

SASA

Sasa means **NOW** or **WHAT'S UP** in Kiswahili

every child deserves an opportunity.

INTRODUCING KATUNGE

In 2015 Katunge rejoined our African LEAF family. She is one of our treasured associates and her role is helping the children in their transition from the Steiner School to boarding high school. She helps them find a school and acts as their de facto guardian, helping them if they encounter any difficulties. Through her we are able to monitor how the children are going. Katunge has a long history with LEAF and director John Adam recounts the early days.

In 2004, my wife Susan and I took up residence in a beautiful home in the bush on the outskirts of Nairobi, overlooking the Nairobi National Park. As with all houses in Kenya, it came with staff. Wilson, a Maasai, was the night Askari (guard), and looking after the house was a lovely lady called Katunge. Wilson would come on duty around 6:00pm, start the generator so we had lights, and commence his patrolling of the area to ensure that no dangerous animals came too close – especially if we were returning from an outing after dark. As there were no fences it was common for animals to wander around at night. We had the Mbagathi River down the hill in front of us that was home to the odd Hippo, and the occasional Buffalo would wander by – Lions were always in the vicinity and Giraffe were often grazing on the numerous Acacia trees. There were no Elephants in the area, nor had there been for many years, but one night a herd that



had taken a wrong turn 100 kilometres away, casually wandered up our driveway. Wilson came around the corner of the house and walked straight into them. I think he nearly had a heart attack! The Kenyan Wildlife Service eventually rounded them up and transported them back to Amboseli National Park where they had originally set out from.

Witnessing all that went on and keeping an expert eye on things was Katunge. We warmed to her immediately and a good friendship developed quickly. Having staff to tend to our every need was totally foreign to us so we did our own cooking, but keeping the house sparkling clean was Katunge's pride and joy. She soon became part of our early activities with what was to become African LEAF. She would travel with us into the vast Kawangware Slum to the children's kindergarten that we had started to support, acting as our translator. When

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THE JOURNEY TO INDEPENDENCE

Brian and Kevin sat for their final high school exams, have left their schools and are following our 2 eldest LEAF children, Sheila and Faulat on their journey to independence. As we mentioned in our last newsletter, both the girls are living and working at Ololo resort (Faulat is also

doing a university degree online).

So now Kevin and Brian are moving into the next phase of their journey. Kevin has chosen to move closer to his ambition to be a disc jockey as he loves music and we can report that he has been enrolled in the Captain DJ Academy which is "a DJ school

designed to shape culture through raising professional entertainers".

Brian is waiting to enrol in a full time tourism course at Kenyatta University which begins in April. Meantime he enrolled in a driving school to enable him to get his driving licence which could help him to earn some money while he studies. He is now licenced to drive a car, truck and motorbike! He is also enrolled in a Computer course which will give him some skills before beginning the university course. We'll keep you updated on how they are going.

ANOTHER 3 LEAF CHILDREN MOVE TO HIGH SCHOOL

At the end of last year, Lincoln, Patrick and Saumu sat for their end of year 9 exams. We're happy to report that schools have been found for all three. Katunge found schools for Patrick and Lincoln. The boys are in schools near her so we have had news from her that they are both happy

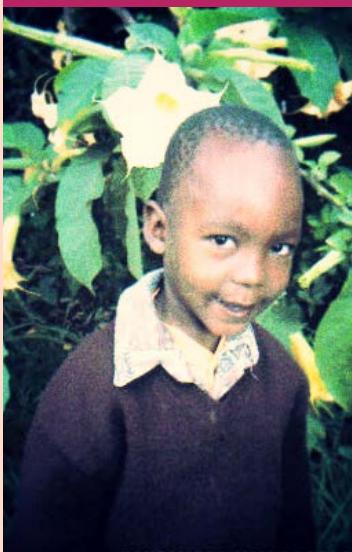
at their schools and not experiencing any difficulties. Another of our valued associates, Jane Njogu, helped find Saumu a school. Saumu is of the Muslim faith so we felt that it was important to find a school where she has others of her faith around her. She is a little further away so we

The Steiner School only takes the children to the end of year 9 when they move to a boarding High School. As we wrote in the last newsletter, the transition can be a difficult time for the children but so far all our LEAF children have managed to overcome any difficulties and to continue their education.

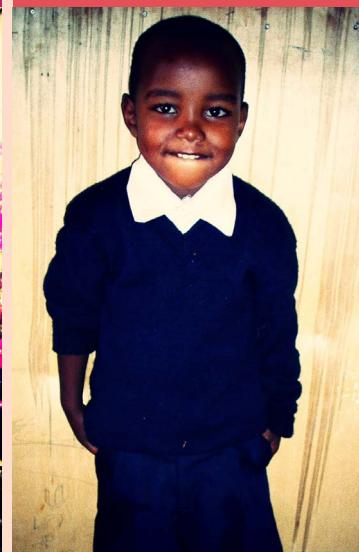
await news of her when term ends and will let you know how she's going in the next newsletter.

Here are photos of the boys in their new school uniforms and also a photo of them when they first came to LEAF. How they've grown into 2 beautiful young men!

Patrick



Lincoln



Then (left) & now (right)



Then (left) & now (right)

UPDATE ON FRANCIS

In our last newsletter, we reported on a new member of our LEAF family, Francis who was found aged around 2 wandering the streets alone. He now attends the Steiner School and, thanks to our Giver of Hope donations, we are paying one of the Steiner house mums, Pamela, to take care of him during holidays as he has no known family. Pamela has sent us an update.

