joy to see the progress of the project; the developments at the shamba (farm), the growth of the

children, and of course the wonderful Kivuli staff.

In this edition, Anyembe is happy to share with you what Kivuli has been busy doing throughout the month of October. You will read how far we have gone with the poultry project, building plans, crop farming, preparation for dairy cows, the progress of the children, among other updates.

We hope you enjoy!

God bless,  
Dan and Dee



## from our project manager, anyembe... chicks

In last month's edition, we hinted at our plans to start a poultry project. We, by then had started building the hen house. The house was ready for occupation on the 15th of October, and we procured 200 occupants for the house just three days later. We had two options: purchase day old chicks at one hundred shillings each (approx. \$1.50), or month old hens at four hundred shillings each (approx. \$6). The local livestock officers advised us to go for the latter, claiming that the former is too difficult, that we couldn't manage to take care of those tiny chicks. Of course there were a lot of things to do - build a brooder, get a brooder jiko (charcoal stove to keep them warm), get someone to attend to them throughout the day and night, etc.

Whoever said good things come easily? So we decided to take on the challenge. We got 200 day-old chicks over two weeks ago, and are happy that we did. You should see the babies, they are all very happy, growing really fast, consuming a lot of chick mash and water. We have so far had them immunized against New Castle and Gumboro diseases. They were immunized against Mareks at the hatchery. We hope to start getting eggs before the end of March 2013.



## building update

You all know that we wanted to shift to our new site yesterday, don't you? Honestly, the money we are paying in rent could be used for buying a cow, or school uniforms, or school fees, couldn't it? In view of the foregoing discussion, we have made significant progress. We have had our proposed site assessed by an environmental impact assessment consultant, who has subsequently prepared his report and submitted to the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). NEMA officials visited our site on the 31st of October, and promised to process our building license within 21 days (this time is given so that any office that has an issue or objection can raise it). That means that we shall be ready to start construction by end of November. You know something, I don't want to tell you that I am excited but I actually am. You see we are looking at the prospect of shifting to the Kivuli farm by Easter 2013, God willing. What do you think?



## crop farming

We have said lots about crop farming before. This time, I am happy to report that we have started harvesting our maize (thanks in large to our Groundskeeper, Joseph). So there's lots of appetizing githeri (a boiled mixture of fresh maize and beans) in our kitchen. This also means that we are relieved from buying maize

for ugali until some time later. As we harvest the maize, we are replacing it with kales and spinach. Did I tell you that I hate buying vegetables when we have arable land and some supply? So we are planting vegetables, until when we shall not have to buy any at all. We should also have sufficient supply of potatoes very soon.

## cows, goats and sheep

You now probably already know how passionate we are about having some cows, goats and sheep on our farm. Following the commencement of maize harvesting, we shall stock the dry stalks with a view to using it as animal feed. It's easy to keep it in shade and just chop it into small pieces when we want to give it to the cows. That's why we need to procure a chaff cutter by end of November. On the farm, our napier grass plot is still growing, and will act as a rich protein source for our cows.

We have already contracted a builder to construct a goat/sheep pen and a dairy unit with a feed store. Can you visualize the Kivuli farm at Christmas? It's something that we all want to see happen, and are praying that our Almighty God will see us through all this successfully. As we help our Home Based Care guardians to establish dairy farming, we (of course) want to lead by example.

## the children

Let's start with our candidates. This year four Kivuli children are sitting the Kenya National Primary Education examination. Jimmy, Kelvin, Charles and Pauline are prepared thoroughly. We are leaving nothing to chance, as we know how important this exam is. Let me tell you; the High School that a student joins has a great influence on whether that child qualifies for university or not. Of course there are a few exceptions, but those are few and far between. That's why we are giving them every support we can afford to enable them get excellent grades and, consequently, get into excellent High Schools. We pray and hope for their flying success. Will you join us in praying for them, please?

About the rest of the children, they are in great shape. You should see them do the maize roasting to understand how much they appreciate the farming. Their schoolwork is also quite encouraging.



## ACK

This month, during their free time, Anne and Dee met with the elders of the local Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK) in our town of Ndaragwa. There was a discussion around how we could show practical love to the local community, and came up with various ideas together. One of these was to start a music program for women and children under the age of 5. We have teamed up with some of the women of the church to create this free program, which will not only be educational for the children (as we will teach them various songs in Kiswahili, Kikuyu and English) but will provide a safe and comfortable environment for some of the poorest women in our town, to do something fun. The program, entitled Musiki Tere Tere (Music Extravaganza), will start on the 10th of November and will run weekly. We look forward to seeing how God will use this program to bring hope to some of the women in Ndaragwa.



