

Karuri School Project

Supporting Sacred Heart School, Naivasha, Kenya

"A Dream for Something Better" - Wangari Cecilia



News Update - October 2015

News from the school

A school that is more than a school!

My name is Clare Wanjohi. I am originally from Kenya but have lived and worked as a school teacher in the UK for the last 19 years. Over the last summer holiday, I had the opportunity to spend my holiday with friends and relatives in Kenya and was lucky to be invited to Sacred Heart Primary School, the beneficiary of Karuri School Project. I was very happy to go there; first because I wanted to see my friend Sister Wangari - the founder of the school, and secondly because I was eager to see the new school as it is located only a few kilometres from Kahuru village where I was born and I was curious to see what kind of school it is.

It is hard to describe Sacred Heart Primary School or to summarise what it has achieved over its short period of existence. In fact, you would think the school has always been there; people from the neighbourhood come in and out of the school with all sorts of issues: looking for a place for a child, enquiring about boarding facilities, reporting suspicious visitors in the neighbourhood and enquiring about the welfare of the school, looking for a job or for an opportunity to buy or sell items, reporting or seeking to display a lost or found item, looking for water etc. This school provides a 'community centre' in what looks like an open windy grassland on Kinangop plateau.

Over the two days that I spent with staff and pupils of this school, my eyes were opened to the vast needs of my former home area in a fresh and very down to earth way; almost everyone in the school had some additional, less apparent needs for being there. For some, the school offered a job and a place to call home - the only secure roof over the head not to mention the guarantee of daily bread for both the immediate and extended family. For the children, the very happy school environment means everything! Their happiness was evident and particularly infectious on their sports day as the pupils displayed various cheerleading and entertainment talents. For some children, the school is a refuge from abusive home environments to the extent that some chose not to go home for August holidays and preferred to stay at school. Their stay was facilitated by volunteer adults some of whom may also have been wanting the same basic needs. For a certain young adult that I met, the school is a source

of much needed cash to pay for his regular medication. I never expected so much from an ordinary school that is struggling to become self reliant by growing vegetables, rearing cows and chickens and also collecting and preserving rain water in tanks to ensure their taps continue to run throughout the year.

Sacred Heart school is also establishing itself as a high performing academic institution; while it is always a challenge for a newcomer to the highly competitive Kenyan academic scene to achieve outstanding national examinations results, Sacred Heart school defied many odds last year by achieving excellent results in the Kenya National Primary schools certificate examinations; of the 167 primary schools in the county, the school was ranked position 3 in science results, 4th in social education, 5th in English and Maths and 8th in Kiswahili. You couldn't expect more from a new school.

Words from Wangari



As always, sincere thanks and gratitude go to you all, with love from the staff and students at Sacred Heart School.



Fundraising and donations

Karuri School Project Concert - This raised £420. Many thanks to the Hunsbury Harmonettes who once again provided a fabulous evening's entertainment.

Summer Garden Party - Friends, family, and Karuri supporters having cakes, cocktails and afternoon tea in the hot August sunshine, listening to live music... that is how we planned our first garden party on 30th August. The reality was the usual Bank Holiday deluge which meant all plans were abandoned. A few hardy souls were not deterred, however, and simply waited for the all too brief dry interlude in the evening and turned up with wellies and brollies like hardened British holidaymakers. A big thank you to Gerald Claridge, Track 2 and Last Resort for the entertainment; thanks mostly to one extremely generous benefactor, we raised an incredible £1295 on the night with the promise of further donations via VMG. This amount is almost the exact sum required to fund the school for one month so well done everyone.



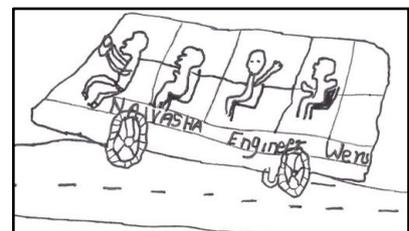
Thanks also go to John and Sue for opening up their home and garden, for allowing their wet and muddy guests in and out, and of course for providing the refreshments inspired by W. Somerset Maugham's novel "Cakes and Ale" (but in the end an equally appropriate title to borrow might have been his short story "Rain"!).

Coffee and Cakes for Karuri - Around 30 people came to the Sacred Heart Parish Hall and enjoyed a cup of tea or coffee with a wide selection of delicious cakes, all home made! With the Bring and Buy sale we raised £220. Thanks to all those who attended, donated gifts or cakes, or helped on the day.

Northampton Half Marathon - Ashwin Dubay of ZES Care completed the full course in 2 hours 13 minutes, and his colleagues Sakshi and Michele completed the 5k course. Congratulations to all of them, and many thanks for the £150 sponsorship money.

Future Fundraising

Sacred Heart School now faces yet another challenge - to increase the number of children on its roll by providing transport (like other private schools) to children who live further away from the school environment and who cannot afford boarding fees. A school minibus would also enable children to visit places of interest, and widen their horizons.



Hunsbury Harmonettes Christmas Concert - Sacred Heart Church, Weston Favell, Northampton Friday, 4th December, 2015 - 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Tickets £5, festive refreshments available.

World of Difference Fair - St Giles Church, Northampton - Saturday, 14th November 2015, 11am - 4pm Free admission. Please come and buy a Kenyan handbag to support the Karuri School Project.

Chrissie Collins will be completing a skydive to raise money for the **Hebe Holmes Memorial Fund** which exists to support the Karuri School Project. Please check out her Virgin Money Giving page if you are able to support her. <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/ChristineCollins2>

Good luck, Chrissie.