



HELLO/HUJAMBOO!

News from Kenya

Hello,

I hope you are all keeping well, the children and staff in Kenya are all well & send you their best wishes.

I am delighted to report that fantastic progress continues to be made at the Child of Mercy Orphanage Centre and I hope you enjoy reading about our projects. If there is anything you would like additional information on or have any feedback, please do get in touch.

Thank you/Asante to each & every one of you for your continued generosity, kindness, caring and support.

Sending you my very best wishes

Julie



AID4ORPHANS PROJECTS IN KENYA

- ❖ 36 children now live at COMOC ☺
- ❖ 72 children now have school sponsorship ☺
- ❖ Mrima Primary School - Porridge Programme feeds 160 children ☺
- ❖ Bongwe School counselling continues with a staff member providing the counselling ☺
- ❖ Sadly the drought, cost of feed & medicine meant we had to part company with our cows. ☺
- ❖ 20 European volunteers visited us in 2017. As of now 35 are planned for 2018 ☺

Sponsorship news

Our sponsorship scheme continues to make education a possibility for so many children. Thanks to your generous support, all 72 children from Comoc & the surrounding area now have one or more sponsors. Costs continue to increase significantly as the children progress through the school system. That is why we aim to find one sponsor for each of our primary school children, two sponsors for our day secondary school children & three sponsors for our boarding secondary school & college children. We currently have 4 children who each need an additional sponsor as they progress to the next level of schooling.

At the end of 2017, 6 of our children finished Form 4 and are going to continue their studies at college or university. We are really proud of them all and wish them well in their studies.

- ❖ Mundia - attending Machinery College in Mombasa and training to be a Mechanic
- ❖ Hildah - attending College in Amboseli and studying food Production & Hospitality
- ❖ Susan - about to start College in Mombasa Training in Social work & Community Development
- ❖ Anne - attending Mount Kenya about University in Thikka to take Business Studies
- ❖ Joan - attending Ztech college near Nairobi, studying Business Studies
- ❖ Felix - waiting to start University when additional funds are available

It has been a real challenge for us to sort out the fees, we still need additional support for Felix before he can start. Please let us know if anyone can assist him.

Once the children are over 18 and have finished Secondary School, the Kenyan regulations no longer allow them to live with us and they have to be exited from The Children's Home. These six young people are the first to undergo this process at Child of Mercy, we do of course still support them through our sponsorship Scheme and will do our very best to keep in touch with them and help them if needed.



Meet Brian, he is one of the first children we arranged sponsorship for and is one of our first college graduates. ✂



Brian's journey – the boy becomes a successful young man

Sadly, Brian's mum passed away when he was 6 years old. With no father to take care of him he initially lived with his uncle. In 2004 at the age of 7 he moved to an orphanage in Likoni.

Brian's primary education was at Timbwani Baptist School. In 2007, Brian became one of the first students to be included in The Aid4orphans School Sponsorship Scheme. His sponsors Christopher & Sharon along with their family have supported him and followed his progress for the last 11 years.

Shikaadabu Secondary School was the next school for Brian, he was there for 4 years and remembers the long walk back from School 2 or 3 times a week due to lack of money for the minibus ride back to the orphanage where he lived. On finishing Secondary School, Brian moved to Nakuru to live with his Sister.

In 2015 he began his studies in Media Production & Journalism, initially at college in Nakuru and then to a college in Eldoret. His sister was able to assist him with somewhere to live and his daily fare to college. Brian graduated with a Diploma in Journalism and Mass Communication with a Credit (Grade B equivalent) which covered 32 modules including Photography, Media law, TV Camera operating, Communication Skills, Newspaper Design and Journalism.

Whilst studying, Brian secured an attachment at Sayare Radio and TV, he worked on Radio Production & Editing and also reported the News live on the radio and announced a Youth program in Swahli.

After graduating, Brian was employed in a photographic studio where he carried out photo shoots in the studio and at outside events such as weddings and graduation ceremonies. Brian is now working as a self-employed photographer.

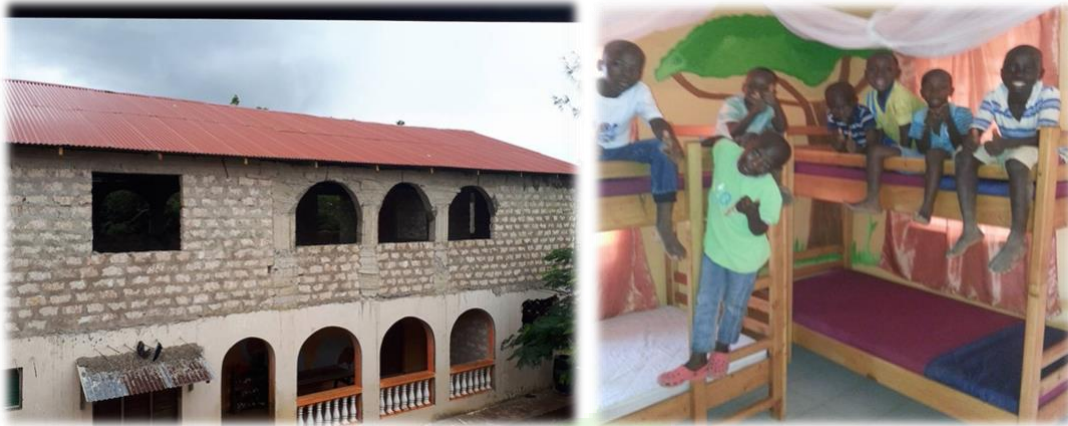
Brian says that his dream job would be as a Television or Radio Presenter and is currently looking for an employment opportunity in that industry. He also says that as he gets older he would like to help needy children just as he was helped.

