

SASA

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

every child deserves an opportunity.

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Jane with Kelly, Annet, Purity & Dorm Mather at the Steiner School

"I am Jane Njogu a nurse and mother of five plus one LEAF sponsored boy by name Lucky Moses Munyaka. Lucky was taken in by LEAF at one day old after I had rescued him from an abortion attempt at five month gestation and he will be turning seven on 4th August. He shares a birthday with US president Barrack Obama. His mother had attempted to have an abortion because he was a result of rape. I got in touch with LEAF in 2004 as the organization stepped in to rescue two children Kiki and Diana in one of Kenya Nairobi slums who

OUR TREASURED ASSOCIATES IN KENYA

Working as we do in Nairobi from so far away, it's extremely important to have people we can trust on the ground working with us. We are fortunate to have 2 such people:

JANE NJOGU

Jane can always be relied on to sort out any problems which may occur with the children, particularly during the school holidays. She has also helped to find high schools for the children when they leave the Steiner Boarding school. Jane also takes care of one of our sponsored children, Lucky Moses. Here is a profile written by Jane.

had been abandoned in a house by their drunkard parents for a week. In 2007 LEAF Organization engaged me as its representative as well as contact person who oversees and support its children's welfare In Kenya.

Among the children LEAF has sponsored, four are in high school though two are sponsored at individual level and two will join next year. I appreciate being part of these children's lives by following up on their affairs and reporting to LEAF plus being physically emotionally and socially involved

in their development. When the children have issues, I visit their schools, homes and together with their guardians or parents work out an inclusive solution. Then I do and send reports to LEAF.

LEAF had given me an old Laptop which I have used for years but it finally broke down due to age. I now have to attend a private cyber for my report and that becomes quite expensive. I would like to request for a laptop donation from friends of LEAF through the organization to ease my report writing for the children's programme. Thanks, Jane"

DIANA MAENA

Another associate is Diana Maena who has been working with African LEAF in Kenya since July 2013 as our Kenyan Administrator. Diana is responsible for organizing payments and managing African LEAF's Kenyan Bank Account and liaising with all and sundry to keep the wheels turning smoothly, so her role is extremely important. Diana is married to Alfred, and has a young son, Alvin. The following is a brief history of Diana's involvement in African LEAF as she sees it ...

"Hi! I first heard of African Leaf when I was assisting with the management of Kenyan band, Yunasi. They went to Australia for Bluesfest 2008 and had a performance in aid of raising funds for African LEAF.

I later came to meet John Adam and Susan Perrow who told me more about what African LEAF does for the children, who are mainly from Kawangware. I was really touched by the generosity of the sponsors - I felt that they were making a big difference

to the lives of these Kenyan children Having met some of the children and seeing the impact that African Leaf has made in their lives, it was a no brainer for me when John, Susan, Paul and Eva asked me to assist in the running of the African Leaf Kenya account. I feel like I'm making a small difference in a child's life by being part of the African LEAF Team. I am very happy to have been given the opportunity."

A BIG THANK YOU to Diana and Jane!



Diana and her husband Alfred

GIVER OF HOPE DONATIONS



Esther

HELP LEAF SUPPORT ESTHER THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL

A few months ago we received an email from Judith Brown at the Steiner School in Nairobi. Judith wanted to know if African LEAF was able to help an ex student of the school, Esther who is now High School age and who had approached her asking for help.

Judith explained that, after leaving the Steiner School, Esther had been sponsored to a mission high school where she had a very traumatic experience. She went to the police who went with her to the school but she wasn't believed by the staff and was expelled and she lost her sponsor. Since then she has been struggling to survive, having no money to pay for high school.

Her mother and father are dead. She has sisters with whom she has no contact and she was living with her grandfather until he died last year. So now she has no family. She has been staying with a lady she met

at a church otherwise she would be in the streets.

Judith told us "Esther says since she has been out of school she has been studying hard from friends' books etc, and she does not need to repeat classes. She is totally dedicated to her education. I believe a school could be convinced not to ask her to repeat due to her dedication to her studies."

One of our directors, Eva, remembered Esther from the Steiner school and suggested that we agree to pay for

Esther's school fees/uniform/books etc from the Giver of Hope donations. Esther immediately found herself a school which she is now attending, thanks to the generosity of our Givers of Hope to whom she wrote a letter of thanks (see excerpt below).

A couple of weeks ago we were delighted to hear from Judith that Esther has received a very positive mid-term school report and is Number 1 in her class. She has sent us her school report showing A's in all but one subject and another letter to her sponsors in which she says:

I thank you all for making my future to be bright and also for paying for my fees. IF its not for you all I dont know or guess where I would have been. All I can say its thanks to God and you all.

NEW SPONSORS NEEDED



Around this time last year we sent out a call for a sponsor for a little girl called Purity and were delighted that a sponsor came forward.

We now have another girl called Purity needing a sponsor, this time a 13 year old who is sister to one of our sponsored children Kevin.

