Emmanuel Home Newsletter
Jan 2025

(formerly ***Kanyawegi Children's Home****)*

News from the last 6 months

Here is the latest we can report from the last few months:

Business as (un)usual?

As reported in the last newsletter, we tried something new in 2024 for the young people who had finished secondary school and had a few months to wait for their results and follow up potential college training options. We agreed to support them in the setting up of **mini businesses** for them to use this time productively, learn new skills and potentially earn some money. Following this exercise we asked for feedback from the young people as part of our review. Overall it has to be said that financially none of the businesses were a huge success, but there were other positive outcomes.



- **Beryl** chose to sell clothes and shoes – firstly in Nairobi (*photo on left*) but then back in Kisumu. She found it very challenging, particularly in relation to ongoing business costs and being able to offer clothes that were 'in fashion' at the time. She was very grateful for our support and said she had learnt about business and how best to talk to customers.

- **Ida** chose to offer hairdressing, manicure and pedicure services in Narok county – where she stays with relatives during holidays. Ida had difficulties in covering costs such as water and electricity but said she "learnt to put God first, be ready to take risks, stay committed and try to have a solution to every problem". Sadly her business came to an abrupt end when all her materials were stolen. Ida said she was "more than thankful" for all we did to help her start her business.

- **Maurice** chose to undertake driving lessons instead of setting up a business and has since passed his driving test, which is great! As part of the training they appear to use a 'Model Town Board' which must be a physical model on which are marked roads, roundabouts, signs etc. Maurice particularly enjoyed this aspect of his learning and appreciated our assistance in paying for the driving course. He was very confident about his driving and hopes to use this skill as part of employment later on.

Update on college students (More will be reported on the school children next time)**:**

Ian Alex: Ian Alex has completed his 'artisan' Motor Vehicle course and we await the results of the exams he took in early December. We are hoping he will be able to find some casual work for the next few months leading up to when he'll be 18 and able to apply for his ID card. This will open up more permanent work opportunities for him.

Alex: The Building Technology Diploma course he is on will continue until November, including a practical placement from May to July. Although there was one first year module he had to retake he did very well in the others – obtaining A and B grades, which is excellent. We are still waiting for his results from last term's exams (including the retake).

John Lloyd started his Diploma in Tourism Management in the autumn and we'll know how he's progressing when his results come through. He is struggling with a mandatory French language module as he had no French classes at school. In conjunction with his uncle we were able to find more suitable accommodation for him where he was not suffering through negative influences from others.

Maurice: Having successfully obtained his driving licence he has suggested that for next year's Christmas Treat a minibus is hired and he drives everyone to the venue! Clearly he is very confident about his driving ability! In the autumn he started a plumbing course. This will provide him with practical skills he'll be able to use in the future (possibly incorporating driving too).



Ida: The photo on the right shows Ida busy with a sewing exercise on her Fashion Design course. She has struggled with some aspects of the course (partly due to her lupus condition) and considered changing course – but currently she is back at college continuing with Fashion Design. Please pray she is able to progress well or finds an alternative course in a timely fashion.



Beryl: The photo on the left shows Beryl on the day she reported to Masinde Muliro University. She was able to obtain a place on a teacher training course which she is enjoying. She is in a netball club and is also planning to join a guidance and counselling club.

We await results to be able to gauge how well she is coping with the level of the course. We had avoided approving university courses a little while ago due to the high fees, but Beryl has been successful in her application for a bursary (that includes an element for living costs) and this will significantly reduce the need for finance from us.

The 2024 Christmas Treat:

For the last few years we have tried to give the young people an event with a meal that is something to enjoy at Christmas and a chance for them to meet up with others we support who they may not have seen for a while. (In Dec 2023 the visiting team from the UK were able to participate).

