Kanyawegi Newsletter
Nov 11

KANYAWEGI UK
Registered Charity No. 1106296

UK Committee (The Trustees):

Chairman:	Peter Skinner
Treasurer:	Sally Petit
Sponsor Coordinator:	Doreen Moxham
and..	Sarah Moxham

Greetings to all readers of this newsletter, and particularly to sponsors and other supporters!

15 months on and so much news to tell!

Unfortunately there hasn't been a newsletter since July last year, but now is our chance to share many good things that have been happening (thanks to the support of our regular sponsors and other donations), also other items of concern and for prayer.

Earlier this year the Home was painted for free – sponsored by a mobile phone company. It was very nice of them to offer to do the job, but we weren't quite expecting to see the Home in the colour they chose (see below), nor to have the logos on it!



Still, the main message still shows clearly on the front ... ***Jesus is Lord*** – and this is what we know to be true. It's not what's on the outside of the Home that makes the difference but the Christian love and care for orphans inside that makes the real difference.

One of the best Homes in Kenya!

Last December the Home received an award for coming in the top 20 of children's homes in Kenya! This was a tremendous achievement and at the time we congratulated all the staff, the Board and the Head of Home for achieving this award.

What of the eroded Bank?:

If you saw the pictures of the eroded bank of a stream close to the Home in the last newsletter you were probably as alarmed as we were. They came at a time when we needed to raise money for the autumn school and college fees, so we were unable to do much about it. Thanks to a very generous gift from one of our sponsors early this year the costs of repairing the bank were covered. When the money was sent over to Kenya the rainy season was just about to start, so building work could not be started until later in the year, when the stream would be at its lowest. We went to some considerable effort to ensure that the techniques used for rebuilding the bank would ensure that the Kanyawegi buildings are protected for many years. All the materials were delivered to the Home by the contractor.

Unfortunately, when the work was started in late summer we were horrified to discover that the contractor was not undertaking the work appropriately and we had no confidence that the bank repair would survive. The workers had simply supported some chain link fencing with thin sticks and were filling in behind with rocks. If the sticks didn't snap off under the weight of the rocks they would have rotted away in time and the bank would then collapse.

Urgent instructions were sent over to stop the current work and to re-do it to the original specification. We can now gladly report that the job has been completed. It doesn't quite match the 'Gabion basket' style of construction we are familiar with on embankments etc. in this country, but it is a Kenyan version of the same solution!



The UK Committee would like to publically thank the individual who so generously provided the funds for this project. Unexpected costs such as this by their nature are difficult to plan for, and only this kind gift enabled the job to be done.

Visitors to the Home:

In February, Richard Portsmouth, the sponsor of a young man called Eric, visited Kanyawegi for the first time accompanied by his wife Karen, and they were given a guided tour by Jim Dawe.



Richard reports: "We were overwhelmed by the lovely welcome we received from all of the children and really enjoyed getting to know Eric better during our 5 days in Kisumu. The time that Jim and Pastor Luke spent with us to discuss issues facing the Home was very much appreciated." Richard lived in Kisumu as a child 1963-5 and found much unchanged, particularly the friendliness of the people.

"Seeing Kanyawegi, the staff and children was a great and memorable experience. The children were so polite and a very real credit to all those involved in their upbringing. It was a particular joy to finally meet Eric after about 8 years of sponsoring him - he is a fine young man. We have hope that he will have a good chance of getting employment after finishing at KCA at the end of next year and having a good life."



Richard's wife, Karen, is seen here with Melody, who she met for the first time.

The Head of Home reports...

In September, James Chiaga Ongany (the Head of Home) reported:

"All the children are doing really well. With the sustained support we have been getting from the UK, I am glad to report that at the moment all of them are settled in their respective schools and colleges. Caroline joined Perez at Eldoret Polytechnic to do a Business Administration course. Silas is hopeful of getting entry into the University in October this year."

(We have yet to hear if he finally was able to start)

What about...FUND-RAISING?

In previous newsletters this section has covered subjects such as the work of the Kenyan Board, the UK Committee (the trustees of Kanyawegi UK), and then the Home's Budget. Here we look at the way the funds for the Home are raised:

All the money given to the charity is used directly to support the work of the Kanyawegi Children's Home in Kenya. No expenses are deducted by the UK Committee. The main source of regular funds is from folk who kindly sponsor individual children/young people or other donors who give regularly to the general funds. Without all these supporters the charity would be unable to operate. We say 'thank you' to you all.

In addition to regular giving from individuals/couples we also receive periodic 'one-off' gifts from generous donors and gifts from churches. We say 'thank you' to Paulton Methodist Church and to Welton Baptist Church for their kind gifts over recent months.

Then there are the special events put on to raise money for the charity. These too are an essential source of funds. We say 'thank you' to those who have run the following in aid of Kanyawegi:

A Line Dancing Evening; An 'At Home' sale raising £250; A charity concert in April (with a group called



The Connection) which raised about £750 each for Kanyawegi and Team Romania ; A Birthday Bash with a sale in aid of Kanyawegi; and a charity shop set up by students at Norton Radstock College, which raised about £200 (see photos later in the newsletter). There have been other events too.

If you would like to support Kanyawegi through running an event and raising funds please do so, and let us know if you would like information or newsletters to distribute.

We also get money from the tax man – if people remember to Gift Aid their donations! This is reclaimed on a quarterly basis and is a really important element of the charity's income, particularly prior to the months when fees for schools and colleges are due.

An earlier attempt to sell paintballing tickets to readers of these newsletters was a complete failure! However, the Committee will be developing new approaches to raising the profile of the charity. Hopefully the website will undergo proper development soon, but also Kanyawegi will shortly be available on Ebay as a charity listed for people to choose to support with some or all of the price of goods sold through the site.

