

Emmanuel Home Newsletter

April 2019

(formerly Kanyawegi Children's Home)



Education Provision – exploring the different stages:

A good education has always been a key part of what we as a charity provide for the children and young people under our care, most of whom really value the opportunities to learn that they are given. The Kenyan education system doesn't always function effectively and the government has introduced a number of changes over the years, some of which have led to confusion and disruption. This was the case in January 19 (the start of their new academic year) when the government insisted on the registration of pupils and for them to go to the schools allocated by the education service. This meant that some of our children started at different schools.

Starting out:

Rose Audrey is our youngest child (6 yrs old) and she is the only one of our children still at the Rehema Mission School, in her second year of 'pre-primary' education. Here she is (on the right) in her class last year:



The latest progress report from Kenya indicates that she is doing well. The learning environment is very basic and the resources limited, but the children show a determination to learn. The Christian ethos of the school also enables them to hear about a God who loves and cares for them and they are

encouraged to believe in His promises in the Bible. The children recite verses and enthusiastically sing songs about Jesus. We pray that Rose will have a living faith herself and grow up to experience God's great plan for her life.

Moving on:

The other Emmanuel Home children and young people have been allocated to other primary schools in the area, in fact spread across 10 different schools determined largely by where they are living (some are based with relatives). Three of the older primary school



children continue to attend the Life Centre – a vibrant Christian school in Kisumu. There are three young people at secondary school – two of them started in ‘Form 1’ this January.

We are unfortunately no longer in a position to offer university course support for those finishing secondary education as the fees are prohibitive. However, individuals already in higher education will be supported through to the end of their courses (for example **Kevin4** doing a Medical Laboratory Technician course at Kisumu Polytechnic). Current secondary school leavers are offered the alternative of vocational training courses to enable them to gain work skills to enhance their employment prospects. In the last newsletter we listed a few young people who were doing such courses, and here’s an update on their progress:

Beatrice has successfully completed her Diploma in Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy and is hoping to start work soon. We are waiting to hear what she might need in the way of equipment and materials to help her get started. The same applies to **Samwel** who did a Plumbing and Drainage course and also learnt to drive. **Baraka** is a young man who didn’t want vocational training but asked for support to start a photography business. We gave him a one-off payment to enable him to buy a laptop for use in his business, and latest reports say he’s doing well. **Lillian** is still doing her Certificate in Nutrition and Dietetics.

Finishing Off:

It was a joy to hear from **Duncan** last December following his graduation - achieving a 1st Class BSc Honours degree in Environmental Management and Conservation. Here are some extracts from a

letter of thanks sent to us by Duncan – which is a testimony to the difference the charity has made in an individual’s life:



Brief History *I’m Duncan Otieno an orphan from the former Kanyawegi Children’s Home which is currently known as Emmanuel Home. I was picked from my rural home in Western Kenya to join the orphanage in 2002 together with my other two siblings, after the death of my parents. Mum died in 2000 when I was starting nursery school and later dad in early 2002 when I was supposed to start standard two. Dad was the sole bread winner for the family and when he passed away life became tough with no relative to look after us. God saw me through the hardships and opened for me the door to join the orphanage when I was eight years old. This gave me a new family that has supported me for the past sixteen years through my education and all basic needs (shelter, clothing, food and health care) I needed.*

Education *After the death of my parents, I had no hope of getting quality education to achieve my dreams of being a doctor, engineer, teacher or lawyer someday as kids do have*

varied dreams. This hope was restored when I got an opportunity to join the orphanage. I was enrolled at Kotetni Primary School to continue with my studies. Shifting from my former primary school affected my performance, I was second to last position in my class (37/38 pupils) and I had to repeat a year. This challenge was caused by my slow adaptation rate to new changes and environment. Some pupils laughed at me and I felt like I wasn’t fit to study in my new school. I never lost my hope towards education and I prayed to God to give me strength and knowledge to understand everything I was being taught in class. Truly God answered my prayers and as I started my new term things changed, I never failed any class assignments and by the end of my first term I topped in my class.

