

SASA

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

every child deserves an opportunity.

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PAUL & EVA'S RECENT VISIT TO KENYA

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THE SCHOOL.



January 2010

Dear friends,

Paul and I went back to Kenya and caught up with the children in early January after they returned from their Christmas holidays with their extended families.

It was delightful to see the kids again. They all looked happy and vibrant and were bouncing around the school. They showed us the plants they had been growing before they left for their vacation and the girls were very excited about the recently-added new study area and new bedrooms at the boarding facility.

It was wonderful to discover that we can now communicate more easily with most of the Leaf children. Their English speaking skills have really improved since they have been attending the Steiner School and as a result they are not as shy with us as they have been on past visits. Because of this, we learned little anecdotes about their holidays and how important it was for them

to catch up with their extended families. But it was also very apparent how happy and appreciative they were to be back at their lovely school with plenty of food and playmates around.

On many afternoons after classes, the Leaf kids and other boarders at the school delighted in playing the different games we had brought them from Australia. The kids were playing with such intensity that the house mothers told me they could not believe how time could fly away like that in after-school hours.

One of the highlights of the visit was when we took all the children to Masai Lodge Resort – 4 kms down the road from the School. It was a very memorable experience to travel along that bumpy dirt road with 16 laughing and excitedly chattering children in our four-wheel drive! At the resort we played and danced and dined and everyone had a ball. At the end of dinner we had a presentation for the children, giving each of them a beautiful handmade blanket donated

by Wrap with Love Inc Australia which we had individually name-tagged. They were stoked and looked absolutely stunning in their 'Wraps'.

It's really something special to see the children growing and thriving and to see that most of them have gained a sense of security for their future. That sense of security gives them the freedom to enjoy being children now with a good measure of happiness.

With love and gratefulness for your support,
Eva





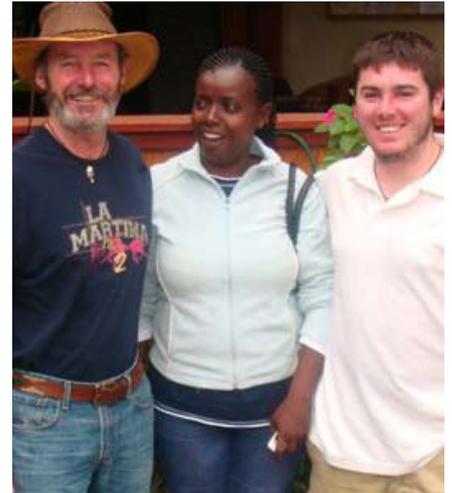
CHILD UPDATE NEW SPONSORED CHILD

Brightlight Akinyi

D.O.B. December 2004

Tribal Group: Luo

Brightlight has been living in Kawangware slum with her aunt Elizabeth Akinyi and her uncle Enoch Odovo. Both her parents are deceased. Her aunt has casual work sewing clothes and her uncle is a casual carpenter. They have two children of their own, and they live in a two room house made of iron sheet walls and roof and a concrete floor. The toilet is outside and shared with other families. Brightlight commenced attending Saints of Hope Kindergarten in Kawangware during 2009. She is now enrolled as a boarder at the Mbgathi Steiner School.



Mike Egan & his son Robbie with African friend in Kenya

Brightlight is sponsored by the Egan Family in Toronto, Canada. Mike Egan, 60, is a retired businessman who has four natural children: Jeff (34), Michelle (32), Robbie (21) and Johnny (20), as well as two adopted boys Musa and Sheremet (both 23) from Kosovo. Mike spends his time playing polo in the summer in Canada, and in Florida in the winter, while travelling in the spring and fall.

Mike travelled to Africa for 2 months with his son Robbie late in 2009 and had the fortunate opportunity to meet Paul Kelly. Mike and Robbie had been trying to find a way to give something back to Africa to help its people. Paul introduced them to African Leaf, the Saints of Hope Day Care Center, and the Mbagathi Rudolf Steiner School. After visiting these schools at the end of their trip, they decided to work through Paul and African Leaf to provide funding for a SOH Food Program and to sponsor a child from the slums to go to the Steiner school. For Mike's 60th Birthday, he asked his friends to give money instead of gifts to support the food program – and over \$5,000 was raised!! Also for Christmas, the family decided that in lieu of buying gifts for each other, they would instead sponsor a child from the slums to go to boarding school.

Mike and his family are excited about their new extended family in Africa and have plans to raise more money for African Leaf to support the ongoing food program and funding of children from the slums to get a proper education.



UPDATE SAINTS OF HOPE KINDERGARTEN KAWANGWARE, NAIROBI

As well as sponsoring 17 children to attend the Mbagathi Steiner School on the outskirts of Nairobi, African Leaf is the major financial supporter of the Saints of Hope Kindergarten (Day Care Centre) in Nairobi's Kawangware slum - paying the monthly rent and essential night security services as well as assisting in various other ways.

