



Welcome to our Autumn newsletter!

I do hope that you like the slightly different layout of the newsletter and enjoy reading some updates about Giraffe students and supporters. Some sections contain shortened text so please click on the link for the full article and learn more about how we are changing lives in Kenya.

Life is currently very busy in our schools with the primary and secondary graduates preparing for their final exams - we wish all of them well in their endeavours. Twenty-four of our secondary graduates started college last month. Teddy, our top student, began a degree in mathematics at the University of Nairobi, the leading university in Kenya. Three others also started degrees in Education, Industrial Maths and IT. We have four students studying Diplomas in subjects such as Microbiology and Project Management and the remainder are doing vocational courses ranging from Plumbing and Electrical Engineering to Early Childhood Development – they've all come a very long way from their humble beginnings.

Thank you again for your support of these vulnerable children. We cannot help everyone but at least we can start with one life at a time.

Jackie Newbold, Sponsorship Coordinator (admin@giraffeproject.org)

SPONSOR NEWS

Over the summer Claire visited Nairobi and met the two students she has sponsored over the years. She enjoyed sharing a meal with Januarie and caught up with life as a student nurse with Prudence.



This summer, long-term sponsor Kerri and her family also went to Nairobi and visited Tumaini School. For the full report of her trip *please click here*, however Kerri did comment on what a warm welcome they had received and how engaged the children were, *"Each class had prepared a special greeting for us, such as "You are very welcome, we are happy to see you today!" One class had even prepared a song for us. We were impressed with how orderly and attentive the students were, showing respect for their teachers and open curiosity about their Western visitors. Some asked us our names and where we were from. They laughed as they tried to pronounce our funny names, and we asked them about their studies which ranged from history and religion to maths and English. We could sense how happy and eager these children are to learn and grow; how lucky they feel to be inside these solid school walls rather than idling in the streets of Mathare slum."*



Our new-look **FACEBOOK** page is up and running so please do 'Like' us and continue to learn what goes on among our supporters and students. We'll be posting lots of updates there. Find us on Facebook by searching for Giraffe Children's Charity or follow the link on our website www.giraffeproject.org



CHRISTMAS LETTERS

There will be an opportunity to send cards and letters to your sponsored student this Christmas – watch out for an email early next month.

We are also running another Christmas Appeal. We'll be sending an email about it shortly but keep an eye on our Facebook page as well.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

SCHOOL TRIPS: Students from both schools went on trips over recent months. Educational trips are a great way to take the children's learning outside of the classroom and can really enhance their knowledge. Your sponsorship pays for one trip each year and the children really enjoy and greatly benefit from them.

Some of our Green Pasture students having fun in Mombasa



Tumaini children enjoying Lake Magadi

SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

NEW SPONSORS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED

The new school year starts in January and we are desperate for sponsors to support our growing list of children wanting to attend GEC. These include children currently living next to a dumpsite whose lives would be turned around by an education at GEC. Do you know anyone who might be interested in sponsoring? Please contact us at admin@Giraffeproject.org for more information.

DID YOU KNOW? All Form 1 and 2 students study agriculture, becoming optional in Forms 3 and 4. Kenyan students tend to view careers in agriculture as 'second-class': family has left the 'farm' for a better life. We're teaching them that food and agriculture is a dynamic and important sector of the Kenyan economy, with rapid technological change and offering great career opportunities.

The school has a productive agricultural plot used for practical study and teaching demonstrations with the resulting vegetables being supplied to the school kitchen improving, and adding variety to, the students' diet.

The plot includes a large protected section under shade nets, the 'Green Shade', which slows water evaporation and protects crops, such as kale, onions, tomatoes and spinach, from intensive sun. Plots are used by the students to grow crops for their practical exams; this year's rose coco beans yielding 10kg which were added to the school store. There is also a poultry section teaching the students how to rear livestock in a productive, healthy environment.