This encouraged me and I believed no matter the obstacles on my way I can do it. I focused more on my studies and God did me wonders. I never ever repeated any class again, my results were excellent and I topped throughout my primary school till I sat for my Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) examinations in 2009 and scored 356/500 marks. I joined Kisumu Boys High School in 2010 which is one of the best provincial secondary schools in Kisumu County. In high school I continued with the spirit of aiming high and I managed to maintain my excellent Performance. I was always in the top hundred till I sat for my Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examinations in 2013.

When the results were released in August 2014 I scored an average of B plain (62 points) and got government sponsorship (the government pays part of the fees but not whole of it) to study in any public university and pursue career of my choice depending on the cluster points I had. I made my choices and was lucky to get a feedback to join Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology on 2nd September 2014 to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in BSc. Environmental Management and Conservation. At the university I focused more towards my studies, the results were excellent and I thank God for rewarding my four years of hard work to graduate successfully.

Graduation *I graduated on 14th December 2018 with First Class honours in BSc. Environmental Management and Conservation. This is a milestone in my life as it's the greatest achievement I have made. I'm now looking forward to apply for any scholarship to do master's degree immediately as from early next year or find a job opportunity that I can do and make some savings to continue with my master's degree later.*

Appreciation *I give thanks to you, UK Board members, my sponsors and all well wishers who have volunteered to support you and contributed towards Kanyawegi to ensure us (orphans) here in Kenya are well educated, fed, sheltered, clothed and given good medical care. We have been one great family bonded by God's love and grace. My gratitude also goes to all former Kanyawegi staffs and the current ones i.e. Mr. Roy Samo and Madam Linda, they have been loving guardians. They raised and cared for us just like their own blood. My years at the orphanage made me feel at home and never felt any pain for losing my parents. I had my new parents (guardians/staffs) and siblings whom I played, went to school with and prayed together as a family.*

Even if we are miles apart and some sponsors/well wishers who have been supporting us haven't been able to visit us in Kenya to see the good work they are doing, I assure you today that you have brought smiles and happiness to many sad faces, light where there was darkness and hope to the hopeless. I pray God to strengthen you all and open more doors to get more contributions to support more orphans just like me. All the good deeds done by all the orphans you have supported is a blessing to you all, may Lord God bless the good work of your hands. To whom much is given much is expected, I'm also looking forward to give a hand to the less fortunate one day just like I have been given.

Thanks to all and be blessed. Duncan

Final Note:

As you can imagine, Duncan's letter was a great encouragement to us and we too pass on our thanks to all our sponsors. If you would like to become a sponsor of our work please contact us and/or complete the standing order form on the back of this leaflet. We have also included some items for prayer, and a **new website address**.

MORE INFORMATION about the work of the Home: For further information, please contact Gill or Peter Skinner, Carino, Old Gore Lane, Emborough, Radstock, Somerset, BA3 4SJ.

Telephone: 01761 232337. Email: peteskinner123@gmail.com

To receive these newsletters by email, please email the above address, and help us save money on postage!

KANYAWEGI UK

Standing Order

To the Managerp.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:

✂

Gift Aid Declaration

**Send to Kanyawegi UK, 'Carino', Old Gore Lane,
Emborough, Radstock, Somerset, BA3 4SJ**

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

Signed:

Date:

Full Name:

Address:

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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

Prayer Pointers



Please pray...

- For all the children and young people, regardless of their education stage, that they will make good progress.
- For the Chairman, Peter Skinner, as he considers a further visit to Kisumu this spring.
- Give thanks for the individuals and churches that regularly support the work and pray for the provision of new, regular donors.
- For wisdom for the UK Committee planning the future of the work.
- Most of all, please pray that through the work of Emmanuel Home that children, young people and adults will know how great God is, and how great was the sacrifice he gave in his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

KANYAWEGI UK

Registered Charity No. 1106296

UK Committee (The Trustees):

Chairman: Peter Skinner (01761 232337) or
peteskinner123@gmail.com

Treasurer & Secretary: Sally Petit
Sarah Moxham

(The Committee is also supported by Elizabeth Maggs & Gill Skinner)

Arriving at new platform – the website! The website is a fantastic source of information about the Home and the charity and has been recently moved to a new 'platform', and has a new 'address'. Our thanks to Richard Portsmouth.

<https://www.kanyawegi-uk.org/>

Note the Facebook page address:

<https://www.facebook.com/EmmanuelHomeKanyawegiUK/>

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.