

# SASA

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

*every child deserves an opportunity.*

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## MAJOR SUPPORTERS & SPONSORS GREEN GARAGE

We have many reasons to say a big THANK YOU to Ed, Sean and Nathan, co-owners of the Green Garage in Byron Bay.

Our very first business supporters, not only are they and their staff sponsoring two of our children, Brian and Sheila, but by displaying large African LEAF posters in the store they also encourage their customers to support us. Donations collected in their resident 'love bucket' and the newly installed Money Spinner collection box are two of our most consistent and well-supported collection devices for ongoing fundraising.

Green Garage is a fresh fruit & vegetable shop, gourmet food store and cafe and is one of the most popular and successful food outlets in Byron Bay. They have been most generous in donating various goods for prizes in many of our fundraising raffles over the years and we greatly appreciate their ongoing support.

**Asante Sana** (Thank You) Green Garage!



Above from left to right: Nathan, Ed & Sean

## MEMBER PROFILE SUSAN PERROW



AT THE AGE OF 19, SUSAN SPENT SEVERAL YEARS WANDERING THE WORLD WHICH PROVED TO BE THE BEGINNING OF HER HEARTLINK TO AFRICA!

In 1973, having realised that her 'work' passion was with early childhood education, she moved to the North Coast of NSW to study at the Lismore Teachers College. In 1986 she founded the first Steiner Kindergarten in Byron Bay ('Periwinkle Children's Centre'), and after many years working as a teacher, a storyteller, and a parent educator in Byron Shire, and parenting her own sons, her interest turned back to Africa.

Since that time she has managed to spend half her life in Australia and half in Africa, completing part-time work contracts as a teacher-trainer and field worker from 1994 to 2007 in the slums of Cape Town, and then getting involved in teacher training in East Africa. From 2003 to 2006, with her husband John Adam, she lived and worked full-time in Kenya and became linked to several projects in Nairobi.

[www.saints-of-hope-kindergarten.blogspot.com](http://www.saints-of-hope-kindergarten.blogspot.com)  
[www.rudolfsteiner.co.ke](http://www.rudolfsteiner.co.ke)

Her long time interest in storytelling, combined with her mentoring and training of African teachers, was the basis of her Masters Research on Storytelling in cross-cultural situations, completed in 2002. A writer of children's stories for twenty years, she has several collections published locally. Her resource book on 'Healing Stories for Challenging Behaviour' has recently been published by Hawthorn Press in the U.K.

[www.healingthroughstories.com](http://www.healingthroughstories.com)

Susan's involvement with projects in Nairobi in 2003–2006 led to her involvement with the fundraising work done by African LEAF!

She is a mother of three, step mother of three, and a grandmother of a growing number of little children.

## AFRICAN LEAF CHANGES LEGAL STATUS

African LEAF has recently changed its legal status from an Incorporated Association to a Company Limited by Guarantee.

The change was made based on advice from our pro bono lawyers Minter Ellison Gold Coast, and among other benefits has enabled African LEAF to finally be registered as a recognised legal entity in Kenya. This has been an enormous time-consuming task and many thanks go to Quentin Proctor and his team at Minter Ellison as well as to Paul Kelly for their incredibly generous dedication to getting it complete.

As a result of the change we have had to establish new bank accounts in the new name of African LEAF Ltd. Thank you to all sponsors and supporters who have updated their details.



## JOHN ADAM'S RECENT VISIT TO KENYA

LEAF director, John Adam, has just returned from another trip to Nairobi.

While there John visited Saints of Hope kindergarten in the Kawangware slums and looked at different ways that African LEAF could increase their support. At the moment African LEAF pays the rent on the kindergarten building and pays for security services, but with 40 children being looked after, more room will soon be needed, a second assistant employed, and a food program started so the children get a nutritious meal every day.

Also on the agenda was organizing holiday care for the coming August school holidays. A number of the African LEAF sponsored children cannot, for various reasons, go with extended family members for holidays so they are cared for by Alice Wekesa, a trained kindergarten teacher, in her home. It works well, but prior to every holiday, the sponsored children need assessing to see who will go where.