"Francis has really improved all round. His communication skills are improving by the

day. You can now hear and understand what he says. He still likes playing and innovating things. In class they are doing finger knitting and making pompoms which is so exciting to him. He has done a couple of the finger knitting and the pompom is yet to be finished. The language he understands most is Kiswahili and he also knows a few words in English.

He has a friend in class called Alex. He has really grown and his social skills have greatly improved. He loves singing and painting. He also loves tea a lot! He has really grown and evolved a lot in terms of emotions, social and physical and he has a very sharp memory."



Francis



AFRICAN LEAF & SUPPORTERS CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER

At the end of last year we decided to invite all our local supporters to join us for a Christmas get together which was held on December 13th at the home of Ed Ahern. A great afternoon was had by all, and

included delicious pizzas cooked in a wood fired oven by Ed's son Tom. Our grateful thanks to Ed for his generosity in providing both the beautiful location and the pizzas and to Tom for his catering skills.

Available for sale at the gathering were our gift cards and some of the Kenyan craft work which make ideal small gifts for Christmas. Sales raised \$616.

Thanks to all who contributed.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE **Ocean Shores Shopping Centre**

For the third year running, our admin assistant Susan set up a pre-Christmas stall in her local shopping centre, selling our gift cards and Kenyan craftwork. Over 4 days \$1,959 was raised. Considering that most of the items sold were under \$10, this is a great result. Our thanks to Veronica and the Ocean Shores Shopping Centre management and of course to all the many people who stopped, looked and purchased!

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS **Trivia Night 2017**

Put the date in your diary and prepare for another night of fun ... our annual Trivia Night will be held on **Saturday 29th July**. More details to come. We hope you can get a team together and come and support this FUNdraiser.

African Dance Music Fundraiser

Put this in your diary too and get ready to put on your dancing shoes. One of our supporters, Fiona Hunter, has generously offered to organise a fundraiser for LEAF which will be in the style of the Wink, Wink, Nudge Nudge fundraisers you may have heard of. It will be on **Sunday 29th October**, 3 – 7pm in the Billinudgel Hotel. This will be a great family event with free entry and amazing raffles. More details will be sent closer to the date.

WHO GIVES A CRAP?



Well we do for starters, especially when we find a company that's not only providing a great service but also donating 50% of

its profits to help build toilets and improve sanitation in Nairobi's infamous slums - where nearly all of our African Leaf kids come from and most still return to 3 times each year to spend their school holidays in the care of aunts, grandparents or guardians.

So we're making an exception to our usual policy of not promoting private businesses to give a big plug to Who Gives A Crap, which since 2013 has been changing the lives of some of the world's most disadvantaged people by giving them access to clean toilets and clean water. According to their website (see below) their research showed that "2.3 billion people (roughly 40% of the world's population) don't have access to

a toilet" and "[p]oor sanitation causes diarrhoea related diseases that fill over half of sub-Saharan African hospital beds and kill 900 children under 5 every day".

So please check them out and consider supporting them. They sell great toilet paper, paper towels and tissues, all 'forest friendly' and delivered to your door for around the same cost or less than buying in a supermarket. Their website address is:

<https://au.whogivesacrap.org/>

and you can check out their partner organisation Sanergy which builds and franchises toilets to clean up Nairobi's slums and then collects and converts the waste into agricultural products for Kenya's farmers here:

<http://saner.gy/our-work/the-sanergy-model>

SHELA LAMU ISLAND KENYA

A BRIEF HISTORY OF KENYA CONTINUED BY JOHN ADAM

On the northern coast of Kenya, separated from the mainland by tidal mangrove swamps and narrow waterways, lies the exotic Moorish island of Lamu. Lamu Island has been a port of call for centuries. The many historical sites are proof of the area's long and rich history which dates back to the 7th century.

Once the epicentre for East African trade, Lamu gained fame through international trade routes. Lamu's strategic position between the Arabian, Persian and Indian worlds allowed an endless stream of spices, silks and slaves to be traded with Africa. The subsequent mixture of cultures, languages and religions eventually called for a few common strands. The people wanted

something to call their own, an ethnicity to identify with. And so, Swahili was born.

Although the days of spices and slavery are long gone, the traditional Swahili lifestyle remains, right down to the only form of island transportation – donkeys (no vehicles on Lamu). Gleaming white buildings, ancient stone pillars, arched verandas, humble mosques and maze-like streets welcome all to Lamu's acclaimed harbour.

Shela Village, an easy walk from the main town, is a tangle of narrow sandy lanes, tall white stone houses festooned with Bougainvillea of all colours, smaller makuti roofed dwellings, mosques, ruins and a spacious square fringed by market stalls, small shops and the one public

telephone booth. Here in the cool of the evening the elders gather to talk while women come out to shop,

At sunset Peponi Hotel is the traditional gathering place for visitors, enjoying a cold Tusker beer as the sun sets over Africa and the fishing dows sail in with their catch.

Arriving by plane from Malindi or Nairobi can have its hazards. Recently, while attempting to land on the adjacent Manda Island, a short Dow ride across the estuary, a buffalo herd from the mainland had crossed at low tide and was grazing on the grass airstrip and had to be chased away into the surrounding bush by the airport workers. An exciting start to anyone's holiday!

LESSON 17 LEARNING KISWAHILI TRAVEL

Forodha

Customs

Paspoti

Passport

Teksi

Taxi

Gari

Basi

Hoteli

Car

Bus

Hotel

Mji

Mtaa

Town

Street