

# From street squalor to flamingo haven



Samuel Kamau (left) and Samuel Ng'ethe (right) share something in common other than their first names: both Samuels spent time struggling to survive on dirty streets before they came to the Sunshine Centre in Naivasha, Kenya.

As part of his degree course, Samuel Kamau is on an industrial attachment at Lake Nakuru Lodge where tourists come to view the world famous flamingos. He was on hand to greet the younger Samuel when he visited the beautiful national park recently (more details on page 3).



Mama Chege with Harrison, his grandmother and his father Titus



Sunshine director Simon with Eric and his grandmother Mary



Bashir-Ali with his grandmother Njeri Wango



**Why do boys leave home to go to the streets? Barrie Francis, Wendy McMahon and staff from the Sunshine Centre visited their homes and met their families to find out.**

Harrison, Eddie, Bashir and Eric all left home to go to the streets, but ended up being cared for in our Sunshine Centre. Eddie's and Bashir's stories are typical of many.

**Eddie Muiruri's** father died tragically, so 11 year old Eddie tried to help his mother by working in a quarry to earn some money. But, he was so weak from

the lack of food, that he could not earn much, and often went to bed hungry.

He then joined some boys on the streets to try to find food for himself and his family, sleeping under the market stalls and in sacks - anywhere he felt he would be safe. He came to the Sunshine Centre 2 years ago.

An orphan cared for by his elderly grandmother, **Bashir Ali** went on to the streets when he was just 6 years old. He was very frightened and worried about being attacked by dogs, snakes and older boys. He was often hungry and cold, sleeping in sacks under the market stalls,

and eating any leftover food he could find on the ground.

Bashir was found by Mama Chege when he was begging for money. She brought him some bread to eat and then offered him a place at our Sunshine Centre where he has been cared for and given the chance to go to school.

Bashir told us that he is very happy to be in Sunshine. He enjoys the food, clothes and education; he has friends and can play football and watch TV. And, he has a place to sleep and is cared for if he is unwell.

We had a fantastic day visiting Lake Nakuru National Park, seeing flamingos and a great variety of animals including lions and a snake! Everyone loved it.

We were all given lunch at the Lake Nakuru Lodge where the staff were fantastic. They were quite nervous about having 75 street boys there as they had had bad experiences with other student groups in the past. However, they were amazed and very complimentary about the boys, their behaviour and their

presentation. The boys were incredible, so very well behaved that you wouldn't have known there were so many in the restaurant.

There was a never-ending supply of fantastic food, and the boys were astonished to have china plates, smart cutlery and a soda each.

The boys met Samuel Kamau, the Sunshine boy who is working at the hotel as an intern. The Sunshine Centre staff

were delighted to see him doing, and looking, so well, and encouraged him to work hard.

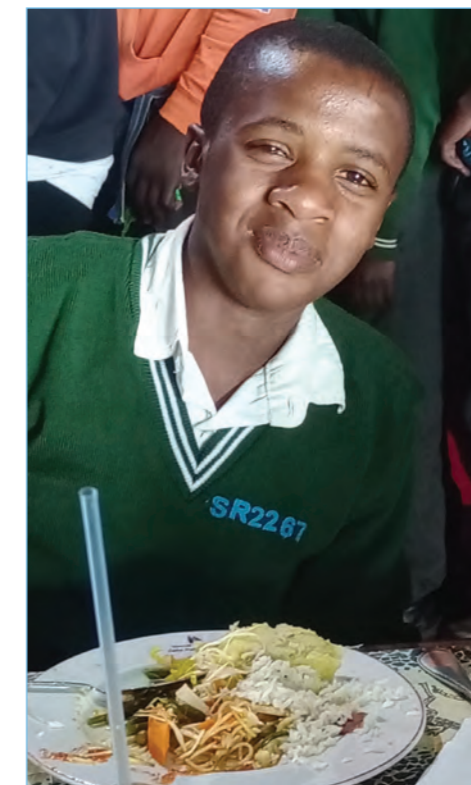
Our huge thanks to Mr Joseph Muya, the hotel director (and great friend of Footsteps) for his hospitality. Also to Kenya Wildlife Service for giving the boys free access to the national park, and to UK donors who helped fund the transport for the trip which was a success for the boys, staff and UK visitors.



Harrison, Eric, Eddie and Bashir taking Barrie Francis and Wendy McMahon to visit their homes



Eddie Muiruru and his mother Teresia (centre) with Sunshine Centre staff and Footsteps trustees





Since 2004, house parents **Mary** (far left in the photo below) and **Charles** (far right) have lovingly cared for orphaned and abandoned children at our Tumaini Children's Home in Mombasa.

There are currently 13 children under their care, so, to make sure the home functions properly, the chores have to be shared out among all the children.

**Juliet** loves playing basketball, chatting with friends and enjoys story telling with the other children we care for at the Tumaini Children's Home in Mombasa.

In April, she completed her Covid interrupted high school education, but was uncertain what to do next. After working

as a volunteer at the Tumaini schools she has settled on taking a college course in Library and Information Studies which she hopes to start in January.

**Derrick** (wiping the dining table) is in grade six at primary school. A cheeky boy, he likes playing football and reading storybooks, but aspires to be a soldier or engineer when he finishes school.

**Susan** busies herself grinding maize the traditional Kenyan way. She completed high school in April and has been offered a place at the Sister Leonella Consolata Medical college in Nyeri to train in Perioperative Theatre Technology (hospital operating theatre procedures), starting in January next year.



In addition to the children at the Tumaini Children's Home, we help a further ten orphaned and abandoned children who live with foster families in the community around the Home.

**Joram** likes feeding the chickens they keep at home, but at school his best subjects are science and computer studies.

