

Karuri School Project

Supporting Sacred Heart School, Naivasha, Kenya

"A Dream for Something Better" - Wangari Cecilia



News Update - February 2015

Words from Wangari



Dear Friends,

My dear friends, thank you so much for the great support you have given our school. You have uplifted us from where you found us. Those who couldn't get enough meals each day are getting enough, through your support; these children are assured of clean water, good health, food, warmth and a comfortable bed.

Sacred Heart could not exist without you, you are the heart of Sacred Heart School. I know it has not been easy to get to where we are, and I continue to say thank you, thank you, thank you... for your effort and for sustaining us. I wish you all a successful new year, full of joy and serenity.

May God grant you all the Graces you need in this year, especially the Grace of good health and may He bless your families and your plans.

My sincere gratitude.

Wangari.

News from the school

The school's students have done remarkably well in recent national exams and several have received sponsorship from Kenyan banks to continue their secondary education in larger schools. Such successes boost the school's reputation and the recruitment of paying pupils. Wangari is very appreciative of the excellent staff she has. She says they work long hours for minimum wages because they know the school is not run as a business like some private schools but is a home for children who have no-one else to help them.

But success has other consequences. Wangari writes: - "When a school performs well the teachers are likely to be 'poached' by other private schools and assured of a high salary. Unfortunately our mathematics teacher was 'poached' by a school in Nairobi. I begged him not to go, however I couldn't afford the salary he was offered. We'll get another teacher ...".



Assembly



Wangari and head teacher

Wangari has opened a nursery class for 3 and 4 year olds as there is such a need in the area; based on previous history we can expect this to grow.

An unusual pupil!

Education remains a random gift in the poorer parts of the world. It was, therefore a surprise when Wangari recently informed us that she had admitted a "pupil" aged 21! For the nomadic Turkana people of Kenya, the keeping of livestock is their life-blood and the children receive little or no education beyond the age of 6. But one young man wanted a second chance at education and arrived at the school wearing just a piece of material and a blanket. Wangari has clothed him and aims to give him a basic education so that he can return to his people and expand the fight against ignorance, illiteracy and poverty. From small acorns.....

Fundraising and donations

The Christmas concert 2014 raised over £700. Grateful thanks to the excellent **Hunsbury Harmonettes** again for giving their services for free. It was the first time they have played at the Cathedral in Northampton and the venue proved to be wonderfully atmospheric - I'm sure the evening put everyone in the mood for the Christmas festivities.

A good time was had by everyone at the **Getting Messy at Kingsley Park** Christmas Party, where £50 was donated towards the "Food for a Year Campaign". Thank you to everyone who helped, your contribution will make a real difference.

£66 was raised from bag sales at the **Hospital and Outreach** coffee morning, and £44 was received in donations.

The sale of **gift cards** raised £400 - thank you to everyone who contributed.

Jill produced a beautiful **Karuri Christmas card** which she sent to friends. This resulted in donations of £435.

An additional £300 was donated by friends in lieu of sending Christmas cards. Thanks to everyone.

Hebe's Music Night raised an amazing £1550. A big thank you to the **Hebe Holmes Memorial Fund**, and particularly her family, for their great support for our recent Live Music Spectacular.



Food for a year

The cost of food in Kenya is very high. Lack of rain has affected crop growing and the harvest is poor. Maize and beans, the staple foods of Sacred Heart School, have been affected by a crop disease. A typical harvest of 150 bags of maize has been reduced to only 45. Shortages of maize, beans, rice and sugar have meant that they will be imported from Tanzania and Uganda, forcing prices even higher. December's "Food for a year" appeal proved successful and we raised just over £1500 thanks to various events and donations. This has meant that Wangari has been able to buy sufficient maize and beans for the year - food which is supplemented monthly by fresh fruit, vegetables and milk.



Parents cleaning beans



The food store

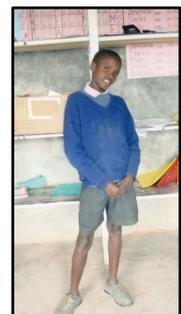
New ways to help

TheGivingMachine is a registered charity, helping people to make a difference to their communities. It works with over 1,500 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, eBay, Sainsbury's and Next, tapping into the world of marketing and converting the sales commissions you generate into free donations for the schools and charities of your choice.

We now have a **Virgin Giving** site, making it easier for donations to the Karuri Project to be made.

More information on both and a link to the sites can be found in 'How to help?' on our website: www.karurisch.org

More orphans of all ages have been admitted to Sacred Heart School. The full horrors of the effects of HIV / Aids in a developing country are becoming increasingly apparent and entire families have been torn apart. Anthony was born in 1999 and has attended our school since 2011. Look out for a case study about him and his success against all the odds in our next newsletter.



Future Fundraising

We are hoping to organise a quiz night - provisionally on Friday 24 April at St Gregory's School. More details later.