



# FRIENDS OF THE KAREN STREET CHILDREN

www.karenstreetchildren.org

*New Year Newsletter 2013*

**There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children.  
Nelson Mandela**

## ANNUAL PRIZEGIVING IS HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH 'THE FRIENDS OF DAGORETTI CHILDREN'

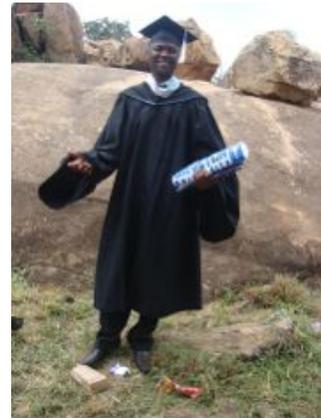


This year, for the first time, KSC joined forces with The Friends of Dagoretti Children to hold their annual prize-giving ceremony. All the outstanding students are justly awarded and the day is a celebration enjoyed by both charities. The picture here shows Catherine, the Social Worker, with all the award winners. KSC students are in blue t-shirts.



Juliana (Year 3) and Jecinta (Year 1) shown here respectively were our outstanding students this year, both of whom deserve a special mention for their hard work and dedication.

## FOCUS ON JACKSON KIARE



### My Heart Felt Gratitude

Allow me to observe a moment of silence....!

Don't wonder too much, nobody has died but honestly, I don't know any other way to express this.

A heart felt gratitude from the depth of my heart, as I vividly reminisce the first sight and a glance at your face. Deep within my heart I was confused with a multitude of problems back at home yet a bold smile from your face brought back hope and a sense of value from within.

This was the first step with the Karen Street Children Trust. A million words may not express this appropriately, but allow me to say thank you with all humility and respect.

I am at a loss of words; however I sincerely wish the weight of gratitude in my heart would be transmitted to each of yours to understand that I am very grateful and humbled by your benevolence and empathy.

To Dr Romi Grammaticas, you have not only been a mother, but everyone one would wish to have in a family. Long live 'mama'. To Mrs Dee Huth, may the showers of blessings wet your footpaths all your life. Asante. To Catherine, for all your guidance, support, care and love, God bless you and your family. To all the Committee members of KSC Trust, ASANTE. To the Robin Hood Trust, may the Almighty open the heavens gates to shower you with unlimited blessings. Many thanks.

To every other person I cannot forget to say that I couldn't have been who I am without you and surely I appreciate every little and much to this end. 'Asante na Baraka ziwafikie'

I could have continued but I realize I will never stop saying thank you, so let me make a pause for this will go on forever.

*Jackson has graduated from Day Star University in Community Development and is now working for the Christmas Craft Fair Trust.*

## SUSAN MACKINLAY'S FAREWELL



It was with huge sadness that we said farewell to Susan MacKinlay who, as a Trustee, has worked tirelessly for 4 years with KSC. Sadly Susan and her husband Scott have been relocated to Ethiopia and we all wish them every happiness and success in their new job and home.

And below we see some of the students on their visit to the National Museum of Kenya.



## THE WELL-DESERVED PATS ON THE BACK

The Karen Vineyard Church held their annual Christmas Carol Service in the grounds of the Karen Blixen Museum, at the foot of the Ngong Hills (to quote from the film *Out of Africa*). This year the attendance was overwhelming and a massive KSH 98,000 (£695) was raised on for the Karen Street Children.

The Polo Tournament raised KSH 27,000 (£192) for KSC this year for which we are also extremely grateful.

This year's Christmas cards, once again designed by local artist Katy MacIntyre-Brown, raised £445 (KSH 62,700) for KSC. Thank you to everyone who bought them and hope you will look out for them again next year!

## THE KAREN STREET CHILDREN'S TRUST

For the past 16 years the Karen Street Children's Trust has been working to build a brighter future for impoverished and disadvantaged children from the slums surrounding the Karen suburb of Nairobi. To date we have helped 142 young people building worthwhile lives through education, training and employment opportunities and currently we are working with 48 bright sponsored students. Each has been selected on the basis of hardship at home and the potential to benefit from a good education. We are proud that so many have grasped the opportunity and worked hard to achieve top grades. It is our policy to educate each sponsored student to the level from which each will benefit and then to equip them with skills which will help them to earn in an increasingly difficult employment environment. We have also been working with the Dynamic Business Start-Up Programme which assists young people with self-employment business skills.

So many bright children in Kenya have no hope of education beyond the state-subsidised primary schooling. All secondary schooling has to be paid for and this is beyond the realms of possibility for so many.

All our students are in boarding schools and colleges across the country where they are getting an education in a safe environment with food provided and a bed to sleep in at night. Many of our students are not assured of even these basics at home. We are proud to be able to provide for a small group of bright children what so many elsewhere take for granted.

## CURRENT SPONSORSHIP FEES FOR 2012

Despite rising costs in Kenya for education both in primary and secondary schools we are endeavouring to keep our sponsor fees the same aware that many of you are also feeling the credit crunch. It does mean we will probably have to find cuts somewhere along the line, but assure our sponsors that none of our children will suffer as a result. The sad news is that this puts education even further out of the reach of the majority of the population of Kenya.

PRIMARY SCHOOL BOARDING FEES KSH 63,250/£550 pa  
SECONDARY SCHOOL BOARDING FEES KSH 92,000/£800 pa

This is based on actual costs and includes school fees, food and accommodation for boarding pupils, text books and stationery, all uniform, shoes, transport, tuck, pocket money, holiday tuition and activities, cover for medical emergencies and the pastoral care and support of our qualified counsellor, Catherine Gachui, our one and only paid employee.

## DONATE WHILST YOU SHOP!

For UK based supporters - you can now donate to KSC whilst you shop online without it costing you a penny! [www.Easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.Easyfundraising.org.uk) provides a FREE fundraising service where you can raise funds for KSC when you shop online with shops like M&S, Amazon, Argos, Tesco's, Sainsbury's, Boden amongst many others! Join and fundraise for free for KSC.

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