Well done Brian. We are very proud of you, you have worked hard and truly deserve your success. We look forward to hearing you on the radio when you get that dream job!



2017/2018 project update

❖ *Dormitory block – Phase 2 is underway!*



The children love living in the dormitory all of the boys sleep and shower there. The girls sleep & shower in the main house. Each child has their own bunk bed and space for their personal belongings and clothes. One of the aunts sleeps in the dormitory so that if a child wakes in the night an aunty is there to comfort them or deal with any problems. The Dec 2016 Nairobi to Mombasa cycle ride raised 5,350 Euros which all went towards phase 1 of the dormitory build.

The initial build prepared the structure for the second floor so that once we had sufficient funds we could continue. Phase 2 has now begun & the second-floor build is now under way. Once built, it is going to be used as a multi-purpose hall. In Dec 2017, the fantastic efforts by the 28 men and women who cycled from Nairobi to Mombasa in 6 days raised 11,600 Euros for us which enabled phase 2 to progress as can be seen in the above picture.

This is the second year we have benefitted from the cycle race, words cannot express sufficiently our thanks

Many thanks to Rakesh and all his cyclist friends from Kenya & Holland.

All we now need is another 7,680 Euros which will cover all of the costs to not only complete the build, but also the decoration & furnishings to make the space fully functional.



Thank you so very, very much.



❖ *TUK-TUKs are us!! - ONGOING*



Child of Mercy Children's Centre is now the proud owner of 8 Tuk-Tuks, two funded by Kierocasa (<http://www.kierocasa.com>) from Spain, one partly funded by students of Fistral House at Newquay Treviglas School and the remainder were purchased with a bank loan. The Tuk-Tuks provide employment for 11 local young men as drivers.

As you know, our goal is to be financially self-sufficient as far as our operating costs are concerned. The Tuk-Tuks are a huge help for us on that journey. After paying back the loan and covering the running costs of the Tuk-Tuks, the income now covers 100% of the monthly wage bill for the 8 workers at the centre.

As well as generating income, the Tuk-Tuks help with our other projects. They are used to take the Child of Mercy children to school, deliver a hot lunch for them and then collect the children at the end of the school day.





❖ *School update & Porridge programme - Ongoing*

In January 2018 we transferred all of our COMOC primary school children to Mrima primary school which is also in Likoni. We also started a Porridge Program at Mrima which is feeding over 160 children in the nursery school. The school did have a Porridge program a few years ago which unfortunately had to be stopped due to lack of funds.

Many children come to school hungry as they have not eaten breakfast, the Porridge Program is so very important, especially for them. The teachers tell us that it helps the children concentrate which aids their learning and they also all look forward to it at morning break.

We provide the ingredients, porridge mix and sugar, and the school provide the firewood to cook, water as they have their own bore hole and someone to cook each day.

The weekly cost is around 15p per child so a total of £24 per day to feed all 160 children.

Any donations towards this would be a great help as we do not yet have enough regular donors in place

❖ *Tailoring Workshop – On hold for now.*

The tailoring workshop has been completed and the sewing machines are in place. We used the workshop last summer to make the school uniforms for our children and new uniforms for our staff. Our intention is that this will be an income-generating project, we plan to make school uniforms for our own children and to sell to the community direct and through schools. We also hope to expand into other items such as curtains and general clothing. The project is on hold for now as we have been focusing on our building activity & other projects & have not had the resource to develop the local contacts required for this project to progress. We hope to progress this project soon.



❖ **Library, Reading and Study Room – Complete**

The spare room in the large house has been partitioned to make a quiet room specifically for reading and study. It is accessed mainly through the external doors to ensure the girl's dormitories remain secure. There is an internal door, which is kept locked and glass panels fitted so there are no hidden areas. We decided not to carpet the room or buy cushions as they attract bed bugs & infestations are really difficult to get rid of!

At a later date we will introduce computers for learning purposes.