**Chris** (polishing shoes) enjoys football and hopes to be an engineer on day.

**Elnorah** (preparing the charcoal stove watched by her cat) enjoys dancing and listening to worship songs in her leisure time. She would like to join university and become an air hostess.



**Richard** has left school is working hard to get a driving licence. In future, he plans to help the needy.



**Purity's** best subjects are biology, maths and English; she is aiming to be a doctor one day.



**Jacob** enjoys cooking, and wants to do a course in baking when he finishes high school.

# School meals combat slum hardship



Lucy Munyao is very grateful for the latest delivery of beans, maize and rice at the Imani school in Nairobi.

The free school meals funded by Footsteps will help keep the children healthy, especially as there has been an outbreak of cholera and chickenpox in the Kibera slum where the school is situated.

In a recent fire, many families in Kibera lost everything, and the cost of basic foods has risen sharply in recent months, causing great hardship. Lucy explained that the school has been supporting some of the children's families too, but have also had issues with parents stealing food, so they are having to be very careful.

The Kenya government has provided a height measure and scales, and each month the teachers check that the children are growing and are not malnourished.

Lucy is broadening the children's education by taking the children to visit Kajiado - the closest Masai region where some of the children come from. She has had them dress in their traditional clothing and talk about their tribal traditions. "I want to show the children that there is more to life than living in Kibera," Lucy says.



# Lydia Nyambura makes a splash

"I am very happy to leave her to work unsupervised," Lydia's boss informs us. His remarks are a great tribute to her skills as a plumber and enthusiasm for her work.



Lydia comes from a very disadvantaged family, and as part of a package of measures to help, we are paying her fees to train in plumbing and masonry at Naivasha Technical Training Institute.

Turning theory into practice, she is now undertaking an industrial attachment with Shalimar Fresh which grows flowers and vegetables for export to European supermarkets.

The farm uses a lot of water (and has a lot of plumbing), drawing water from Lake Naivasha and boreholes, and using reverse osmosis water purification, recycled water dams and drip irrigation.

Lydia has taken on a big responsibility, but is hoping that a successful internship will lead to a permanent job when she completes her training.



# Patrick has the tools for success



Former street Patrick Nguiyi is delighted to receive the toolkit presented by Sunshine Centre director Simon Kinyanjui.

Patrick is nearing the end of his vocational training course in plumbing and masonry at Naivasha Technical Training Institute.

The toolkit - a gift from Green Street Green Baptist Church - will help this young man find employment when he qualifies. In fact, he has already demonstrated his entrepreneurial skills by getting paid work at the weekends.



# Hard work (but some play) at Sunshine



Former street boys John Macharia (top left) and Godwin Wakoko (top right) are happy to lend a hand tending the vegetables at the Sunshine Centre farm.

The fresh vegetables they help grow form a major part of the nutritious meals they enjoy each day.

Peter Njenga helps keep the Sunshine dairy cows well fed so that they provide plenty of fresh milk to keep the boys healthy.

But it is not all hard work. At the Sunshine Centre the boys have a slide, swings, board games and (of course) football to enjoy in their leisure time.

# Edward Makori - a life transformed



Edward Makori was one of the first street boys to join the Sunshine Centre when it opened in 2004.



Today, Edward greets guests at the Merlin Resort hotel in Naivasha where he is working as a cashier.

# Does Sunshine transform lives?

## - it did for James



James Maina was a street boy until he came to the Sunshine Centre in 2004. He stays in contact, and recently sent a photo of himself at work at Kenyatta University in Nairobi where he is a security manager. His car gives a clue where his priorities lie!



## Challenges of serving the poor



Bernard and Ruth Ndetei serve up meals to smiling children at Church on the Rock school in Nairobi.

But, operating a school in a slum presents many challenges. When a new road was built outside the school, it took away part of the school compound, so the kitchen, which



provides 70,000 school lunches every year, had to be moved.

Now, all the beans, maize and rice that Footsteps funds has to be carried upstairs, and the cooked food carried back down again for the children to enjoy.

## Give a MAD gift at Christmas?





### Send a Christmas gift that **Makes A Difference!**


- Pick a gift and we send you a card representing your gift.
  - You give the card to make someone happy.
- We use your donation to **Make A Difference** to someone in need


[www.footstepsinternational.org/giftcards](http://www.footstepsinternational.org/giftcards)

## Footsteps International in Kenya

 Transforms the lives of 133 former street boys at the Sunshine Centre

 Cares for 23 orphaned and abandoned children at the Tumaini Centre, Mombasa

 Strengthens education of 380 children in Nairobi's slums

 Helps train 300 young people in life-skills

We are delighted to receive single and regular donations in support of our work.

We work with trusted partners to ensure that donations actually get where they are needed.

We do not discriminate against any needy person on the grounds of their religion, tribe or nationality.

Footsteps is managed by seven trustees, all unpaid volunteers, committed to putting their Christian faith into action.

They are: Martin and Mary Print, Barbara Huntley, Barrie Francis, Paul Robinson, Wendy McMahon and Ben Gardner.

This newsletter was compiled following the visit to our projects by trustees Barrie Francis and Wendy McMahon in October 2022.

### Contact us:

**Martin & Mary Print**  
Footsteps International,  
79 Lynwood Grove,  
Orpington, Kent, BR6 0BQ  
Tel +44 (0)1689 828166  
[Martin.print@footstepsinternational.org](mailto:Martin.print@footstepsinternational.org)  
[www.footstepsinternational.org](http://www.footstepsinternational.org)  
Registered Charity no. 1091026

Design & Print: Reflect Design for Print Ltd  
[www.reflect-designforprint.co.uk](http://www.reflect-designforprint.co.uk)