

# Newsletter

## Harambee For Kenya



No.8 Oct & Dec 08

*Two newsletters in one as we were in Kenya for most of October.*

*We've been back three weeks now and what an amazing time we had. For some it was three weeks and others 2 weeks. It's hard to know where to start.*

*The three weekers arrived to find the building further behind than we had wished. But to be honest, this is Kenya and things happen slower than perhaps we would like. But this was not going to deter us. We had a mission to get the building done so that we could move the boys in before we went home. This appeared that it would not be easy!*



*This is what the building looked like. We were promised that the roof would be on in three days. It was more like this!*



*So things were beginning to happen now and the group started shifting all the bricks up to the house from the lower end of the plot. Then they would be easily available for the bricklayers to do their work. We had good weather but there were heavy rains during quite a few afternoons.*



*After one week the roof was virtually on. The two weekers arrived to see the building like this. Some were surprised to say the least.*

*Everyone mucked in straight away. Everyone was involved in moving bricks - 9000 of them!*



Taken by Kate Vince

*This photo was taken on the day we had the opening ceremony. The sky in the background makes a really dramatic photo. The lads moved in the same day and were staying upstairs in the schoolroom until the rooms downstairs are plastered. It was an amazing feat to get the building this far but that was not all that happened.*

*The lads had to sleep somewhere! We could not let them move into their proper home because a few things had to be finished, so we set them up in the school room - sleeping at one end and living at the other. These are the bunk beds that were made in just three days. Triple bunks will save room and allow us to sleep more youngsters. The older ones will have a bed of their own and the younger ones "top & tail". We do this when necessary as it is better than left on the street.*



*However it is the younger ones we get into foster care more quickly in order to protect them from being drawn back onto the streets. The older boys may well be fostered where needs arise. But we need more sponsors and foster carers to be able to do this. Rest assured though, they are happy with their lot and are very close to each other. It is really heart warming when you see how they look out for each other.*

*We also built them a toilet block. The hole in the ground underneath is 50ft deep and the toilets should last for 30yrs. In the block there are three toilets*



*a urinal and a wash room. They are beautifully clean at the moment and do not smell at all.....very posh!! Dave Prout and his band of helpers made a path from the house to the toilet block. There will be a wash room in the house but we opted for Kenyan latrines as there is little to go wrong with them and when there are so many young lads in one place, flushing toilets would not last long and therefore cost a lot of money to keep in good order.*



*Dave also designed and made, with his team, 4 benches from the wood that was over. They made a fantastic job of them and they were well used by Musungus and Africans alike.*



*The temporary kitchen was also built. In April we plan to build a more permanent one. This was built by a professional Kitchen designer from the UK. We could all see the funny side when we looked at the small differences to his normal designs!!!! Notice the small cooker used.....in Kenya it's called a fire! I think it is fair to say we had an amazing trip which we will never forget. So if you are interested in joining us on another trip then please contact us. We will be going in 2009. - 5<sup>th</sup> April to 18<sup>th</sup> April & October. Get in touch if you want more details. There's still plenty of work to do, so come and help. More news next time.*

**Join our 100 club** and help us to raise money while you have an opportunity to win money on a monthly draw.

You join the club by paying just £12 for the whole year.

You are given a number and every month there is a draw. If your number is drawn you could win £15, £10 or £5. Yes this happens every month!

In December 2009 we have a special draw where you could win £100, £50 or £25.

Contact Jackie on 01825 830645 or email [jackie@octoberhouse1.idps.co.uk](mailto:jackie@octoberhouse1.idps.co.uk)

**One of our team, Dave Prout wrote:-**

Since returning from our trip to Kenya I have been asked many times if I enjoyed my holiday. I immediately think about the boy with malaria who just wanted to lie in the sun. Or the man at the clinic who had to crawl up the hill on his knees because he had elephantiasis. The boy with the jiggers (fleas) boring into his feet because he had no shoes. Or the children with the distended abdomen due to malnutrition. I think of our night on the streets meeting the street children in their 'natural' environment, especially the one who refused to give up his bag of sniffing glue in exchange for a hot meal. I remember the primary school I visited. In one classroom, with mud floors, I counted more than seventy children. I remember the 9000 bricks that had to be carried 40 metres uphill. I saw and experienced many things that I cannot class as 'enjoyment'.

But then I think of the purpose of the holiday. I went as part of a group of volunteers to help with the construction of the safe house. I have a favourite photo of construction of the house. Everyone looks so focused and busy working on the safe house. Bottom right is someone drawing water from the well. Top right someone about to catch a brick being thrown to him. Everyone else is working away at all different levels. All with the same aim - to finish the house for the boys.