## CHILD UPDATE NEW SPONSORED CHILD eugene



Eugene Evusa has become the latest child to be sponsored through African LEAF. He had been attending the Saints of Hope kindergarten on the outskirts of Kawangware slum in Nairobi for 12 months. Eugene's parents are both HIV positive and are getting progressively sicker. They originated in Western Kenya, the traditional home of the Luhya tribal group, and probably came to Nairobi looking for work. Eugene has had a blood test and fortunately is not HIV positive.

Since the end of April, Eugene has been sponsored jointly by Annie Krige with her children Tex and Sophie, and Tim Ahern (pictured above). We thank them for their support and hope that they will be able to travel to Kenya to meet Eugene in the near future.

Now living in the boys' boarding building at the Nairobi Rudolf Steiner School, Eugene settled in quickly, has made many friends and is enjoying life away from the daily chaos and danger of life in the slums.

Some people ask what difference the sponsorship program makes to the lives of an African child. Apart from the security provided, and growing up in a caring environment, we know that the sponsored child will have a much better opportunity in life, and you never know – one may just do so well that he or she can make a difference to their country. But they are certainly streets ahead of their contemporaries still struggling to survive back in the slums, and they are certainly assured of a good start in life.



# Saints of Hope Kindergarten Kawangware, Nairobi

Saints of Hope Kindergarten has been operating in the Kawangware slum in Nairobi for the past 3 years.

## KENYAN FACTS

According to the latest statistics released by the **United Nations Children's Fund** (UNICEF) and the **Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS** (UNAIDS):

- There are 48.3 million orphans south of the Sahara desert, one-quarter of whom have lost their parents to AIDS
- Between 1990 and 2000, the number of orphans in Africa rose from 30.9 million to 41.5 million, and those orphaned by AIDS increased from 330,000 to 7 million
- Uganda and Kenya are home to 2.3 million orphans each, and Tanzania to 2.4 million

At the beginning of 2008 African LEAF started supporting the kindergarten by paying the rent plus the wages of an Askari (security guard). This enabled the kindergarten to move from their tiny venue in the smelly and muddy area in the middle of Kawangware to a bigger, better and safer venue on the edge of the slums. Their new home has two classrooms, a waiting room, an office/kitchen, four toilets and a big grassy playing ground. In 2009 the numbers have increased to 40 children, most of whom attend 5 days a week – ranging in ages from 2 1/2 to 5 1/2 years.

Emmily Agisa is the founder and long-term Director of SOH and Martha Akinyi is her assistant. Silviah Njagi (an experienced kindergarten teacher in Nairobi) has offered her services as 'mentor' and visits SOH every Tuesday.

Emmily reports that since moving to this better venue, they have had a wonderful time with the children. On their grassy plot, they can play with balls, skip ropes and have many ring games. The teachers have also been telling many stories and doing craft work. Emmily has now completed her 10 module Steiner Teacher Training certificate and is bringing so much of the richness of her training to the children in her care.

In the Kindergarten there are three groups of children ... those with two parents who try to pay a low fee, those with poor or single parents who cannot pay in time (or at all), and the majority who are needy and orphaned and cannot afford to pay a single cent. Two of these children (whose parents are dying of AIDS) have recently been sponsored, and now board at the Mbagathi Steiner School.

For more information about Saints of Hope contact African LEAF, or go to:  
[www.saints-of-hope-kindergarten.blogspot.com](http://www.saints-of-hope-kindergarten.blogspot.com)

## LEARNING KISWAHILI LESSON 3 FAMILY NAMES

<b>Kiswahili</b>	English
<b>Baba</b>	Father
<b>Mama</b>	Mother
<b>Kaka</b>	Brother
<b>Dada</b>	Sister
<b>Bibi</b>	Grandmother
<b>Babu</b>	Grandfather
<b>Mjomba</b>	(Maternal) Uncle
<b>Ami</b>	(Paternal) Uncle
<b>Shangazi</b>	Aunt
<b>Mjukuu</b>	Grandchild

# children in need of sponsorship

THE MBAGATHI RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL IN NAIROBI CURRENTLY HAS NINE BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN WHO ATTEND THE SCHOOL AND WHO NEED SPONSORS TO PAY FOR THEIR FEES. SEVEN OF THE CHILDREN LIVE AT HOME AND TWO ARE BOARDERS.