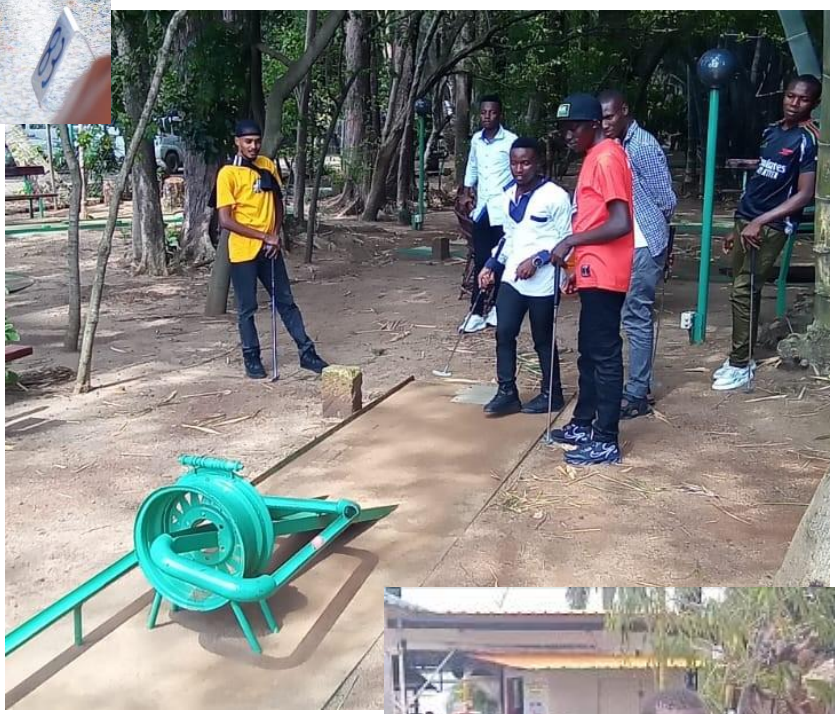
This year our Kenyan colleagues arranged a day out at 'Bingo Beach' – on the shores of Lake Victoria (not far from Kisumu International Airport). It was great that all 10 of our young people were able to be there and be joined (as a one-off arrangement) by some of their siblings and/or friends.





Ida, Alex (and Michael at the back) enjoying their meals

They all had a wonderful time. In addition to a lovely meal they were able to enjoy being by the lake and take advantage of the various games etc. on offer, including: Crazy golf, Darts, Swings and other playground equipment and a Buzz Wire challenge. Here are a few photos from the day:



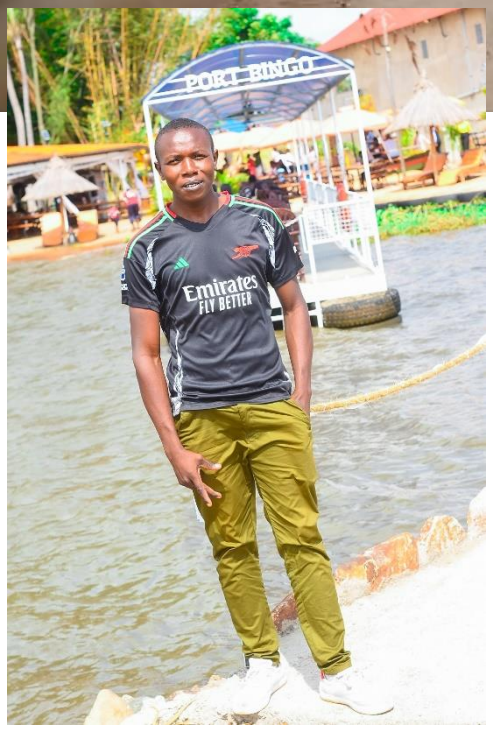
Some of the older young people during their crazy golf competition – won in the end by John Lloyd.



Kelly attempting the Buzz Wire challenge



Denzil (Linda's son) having a go at darts



Maurice and Ida by the lake



New Prayer Pointers

Please pray...

- That all the young people will make the most of their learning opportunities.
- For Ian Alex as he seeks motor vehicle work.
- For wisdom for the UK Committee as we consider roles and responsibilities of those in Kenya.
- That those still at secondary school for whom we arranged extra private tuition over the Christmas holidays that they will show some improvement at school.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the work of the Charity:

Please contact Pete or Gill Skinner, Carino, Old Gore Lane, Emborough, Radstock, Somerset. BA3 4SJ. Telephone: 07824 160668. Email: peteskinner123@gmail.com

Information about the **charity's finances** can be seen on the Charity Commission website: https://www.gov.uk/find-charity-information Choose the 'Start Now' search button and enter **Kanyawegi UK** or the charity number **116296** and you'll be taken to our charity information.