I remember the wonderful local children that played and sang with us each day as we moved the bricks up the hill. I remember the four children that were removed from the streets the night we visited and given new clothes and a safe place to sleep as well as being fed every day. The boy with jiggers was treated and given shoes. The boy with malaria was treated. The man with elephantiasis was prayed for and I am forming a good friendship by email with a teacher I met there. Above all 30+ boys moved into the safe house on the opening day. All have a bed with mattress, pillow and blanket. A roof over their heads and three meals a day. None of these things would have happened if the team did not go.



Photo by Dave Prout

Did I enjoy my holiday? Well I certainly will go again and, without hesitation, I would recommend it to anyone who is thinking about going. I guess you would call that enjoyment.

## School Packs

We have created a school pack about Kenya with information, puzzles, quizzes, and certificates. These have been designed around the national curriculum for KS1 & 2 and are full of ideas.

If you are involved in a school contact us for more information. Donations accepted for the pack. Updates will be available in the future.

Contact our Schools Liaison, Jackie Parker on 01825 830645 or email [jackie@octoberhouse1.idps.co.uk](mailto:jackie@octoberhouse1.idps.co.uk)

Our Thanks go to the following for their support.

SGB Computers	Jan Edwards	Alec Naylor
Jake & Ellen Vince	Sharon Martin	
George Goldspink & Norfolk District Scouts		
Nils, Cristina, Sofia & Alex Razmilovic & friends.		
“ <b>The team</b> ” who came to Kenya.		Skippers Hill School
Uckfield Methodist Ladies Group.		Sackville School
Lewisham Manor District Scouts.		Mike Wrigley.

There was a sense of anticipation as we left the familiarity of England for the new experience of the equator & the land of Kenya. I felt it would impact my life but I didn't quite know how.

The first thing that struck me was the friendliness of the Kenyans we met, and the welcome they gave us. Then, on leaving the airport, what did we see but giraffes not far from the roadside. Unreal!

We had quite a long journey by minibus or 'matatu' & during this time it rained 'cats & dogs'. The large ditches at the roadside filled up & became torrents of muddy water. Before too long the rain stopped & a bright sunny day reappeared!

The next morning we all headed up to the site to help with building. Bricks had to be moved; thousands of them! Some of us threw them to one another, others passed them – I have the marks to prove it! Another huge job was to remove all the wooden poles & planks holding up the ceiling, & then de-nailing them! These two jobs took us many days and right at the end of removing the planks, several fell down at once knocking Ben off his feet! Several people ran to rescue him & he escaped with cuts & bruises. Some of the builders had no footwear & none of us had hard hats so we have to be thankful to God that His protection was upon us!

On Friday morning some of us were able to visit some local schools. The children seemed fascinated with our skin & wanted to touch it [to see what it felt like?] I was struck with how bare the classes were. The children seemed to have nothing but a pencil & an exercise book into which they were copying words in English down from the blackboard.

There was a rather mad rush at the end of our time there to finish the top floor of the house so that the children & young people could move in. Wooden bunks 3 high were being made through the night & were completed at about 5.30 on the Tuesday evening – just before dark - & of course there is no electricity!

This was the day of the grand opening when various dignitaries, local schools plus the Kenyan Television company were present. It was a great climax to the fortnight.

The next day was bitter-sweet as we had to say 'Goodbye' to the boys and all our new friends at the hotel & in the town of Nyakoe. We were heading off for a safari... then home. I now feel a bond with Kenya & its people & I feel that God wants me involved in helping them, especially the children in any way I can.

By Sally DiFabio

### A message from the treasurer.

A personal thank you to every one of you who has helped raise the funds to build the Safe House, I am just amazed at the miracles we have seen happen over the last 22 months that the charity has been running. And at all the hard work every one has put in to achieve this.

To the team who went on the October trip as volunteers. Thank you for all the hard work you put in to make The Nyakoe Safe House for the Street Children a reality. Thank you for going more than the extra mile, either moving piles of brick (there sure was a lot of them), de-nailing the wood so that it could be used again, sweeping, building, for the prayers that were said, for the sponsorships, for the pledges and so much more.

I am so glad I have been able to get to know you all a little better.

May God richly bless you. *Patricia*

Trustees; Roger Dann (Chairman), Lesley Dann, Patricia Musgrave, Chloe Durow, Michael Wilding, Jackie Cooper, Ben Vince.  
21 Cuckmere Rise, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 8PG 01435 865502.

[www.harambeeforkenya.org](http://www.harambeeforkenya.org)

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