## baby news

Leigh and Holly Shera-Jones arrived back in Australia this month after spending some time in South America since leaving Kivuli. They returned home with one extra... Yes, that's right, baby Shera-Jones is on the way and will arrive in April next year! Congratulations Leigh and Holly – the children at Kivuli are very excited about having a new brother or sister, and are praying for a safe and healthy pregnancy.

## social work seminar

This year we again ran a seminar for the Social Workers in our district. One great difference was the involvement of two other Children's Homes in the planning and facilitation of the seminar. We had a representative from both St Martin and Baldo Children's Home who worked closely with Brenda Rutherford and our own Social Worker, Loise, to plan the 3-day seminar on Understanding Childhood Development and Clinical Goals.

We had 19 people attend the seminar, a mixture of Social Workers, Teachers, Carers, and Managers, all from the neighbouring Children's Homes in our district of Nyandarua. A representative from the District

Children's Office also attended and facilitated one of the sessions. Feedback from the participants was excellent and they are already planning for a longer seminar next year.

During the seminar, a sub-committee was formed to meet in a couple of months. There is currently no structured supervision for Social Workers in Kenya, and there is a great need and desire for it. The Social Workers are keen to form a regular group to talk and learn from each other's experiences, to share their struggles and successes with the purpose of improving their knowledge and skills. We look forward to sharing the progress of this with you in the coming months.



We would like to officially thank Brenda Rutherford, for once again giving up her time to come and share her expertise with the Social Workers here in our locality. Brenda, you are a great blessing to many and we really appreciate your generosity!



## visitors

We had three visitors to Kivuli in October. First there was Brenda Rutherford, who accompanied Dan, Dee and the girls on their return. Brenda was so wonderful, imparting her knowledge about gardening and planting at the shamba, and of course the great work she did with the local social workers. Then Dan's cousin from London, Simon, also joined us. He had a great time at Kivuli, especially bonding with the older boys.

He even represented our local town of Ndaragwa in the men's soccer competition! The other visitor this month was Nicole Sorbello, a friend of Dan and Dee's from Australia. Nicole was only able to spend a few days here after doing a safari and visiting another project in the Kibera slums of Nairobi. Although just a short visit, it was certainly a blessing to have Nicole with us.

# gift catalogue for christmas

Looking for unique and meaningful gifts for your friends and family for Christmas? The Kivuli Gift Catalogue could be the perfect solution. We will once again be running the catalogue for Christmas this year, with some new and exciting gifts to be purchased.

For those not familiar, we will be selling items for Kivuli, be it a cow, fruit and tree seedlings, a bag of cement or various other items. In exchange for your purchase, we will provide you with a gift card to give to your recipient that explains the gift and how it will benefit Kivuli. Please note that all gifts are tax deductible in Australia and the US.

Items on this year's catalogue will be available for purchase on our website [www.kivuliproject.org](http://www.kivuliproject.org) from the 16th of November. If you are interested in being a distributor of these gift cards, perhaps selling at your local community group, workplace or church, then please contact Dan Hickingbotham [danh@kivuliproject.org](mailto:danh@kivuliproject.org) for a distribution pack.



**MARAFIKI**  
(ma-ra-fee-kee) • friends

Come and join us to chat about the Kivuli Project, share ideas and learn more about how we can make a real difference.

8th Nov 8pm  
The Coffee Club  
Knox Ozone Shopping Centre  
Burwood Hwy, Wantirna South

RSVP 7th Nov  
[danh@kivuliproject.org](mailto:danh@kivuliproject.org)  
0438 180 982



## for those that pray

### Praise God for

- Increasing His presence at the Kivuli – for His physical and emotional healing, deliverance and joy!
- The responsiveness of our local church to practically love the community through a music program for women and young children
- The success of the Social Work Seminar and for Brenda Rutherford

### Please pray for

- Quick re-processing of work permits for Dan and Dee (they had to re-apply as the previous approvals had lapsed during the time were in Australia). Please also pray that the request for a fee exemption, as the fees are very high, would be granted.
- A six year old girl who joined us this month, she was found wandering by the roadside, we suspect her mother abandoned her and her brother (who sadly died). Please pray that we will find this young girl's family.
- Jimmy, Kelvin, Pauline and Charles, as they sit their final Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exams in November.

## to donate

Gifts to Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993) with a preference for this approved aid and development project J606N Kivuli Project are tax deductible. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

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