The Midsomer Norton Charity Shop:

In the last newsletter we spoke about the charity shop in Midsomer Norton being under new management and we wondered if this might lead to an increase in funds raised. However, later that autumn our links with the shop ceased altogether. The arrangements we had with the a company to run the shop for us were not working well for the charity, so after 5 years of partnership we did not renew the contract with them. We are grateful for all those who over the years have donated so many things for sale in the shops in Bath and then later in Midsomer Norton, but the income generated for Kanyawegi was small after costs had been paid to those running the shop for us. We can reassure you all that Kanyawegi never had to pay anything from its own funds to cover the shop activities, and that at least some income was forthcoming. We even considered running the shop ourselves, but at the time this would have been impractical.

College Charity Shop:

During the summer term a group of students set up a 'charity shop' one day a week as part of a project on their course.



They encouraged staff and students to bring in items for sale, and to buy from the shop too, of course. The whole thing was a great success and at the end of their course they presented a cheque for £194.69 to Peter Skinner, the chairman of the charity, who works at the college.



We would like to thank all the students and staff who worked so hard to raise this money to help the orphans of Kanyawegi Children's Home.

MONEY £ MATTERS

This is the section where we seek to keep you informed about the financial affairs of the Home. In the last newsletter we reported that the main challenge facing the charity was to raise the funds to support the young people when they leave school and go to college or university. A month later we were informed by the Home that the costs of fees and living expenses were to be far higher than previously thought.

However, we stepped out in faith and gave approval for several of the young people to start college. This meant we needed to send over about £6500 for the single month of Sept 10, and similarly high amounts in Jan and Apr this year. It was great that the money was provided by donors and all the students settled into their studies.

This autumn there were additional young people starting training but the total cost in Sept was similar to last year, due to a much more favourable exchange rate.

Kenyan Government raises wage thresholds:
In the summer, in recognition of the considerable rise in living costs there has been, the Kenyan government set new minimum wage levels for manual and support workers. This led to a demand from the worker's union for a 60% increase. In discussion with the Board the UK Committee have agreed a 40% increase at this stage and the union have been informed. Although some savings on other expenditure are being made, this increase still puts pressure upon funds.

Current Needs:
Although the needs of the Home and tuition fees have been covered to date, the current income levels will not provide enough to meet the needs for January (about £4,300) which must be sent over in December. Please pray that this money will be forthcoming.

Back to Basics: For new readers who need to know the basic facts, here are a few of the important ones:

DID YOU KNOW....?

- The minimum cost of keeping a child in the Home (and providing their primary education) is now about **£45 per month**.
- As the children grow up the monthly cost rises to **£55** for those at secondary boarding school, and **£80** if they are at college/university.
- There are **57 children and young people** in the Home or at college, supported chiefly by gifts from 50 sponsors.

KANYAWEGI UK
Standing Order

To the Manager .....p.l.c.

Address .....

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Please pay the account of Kanyawegi U.K. at:
Barclays Bank, 37 Milsom Street, Bath BA1 1DW
Sort Code 20-05-06 Account No. 93390446

The sum of £.....

In words: .....

On the .....(day) of .....(month) .....(year)

and thereafter on the same day of each month until further notice.

Please debit my Account No. .....

Sort Code: .....

In the name of .....

***Signed:** .....*

Print name: .....

Date: .....

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Gift Aid Declaration

Send to Kanyawegi UK, Mayfair House, 21 Ashgrove, Peasedown St John, Bath. BA2 8EB:

I want Kanyawegi UK to treat all donations I make as gift aided donations until otherwise notified.

***Signed:** .....*

Date: .....

Full Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Kindly remember to notify Kanyawegi UK if you no longer pay an amount of income tax or Capital Gains tax equal to the tax on your donations

Ongoing needs:

There is of often a focus in these newsletters upon financial matters and needs. We don't apologise for this, simply because we believe our readers need to know how donated money is used and what the financial needs are for the future. However, as you can see from the following, there are other needs the charity has too, and we ask you to carefully consider how you might help.

- Additional **sponsors** for the children and young people. Any regular giving is welcome. Folk don't need to feel they have to cover the whole monthly cost of a child or young person, because sponsors can share in the support of individuals, as some already do.
- **Friends of Kanyawegi**. If you would like to be officially recognised as a 'Friend of Kanyawegi' please let us know. It means that you want to organise or get involved in local fundraising events on behalf of the charity.
- **Prayer**. For those of you who are Christian believers we can never underestimate the value of your prayers over the years. Please pray for wisdom for the UK Committee as we all work together with the Kenyan Board to discover the best way forward for the Home.
- We want to strengthen the **UK Committee** and would be keen to hear from anyone within easy travelling distance of the Midsomer Norton area who shares our Christian commitment and concern for the Kenyan orphans and would like to support the work of the committee. The group meets no more than 4 or 5 times a year.
- If there's someone with **website development** skills we'd be keen to hear from you! Our website for too long has stated 'under development'!!

Want to know more?

Let us know the sort of things you'd like covered in future newsletters and/or forward your questions to us. We will do all we can to keep you informed.

Contacts:

Sponsors/donations: Doreen Moxham (01761 437256) or timmoxham@aol.com
Friends of Kanyawegi: Ronnie Coomes (01761 418973)
General enquiries: Peter Skinner (01761 417014) or prskinner@tiscali.co.uk

Please use the form on the left if you wish to make a donation and/or become a regular sponsor. If you are a taxpayer please consider Gift Aid, as the charity benefits greatly from reclaiming the tax.

Thank you.