We are happy to acknowledge the following generous donations made during 2009 to be directly spent on the Saints of Hope Kindergarten:

- \$2000** Donated by the McAuley/Reen family through African Leaf in April 2009
Provided a sand pit with a shade cover and swings, slide and climbing frame, plus a rain water tank and new kitchen benches - construction commenced in May and completed in December 2009.
- \$450** Collected from a Storytelling Evening held at John Adam & Susan Perrow's home
This was used to supplement wages.
- \$500** Collected from a concert at the Australian Steiner Early Childhood Conference in Brisbane
This was used to supplement wages.
- \$750** A collection of donations from different individuals around Australia
This money was used for a variety of things - wages through the year; a Christmas Bonus to the teachers; and a 'kick-start' for a new food program for the first term in 2010.
- \$5000** Donation through African Leaf by Mike Egan in Canada in December 2009
This will be used for a food program from Term 2, 2010 onwards.
- \$500** Donated in Dec 2009 from a family in Whitehorse, Yukon
This will be used towards setting up a new kitchen in readiness for the food program.

www.saints-of-hope-kindergarten.blogspot.com

MAJOR SUPPORTERS & SPONSORS

Horizon
foods

A big **THANK YOU** to Mike and Alice McAuley, owners of Horizon Foods in the Byron Bay Industrial Estate.

Horizon Foods is a health food supplier, specialising in certified organic, gluten free and dietary-specific foods as well as personal health and beauty and hygiene products. They actively promote local products, thereby keeping the support within the local community, as well as minimizing food miles, and as result carbon emissions. They are the largest health foods distributor in the Northern Rivers of New South Wales, delivering locally, nationally and internationally.

Not only do Mike and Alice sponsor African Leaf child Kevin, they also serve as our financial officers and generously take care of African LEAF's bookkeeping. Horizon Foods is also our registered business address and is where our monthly directors' meetings take place.

They have been most generous in donating various goods in many of our fundraising events over the years and we greatly appreciate their substantial and ongoing support.

Asante Sana (Thank You) Mike & Alice



Mike and Alice McAuley



MEMBER PROFILE

PAUL KELLY

Paul helped to co-found African Leaf soon after he returned from his first visit to Kenya in 2004.

While holidaying in Nairobi, Paul was invited to the official opening of a small 'children's rescue centre' in the Kawangware slum by his Australian friends John Adam and Susan Perrow. The experience had an enormous impact on Paul and proved to be life-changing. It was his first visit to Africa and his first direct experience of the extreme poverty and shocking living conditions of the untold millions of Africans who live in slums, as well as of the devastation being caused to African families by the HIV Aids epidemic.

Paul returned to Australia intent on doing all he could to help raise funds for the 'rescue centre' and was soon joined in this quest by several close friends, which resulted

in the formation of African Leaf and its application to the NSW Government for a charitable fundraising authority in 2005. He has since worked continuously for Leaf and is its longest-serving committee person, secretary and now director/secretary.

A passionate believer that education is the key to eliminating poverty as well as the systemic corruption that exists in most developing countries, Paul (assisted by his wife Eva) now devotes a significant portion of his time to administering and promoting African Leaf. He has two adult children, Megan (27) and Christopher (25), both of whom have twice visited Kenya and have also fallen in love with the country and its people, just as their Dad did.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE BRIAN CADD CONCERT, 13 DECEMBER 2009

We were delighted when Australian Music Legend, Brian Cadd, agreed to perform at a fundraising concert for African LEAF.

Despite there being many other pre-Christmas events on the night, there was a huge turnout at the Buddha Bar, Byron Brewery and fans were there early to secure tickets. Brian performed along with Rick Fenn (guitar) Greg Lyon (bass) Alan Park (keyboard) and Jesse Balfour (drums). It was an unforgettable night featuring music from Brian's amazing music career which has spanned more than 40 years.

Special thanks go to the musicians and the management of Byron Bay Brewery for their generosity and support.

We would also like to say a big 'thank you' to all those who came to the concert to enjoy the entertainment and help us raise over \$2,700 on the night.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Sat May 22nd

Trivia night 7.30 pm at the Byron Bowling Club. This should be a fun night with lots of prizes to be won. Call Susan on 6680 1030 to register a team of 8, or if you're on your own, we'll find you a team.

Aug/Sept

We are planning what is now becoming a regular annual event ... the A Cappella for Africa Concert featuring The Jazz Drops and Men Wot Sing.

More details closer to the date.

Sept/Oct

Art Auction. This will be a repeat of the fantastic Art Auction we held in 2007 at the home of Martin and Annie Chatterton in Lennox Head.

More details closer to the date.

To enable us to continue our work helping vulnerable and orphaned Kenyan children, we need to fundraise. With this in mind, we do hope that you'll come along and support our fundraising events.

LESSON 4 LEARNING KISWAHILI

Unasema Kiswahili?

Do you speak Swahili?

Kidogo tu.

Just a little bit.

Hapana! Sisemi Kiswahili.

No! I don't speak Swahili.

Ninasema Kiingereza.

I speak English.

Jina lako nani?

What is your name?

Jina langu...

My name is...

Unatokea wapi?

Where are you from?

Ninatokea...

I am from...

KENYAN FACTS: EDUCATION

There are 22 countries in the world where more than half the population is illiterate, and 15 of these are in Africa.¹ According to UNESCO, Kenya has the dubious 'honour' of being last on a list of 126 countries in terms of the reported government expenditure per student enrolled in primary education as a percentage of GDP (just 0.4%, compared with Australia in 48th place with 15.9%).

Kenya's education system consists of early childhood education, primary, secondary and college. Early childhood education takes at least three years, primary eight years, secondary four and university four or six years depending on the course. Pre-schooling, which targets children from age three to five, is an integral component of the education system and is a key requirement for admission to Standard One (First Grade). At the end of primary education, pupils sit the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE), which determines those who proceed to secondary school or vocational training.

In January 2003, the Government of Kenya announced the introduction of free primary education. As a result, primary school enrolment increased by about 70%. However, secondary and tertiary education enrolment has not increased proportionally because payment is still required for attendance.²

1. Source: Nationmaster.com 2. Source: Wikipedia