

Karuri School Project

Supporting Sacred Heart School, Naivasha, Kenya

"A Dream for Something Better" - Wangari Cecilia



News Update - February 2016

Words from Wangari



Dear friends,
 During the last 5 years you have provided a decent education to many children in a caring environment and hence enabled them break the vicious cycle of poverty and hopelessness.
 We might not change the whole world, but we have already changed the world of these destitute children. Yes we can all make a difference.
 God bless, Wangari

News from the school

Sacred Heart School continues to thrive and exam results have improved even on the excellent results of last year. Currently there are 120 children on roll - 60 day students and 60 boarders, aged up to 14 years old. 87 children are orphans and destitute, including 3 girls from the Masai Mara area of Kenya. These girls had never been in a vehicle, seen a toilet or even a proper bed. When Wangari fetched them, they were beside themselves on the journey, with a mixture of apprehension and excitement.

The children are taught and nurtured by a growing number of caring staff; a headteacher, eleven teachers, two matrons, one caretaker/gardener/maintenance man and a watchman.

The school garden provides a variety of nourishing vegetables, including cabbages, carrots, spinach, marrow, beetroot and onions. The school now only has to buy rice, sugar, tea, maize and bread. Maize is grown for the cows and there is a machine to grind it. Wood also has to be bought, and any surplus is made into charcoal. The school has an impressive list of livestock, 150 chickens, 100 rabbits, 3 turkeys, 2 bulls, 3 cows (plus 2 calves, including a new and valuable 'baby girl' from Helen's cow!), 2 dogs (plus 6 puppies) and 5 sheep.

The school now has electricity, providing light for all the classrooms, the kitchen and dining room, toilets and teachers' homes.



Wangari's Visit to Rome in February - Patricia and Alan Moore



In The Vatican, January saw the conclusion of the Year of Consecrated Life. Celebrations were held in Rome between January 28th and February 2nd, and conferences were attended by more than 4000 people from all over the world. The initiative, led by Pope Francis, aimed to be an occasion of renewal for men and women in consecrated life, and of thanksgiving for their service. Wangari and one other person from Kenya were invited to attend, effectively representing their country, and Wangari was the only person from the whole of Africa invited to give a presentation on their work. Her speech was well received, and we are told that the other delegates found it "heartfelt and moving". Wangari herself was excited to see the Pope in St Peter's Basilica during the final celebratory audience. We are so proud that Wangari was able to promote the school in such a prestigious environment, and we hope that the reputation of the school in Kenya will be enhanced in such a way that more parents will hear about it and want to send their children there.



Rome continued...

Wangari's intention was to come to England after the conference, but difficulties and delays with visas meant this was not possible. Since this was such a good opportunity to catch up with all the latest news, we decided to spend a few days with Wangari in Rome, staying with her at the Suore Benedettine Missionarie di Tutzing. Lots of time was spent talking about the school and the role of the project, but the opportunity was taken as well to show Wangari some of the famous sights of Rome, and to try Italian coffee and food in the street cafes.



Fundraising and donations



We always welcome new donors and sponsors. Many of you prefer to remain anonymous, but a big THANK YOU goes to every single person who has helped to make the Karuri School Project such a success. Our thanks go to everyone who donated money to the school over Christmas and the New Year, and you can be assured that we appreciate you all. The year 2015 ended with two major fundraising events. First, and most spectacular, was the sponsored skydive by thrill-seeking committee member Chrissie Collins. Together with supporter Pete Holmes, over £3000 was raised for the project. Our annual Christmas concert, performed by the Hunsbury Harmonettes, started the festive season in style, and over £700 was raised, so well done and thanks to everyone who supported us. For more details please look at the "latest news" page on our website, www.karurisch.org

Thanks must also go to WI member Bella Tapp who donated beautiful Christmas Cards which she designed and printed herself. We raised nearly £100 from the sale of the cards.

Future Fundraising

Our ongoing Coppers for Karuri (CFK) appeal continues almost invisibly as no-one really notices 1p and 2p coins. We have now collected over £1000 so please keep them coming - we shall have collecting tins at all our events or John Sleet will collect any coins (call on 07982 511029) when your collection is too heavy to carry! Special thanks to the efforts of committee member Marina, and to those WI members who willingly empty their purses at meetings.

Bag sales are continuing to be held at WI meetings when Karuri talks are given. A new consignment of the popular bucket bags has just arrived in a variety of designs from Wangari. The latest "shoppers" have proved very popular.

We are now planning our next quiz night which will take place on Friday, 29th April at St Gregory's Catholic Primary School, Grange Road, Northampton, at 7.00pm for 7.15 start. Get your teams together to have a chance of the £50 prize and take on the challenge of the wipeout round!

A Tea Dance is also in the planning stage! Strictly Come Karuri!

Links with other schools

We have recently revisited our links with Thomas Becket and St Gregory's Schools in Northampton following lots of staff changes. Thomas Becket School held a year 7 design competition for our Christmas Gift certificate. Congratulations to student Nell Popham for the winning design. Three members of staff at the school are looking into the possibilities of visiting the Project in Kenya later this year, although planning is still in the early stages.

Assemblies have also been held at St Gregory's School and the children are going to support Karuri School Project for their Lenten project and for the coming 'Year of Mercy'. St Gregory's School was one of the biggest fundraisers at the outset of the Project and without their help it is unlikely that Sacred Heart School would have been built in the first place.

