

Street boys climb high

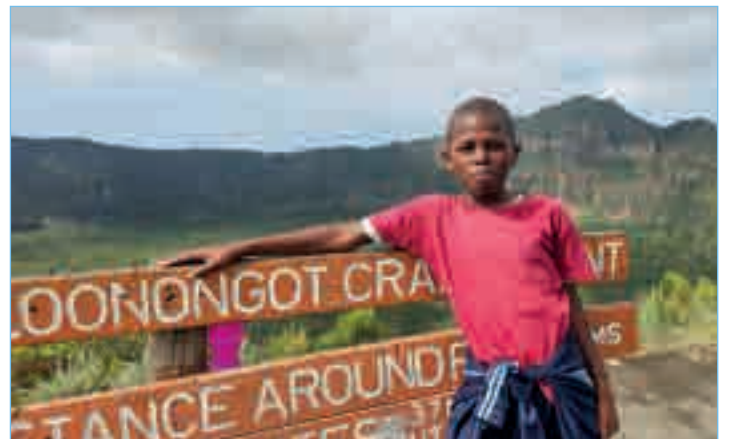


Showing enormous grit and determination, 60 former street boys conquered Mt Longonot - the volcano situated 10 miles from the Sunshine street boys rehabilitation centre in Kenya.

Having set off at just after 7.30 on the morning of Saturday 19th October, the first boy arrived at the crater rim at 9am, quickly followed 60 more boys and 12 staff members.



As the younger boys descended to lower altitudes, Martin Print and the older boys continued round the rocky



crater rim path to the Kilele Ngamia summit, which peaks at 9,120 feet above sea level. *(More photos on page 2)*

Challenging climb in Kenya...



Simon Kuria, challenged himself to lose weight and get fit for the Mt Longonot challenge.

In just seven months, the Sunshine street boys' centre social worker shed 16kg (35 pounds) by dieting strictly and walking 5km a day.

Although he didn't quite make it to the crater rim, it was an amazing achievement, and he is determined to continue his fitness campaign in preparation for next year's climb.

Felix (pictured above in his green 'He Did It' T-shirt) shows his delight at being the first Sunshine boy to



complete the gruelling climb to the crater rim.

He was the first of 60 former street boys who undertook the challenge, accompanied by 29 students from the Naivasha polytechnic, a total of 130 climbers including staff.

...and UK team climb higher than a volcano



Unable to travel to Kenya to climb Mt Longonot, Footsteps trustee Wendy McMahon recruited a team to take on the challenge of 100 wall climbs at Gravity Rock climbing centre at the Bluewater Shopping centre, Kent, UK.



On the same day that the Sunshine Boys completed their challenge on Mt Longonot in Kenya, Wendy and her team completed a total of 122 climbs of the 20 foot high walls in just over half an hour - an exhausting but



brilliant achievement that helped raise over £2,500 in sponsorship.

In total the UK team climbed over 2,000 feet, proving they could climb higher than a volcano.

Sunshine is their happy place...

The teams who completed the climbing challenges in Kenya and UK have raised over £2,500 to maintain our work rehabilitating street boys at the Sunshine Centre. Visitors always comment on how happy the boys are, and how welcome they feel when the boys dance and sing when they arrive. Here's the evidence...



Fabius surveys his future...

Whether it is a former street boy we care for at our Sunshine Centre in Naivasha, or an orphan we look after at the Tumaini children's home in Mombasa, we aim to support each young person until they are capable of living independently. This often means providing them with vocational training, but once qualified and self-sufficient, many of them are then able to help their own families financially.



Fabius Ndegwa was surprised and delighted that we had travelled 150 miles on rough roads to visit him.

Greeting us with a wide smile and a fabulous elephant T-shirt, he demonstrated the skills he has learned on his Land Surveying course. We chatted with his tutor who explained how, when he qualifies, Fabius will be able to set up his own business by hiring the precision equipment he

needs, rather than buying it.

It was clear that this confident young man is rapidly acquiring the skills to succeed. But it wasn't always that way. Poverty and domestic violence led Fabius to drop out of school and leave home to try to survive on the streets. He was found by staff member Mama Chege in 2013, and offered a place at the Sunshine Centre where he was able to enjoy good

food, a warm bed, loving care and the opportunity to re-start his education.

As well as the support he received at the Sunshine Centre, Fabius benefited from having a sponsor in America who wrote to him regularly, prayed for him, and helped pay for his care.

So, as he surveys his future, Fabius is now confident that he has all he needs to succeed and leave his past life of poverty behind him.