Many Thanks Victoria & Mono from Spain & Emma and friends from Sweden

❖ **Office – Complete**

Our office now has additional chairs, shelving & an extra desk and is enclosed & secure. This gives us privacy when working or discussing sensitive issues with children, staff or visitors.

Many Thanks Victoria & Mono from Spain & Emma and friends from Sweden

❖ **Painting outside of main house – Finished for now!**

Painting the house is a bit like painting the Forth Bridge in Scotland, no sooner have we finished than we think about starting again!!

Many Thanks Marlin and Teresa from Sweden for your help whilst with us

❖ **Bulk storage area for drinking water with piping to kitchen - Complete**

As you may know, Kenya has been suffering from a drought for quite some time now. This means that the mains water is often unavailable. When this happens, water is often in short supply. We had to buy the water in 25 litre jerry cans from local water sellers. The water shortage often results in price increases per jerry can. The staff & children had to carry the heavy jerry cans to wherever they are needed in the house & cooking area.

Now that we have the bulk storage facility & piping, we are able to fill the tanks when water is cheaper. When the mains water is unavailable we now have water without the staff & children having to carry heavy loads & without us having to pay high prices for the water.

Many Thanks Margit and children from Hokeki School in Germany





❖ **New Fridge Freezer - Complete**

Our fridge freezer was about 8 years old & was no longer efficient. With 36 children & 9 staff to feed & the heat in Kenya, we really did need a new one to ensure we didn't waste any of our precious food or milk. We now have a brand new, large, efficient fridge freezer.

Many Thanks Sara and Children from Pennoweth school in UK

❖ **Painting inside the main house - starting in the Summer**

The inside of the house is due for a repaint, our volunteers coming from Spain this Summer are taking on that job.

We have had a great start to 2018, we really thank everyone who has contributed to the above projects along with all of our school sponsors and donors. Without you all we couldn't keep the Children's Home running & support the children and young people in the community.



Aid4orphans



The projects below are on our COMOC action list for 2018, pending availability of funds. If you would like to help with any of these projects either by funding or providing man/women-power please do let us know. A description & breakdown of the costs has been sent as a second email.

We are always delighted to welcome volunteers to visit us at COMOC. ☺

- ❖ **Printer** - 19,5000kes/ 174Euros/ £144
- ❖
- ❖ **Washing Machine** - 62,000kes/ 554Euros / £450
- ❖
- ❖ **Outdoor Play Equipment**
- ✚ Climbing frame & slide 65,900kes/ 620Euro / £515
- ✚ See-saw & enclosure 28,000kes/ 250Euro/ £208
- ✚
- ❖ **Plastic stackable Chairs**
- ✚ per 20 chairs 16,000kes / 143Euro/ £119
- ✚ per 50 chairs 40,000kes / 357Euro/ £296
- ✚ per 120 chairs 96,000kes / 857Euro/ £711
- ✚
- ❖ **External Staircase to Volunteers Living Area**
- ✚ Staircase 126,000kes/ 1,125 Euros/ £933
- ✚ Internal works 45,000kes/ 402Euros/ £333
- ✚
- ❖ **Perimeter Wall** 134,250kes/ 1198Euros / £995
- ❖
- ❖ **Paving around Compound** - 214,000kes/ 1910Euros / £1585
- ❖
- ❖ **Multi-purpose Hall** - 86,6811kes / £7,681Euro / £6,621
- ❖

Aid4orphans



Aid4orphans/ Child of Mercy fund raising initiatives

*There are many ways you can help us support the children **Any contribution** no matter how small is greatly appreciated*

❖ School sponsorship @ £14 per child per month

We aim to have 1 sponsor per child at primary school, 2 sponsors per child at secondary day school and 3 sponsors per child at secondary boarding school and college. The sponsorship covers school fees, uniform, shoes, textbooks & lunch. Secondary school is far more expensive than primary school, which is why we need more than 1 sponsor.

❖ COMOC food costs @£5 per child per month (or whatever you can afford)

Our aim is to find 100 donors to cover the food costs, are you able to join our existing 34 donors & help us cover these costs?

❖ Mrima school porridge programme Euro cents 0.85 or £0.75p will provide porridge for 1 child for 5 days.

We need Euro 27 or £24 per day to provide porridge for the 160 children at Mrima nursery school.

❖ COMOC monthly running costs of Euros 1,294 or £1,137 (excludes school fees & staff wages)

❖ If you would like to contribute to any of our projects, please do let us know & we will ensure your contribution is used accordingly.

❖ For further information please email: info@aid4orphans.com

Sterling account

Bank details: Aid4Orphans, Barclays Bank, Sort Code: 208794, Account No: 23565947

Euro account

Bank details: Aid4orphans, Swift code DEKTDE7GXXX

IBAN DE62 7001 1110 6051 3974 93 Handelsbank, Munchen 80687 Germany

JUST GIVING <http://www.justgiving.com/aid4orphans>

PAYPAL Payments to our e-mail address info@aid4orphans.com