Purity has been attending Class 5 at the Angels Academy where her brother Kevin attends secondary school. The family are living in dire conditions in the slums. They are undergoing extreme financial difficulties and are unable to pay her school fees. The Pastor of her school tells us that Purity is a very bright girl who is always within the first 12 positions in her class. He feels it's important for her to continue her education.



Christine, one of our sponsored children, has been sponsored by a group of co-sponsors and unfortunately one of them has had to pull out of the co-sponsorship. Christine is 11 years old and in Class 5. She has been supported by African LEAF for the last 4 years. Her father died and her mother remarried and did not want Christine in the same household with her new husband so she was living with a middle-aged guardian and her husband along with 5 other children ranging in age from 2½ to 20 years before she came into the care of African LEAF. She is a very bright kid who loves learning, her teachers, her friends and playtime after school hours. You will always find her skipping, jumping and running about the lovely Steiner playground with her friends. Her English is excellent, she is polite and attentive and she has self-confidence. Because of the group co-sponsorship situation, the monthly co-sponsorship fee for Christine is very affordable.

If you are interested in sponsoring Purity or Christine and giving them an opportunity for a brighter future or if you would like further information, please contact admin@africanleaf.org.au

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

UPCOMING FUNDRAISER

MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH

The first Tuesday in November is fast approaching and this will be a great opportunity for you to have a bet and enjoy a glass or two of champagne along with a delicious lunch whilst at the same time be helping LEAF to continue to help vulnerable and orphaned children in Kenya. The venue will once again be the Deck at Byron restaurant in the beautiful setting of Byron Bay Golf Club.

So many good reasons to join us: Superb surroundings; a delicious 2-course lunch; a complimentary drink on arrival; glamorous models presenting fabulous designs by local designers and after the race ... dance to music by a great local band (details to be advised over coming weeks).

Cost will be \$85 per head. Get together a table of 10 or we can put you on a table with other smaller groups. Tables are limited so contact admin@africanleaf.org.au or Susan on 0423 033 213 to ensure your booking.

MONEY SPINNER

Since May 2008 a donations collection device called the Money Spinner has been steadily collecting donations for us. Most of the time it has been situated at the Green Garage and for one year at the Ocean Shores Shopping Centre. This has been a steady income for us and our thanks go to Nathan at Green Garage for his continuing support. The Money Spinner is a favourite of children as they watch their coins leave the chute and do an incredible spin before spiralling downwards into the collection box.

Due to the success of the Money Spinner, we have purchased a new one which is smaller in size so easier to fit into a commercial premises. (right).

We are looking for somewhere to place it.

If you can help, please email admin@africanleaf.org.au.



LAPTOP REQUIRED

We are in need of a working laptop which would be used mainly just for emails and typing of reports so it doesn't have to be that powerful or that recent. The laptop is for use by our associate in Kenya, Jane

Njogu. Please refer to our lead story featuring a letter from Jane in which she asks for help in obtaining a laptop. If you're able to help, please contact Susan on admin@africanleaf.org.au.



A SHORT HISTORY OF KENYA Continued ...

BY JOHN ADAM

THE DARKER SIDE OF KENYA

For the past few issues of African LEAF's newsletter, I have covered the more romantic side of our involvement in Kenya. For sure, thoughts of East Africa conjure up all sorts of romantic ideas – Safari, exotic out of the way places, meeting interesting fellow travelers, seeing wildlife at close quarters etc. but there is a darker side to African LEAF's involvement in Kenya. This involves the politics of Kenya, the out of control corruption that infiltrates every part of life, and the ever-increasing gap between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots' - which is gradually but steadily growing. This shows in the growth of Nairobi's and Mombasa's urban slums.

Like the rest of Africa, Kenya is still predominantly rural, but urbanizing

rapidly. Today, 30 percent of Kenyans live in cities. From now on, most of Kenya's population growth will be urban. Kenya's population is approximately 40 million, rising at the rate of one million plus per year and while the total population will double by 2045, the urban population will more than quadruple.

But what will all these people do to earn a living you may wonder. As things stand major changes must be made to the structure of Kenya and the economy. In the meantime, Kenya's urban slums are expanding at rapid rates. Kibera slum is the biggest slum on the African continent, followed by Kawangware where the majority of African LEAF children come from. Nairobi's slums are

desperately crowded: they occupy less than 6 percent of Nairobi's residential land, yet are home to 60 percent of the city's population. The slum areas are not formally recognized by the government and thus lack basic services such as water, sanitation, and health services. The result is that children in the slums have a higher mortality and morbidity rate than children in other parts of Kenya.

So why are we involved in such a program as African LEAF? As far as I am concerned I hope that some of our sponsored children will somehow, some day, make a difference for the people of this most amazing, exciting and diverse country.

LESSON 11: LEARNING KISWAHILI MAKAZI MANENO HOME WORDS

Meza Table
Kiti Chair

Kitanda Bed
Chumba Room

Bafu Bathroom
Choo Toilet

Hema Tent