Learning skills for life...



Things are on the move for Emmanuel Barasa. The former street boy enrolled at Kenya Coast National Polytechnic in Mombasa to study Marine Transport and Logistics, and in the holidays,

works at a shipping agent to gain valuable practical experience.

Busy learning about car wiring circuits are David Mwangi and Mika Onyango



who started their automotive course at NITA in September. Their tutor reported that both young men had achieved 90% in their first assessments, an excellent start to their chosen careers.

Modern and traditional skills...



Painted brilliant pink, the new hairdressing and beauty centre at the Naivasha Technical Training Institute (NTTI) provides an exciting environment for the trainees taking the Cosmetology course.

Funded by a generous donor, the new centre has created opportunities for students to learn a range of skills that will help them find work in the

expanding personal care market in Kenya.

NTTI also offers traditional courses such as plumbing and automotive engineering, with Footsteps providing financial support, which helps keep the fees low and gives young people from poorer families access to training that will help them earn a living.



Brushing hair and brushing paint...



Norah smiles as she puts tight, bobbly curls in the hair of a client (apparently the latest fashion for young men in Kenya).

Nearing the end of his course training to be a painter, Muema has already helped paint the lounge at the Tumaini Children's Home (as well as his boots!). When he finishes his course next year, he will be busy keeping the rest of the home looking smart.



Special people...special needs...



As part of her disability care course, Irene Wanjiku was attached to Karati Special School where she became friends with 15 boys and 10 girls with a range of disabilities.

Having completed her course, she has continued to visit twice a week, helping the children with their eating, communication and mobility.

Irene has also been supporting David Njoroge who uses a wheelchair following a motorcycle accident. She is dedicated to helping him stay mobile so that he can continue running his business selling school bags.



Ivyne's faithful vigil...



Each time I have been to Ivyne's house she has been sitting with her severely disabled son Livingstone who lies on the couch unable to do anything without help. Ivyne's love for her son reflects in the way she constantly sits with him, feeds him and moves him to keep him comfortable.

We have doubled the number of pampers we supply for Livingstone, and continue to fund two physiotherapy sessions each week.

Ivyne says that the support Footsteps is giving continues to be a great help, but also tells me that her husband lost his job when the company he worked for closed down.

High drama at school...



I visited the Church on the Rock School in the kwa Reben slum area of Nairobi just as term was ending.

Although I missed seeing the children enjoying their lunches funded by Footsteps, I was in time to for a series of outstanding Bible story presentations by the children who are coached by Michael Mutinda, a former pupil who now teaches at the school.

After I had congratulated the children and their coach on their wonderful presentations, Michael reminded me that, ten years ago, he was a beneficiary of the free school meals we provided when he was a student.

His comments were a reminder that something as simple as providing free meals really does help change the life of a child growing up in the slum.

3,000 free school meals for Naivasha school



This year, we have provided over 3,000 free school meals for the children at Kabati school, as well as an extra oven to cook them in.

The 1,000 children were served this term's sponsored meal on the last day of term as they started the long Christmas holiday. By providing this support, we encourage children from the nearby slum to attend school, helping them receive the education they need to break free from poverty.



Tumaini children express their appreciation!



We love helping the children at Tumaini school in Mombasa where we sponsor 50 children and help provide free lunches for 600 children (we fund

one week each month).

The children of course showed their appreciation in the usual way!

Football boot gifts for Sunshine Boys



A gift from a generous donor meant we could go shopping to in Naivasha to buy 17 pairs of football boots, to add to those donated by friends in UK.



The result was some very happy and excited Sunshine Boys who obviously couldn't wait for the next match to start. No more playing in bare feet!

Kenya Marafun 21 June 2025



Billed as "More fun...less run", we plan to hold the Kenya Marafun again on 21st June 2025.

We are looking to take a limited number of visitors to Kenya to take part with the Sunshine Boys. The week-long visit will

include a programme of work and fun, as well as an opportunity to extend your stay to enjoy some of Kenya's amazing wildlife.

If you are interested, contact us as soon as possible.

Footsteps International in Kenya



Transforms the lives of 153 former street boys at the Sunshine Centre, Naivasha



Supports 27 orphaned and abandoned children in Mombasa



Strengthens education of 250 children in Nairobi's slums



Helps train 550 young people in vocational skills



Supports 53 ultra vulnerable families in Naivasha

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 trustees who are all unpaid volunteers, committed to putting their Christian faith into action.

This newsletter was compiled following the visit to our projects by trustee Martin Print in October 2024.

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