Madam Sibian, the school's agricultural teacher, says *'It is my belief that agriculture is the backbone of a country's self sustaining economy in terms of sustainable food production. We thank Giraffe for supplying the green nets and poultry unit as we are now seeing a great change in the attitude of the learners who used to have a negative attitude towards the agricultural subject. We are pleased that the number of agricultural students is now increasing.'* Click here for full article

SCHOOL TRIP: A group of GEC Geography students recently went on a school trip to Nakuru National Park and were amazed at the sights they saw. Abihud, Form 4, wrote about his experiences (see full report on website)

"The beauty of the country; the steep-sided landscape of Rift Valley, the salty lake of Elementaita with lesser and greater flamingos, the old historical features at Kariandusi, the cultural designs of the Maasai people and more, cemented what we had been taught in class in our minds." Once at Nakuru he explained how they enjoyed seeing all the animals but especially the giraffes! He finished by thanking everyone for the trip saying, *"We really thank the school for organising such an educational tour and the Giraffe Children's Charity too for funding it. We hope that more shall be organised in the coming years."*



COLLEGE AND GRADUATE NEWS

Please take some time to read these wonderful success stories of Giraffe students on, or recently graduated from, our College Programme. We really are making a difference to these children from the Nairobi slums!



Our new college boys starting at NITA (National Industrial Training Authority, a good government vocational college)



“Maseno University is an amazing place. It is full of scenery and the environment is cool. I am happy to be studying IT alongside Interior design. Thanks Giraffe for making my dream of joining a university come true. “
George

ERIC'S PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

I am in my last year at Moi university studying for a four-year bachelor's degree in business management and I must say it really has been an adventure and at the same time provided me with lessons in the school of life! Having been raised from a humble background, and even with the generous support from Giraffe, it was a struggle to make ends meet and still study at the same time. While at university, it was necessary for me to be creative and think outside of the box to find additional ways to support myself. I have always loved film and media since my childhood and was fortunate that in my church's ministry I met a wonderful man, Douglas, who makes documentaries. He mentored me in photography and video creation and I then used the skill to freelance in still and moving picture imagery while at uni and would like to continue to practice professionally after university. I hope to earn enough money to help change the lives of my family. I believe the knowledge acquired from my business management studies will help me to manage my entrepreneurial pursuit. As I graduate next year, I can confidently say that I have grown holistically and am ready to face life and the job market boldly. My life at university has been a journey of self-discovery and an opportunity for me to learn and maximize my potential as an adult. The long life friendship and memories shared with my peers I will forever cherish. I am grateful to the Giraffe Children's Charity for paying part of my tuition fees and giving me monthly support, which was a big boost in meeting my needs. I am hopeful that I can give back to 'Giraffe' with my photography and documentary skills to tell their stories and the impact they have on the lives of unprivileged children. *For full article please click here*



Kennedy is a wonderful example of how sponsorship can alter the lives of children from the Nairobi slums. He started in Tumaini primary school and has just completed a Diploma course in General Agriculture at the Kenyan Institute of Science and Technology. He is putting what he learnt to good use on his small 'shamba' (smallholding).



HOW GIRAFFE CHANGED MY LIFE –by Joan Gaceri



Hi, I'm Joan and thanks to my Giraffe Children's Charity sponsors, who have supported me since secondary school, I graduated last year from the Technical University of Kenya with a Bachelor of Technology (Institutional Catering and Accommodation Management). In 2006 I sadly had to leave my primary school due to lack of school fees, sought house help employment and saw no better future ahead of me. God works in mysterious ways. After some bad employment situations as a young fifteen year old without the skills and knowledge to suit my employers, my direction changed when I was employed by a wonderful couple, Naomi and Martin. I worked for them until their child was two and a ½ years and then, as they had promised, they helped me to restart my primary education. I worked and studied hard to achieve my marks so as to be accepted into secondary school. I succeeded but unfortunately my kind friends couldn't afford to keep me there so my future again looked uncertain. However, 'Giraffe' stepped in and my sponsor has supported me through my current studies. Now I am looking for a job with a local or international company. This will definitely change my life and that of people near to me. *For full article click here*