Ongata Rongai is the closest town to the school, and many of the students come from there. The road to the school is dusty and busy and it is no mean feat to walk to school every day. Life is hard for these children, and being able to attend the school is truly a blessing.

If you are interested in sponsoring one or more of these children, either on your own or in a shared sponsorship situation, or if you would like further information, please contact African LEAF on [admin@africanleaf.org.au](mailto:admin@africanleaf.org.au) and we will begin putting the sponsorship procedures in place.

The sponsorship fee for full board at the Steiner School is AU\$55 per week, and must be seen as a serious long-term commitment. Currently the school is full for boarders, but a recent grant from the German Government will enable the construction of more boarding accommodation for a further 24 children in 2010.



**SHARON**  
ATIENO MUMA

**DOB** 10 July, 02

She is the fourth child in a family of four children – one older boy and three girls.

Sharon lives with her mother in a single room with no running water in the local town of Ongata Rongai. The children's father died in 2004 and their mother struggles to find an income, although she has a small business selling vegetables.

Sharon is a happy child. She walks to school every day.



**SAMMY**  
LEMANGUA

**DOB** 5 Dec, 99

He has one older and one younger brother.

Sammy's home is in a small village in Maralal. His mother died and his father works as a watchman, if he is able to find work. His father's health has not been good.

Due to his difficult home situation, Sammy is now in full boarding and he spends his holidays at Kitengela Glass where he is helped out.

Sammy is currently in class Three. He enjoys school and playing with his friends.



**OSCAR**  
OTIENO GOGO

**DOB** 28 Aug, 98

Born in Ongata Rongai, a suburb of Nairobi, 4km from the school. He is the fourth born in a family of five children, three boys and two girls.

Oscar's father died in May 2002 and his mother died in 2008. He went through a hard time before and after the death of his mother. Since his mother died, he has joined the full boarding in the school. He has now settled down and he is making progress. He stays with his relatives during the holidays.

Oscar is a quiet child. He loves playing football and other games. He is in class Five and he loves to be in school.



**MARY**  
ACHIENG OTIENO

**DOB** 7 Dec, 97

Born in Siaya District, Western Kenya. She is the first child in a family of four – two girls and two boys. Mary lives with her family in a rented house in the nearby town of Ongata Rongai.

Mary's father has no permanent job – he does casual work when available which brings in a small income. Her mother is a housewife; she also washes other peoples' clothes to add something to the family income.

Mary is a polite girl who tends to be very quiet. Her favourite subjects are Mathematics and English. She also likes singing and running races. She is in Class Five at the school.



**LAVINIA**  
DOTIVELA OTIENO

**DOB** 8 Oct, 01

Born in the nearby town of Ongata Rongai. She is the third born in a family of four children. She lives with her parents in Ongata Rongai in a rented single room.

Lavinia's father does casual jobs to make a living and her mother does laundry for other people.

Lavinia is a sociable girl. She likes singing and dancing. She is in Class Two and is very happy to be in school.



**DIANA**  
OKOTH ADERA

**DOB** 15 Nov, 01

Born in the local town of Ontata Rongai. Diana is the sixth child in a family of seven children – four girls and three boys, though the last born boy died in 2008.

Diana lives with her mother and her siblings in a single room made out of corrugated iron. Their father died in February 2004. Her mother does casual work to earn money but the jobs are not easy to find.

Diana is happy to be in Class Two.



**BOSIANA**  
OKAKA ADERA

**DOB** 29 Nov, 98

Born in the local town of Ongata Rongai. Bosiana is the fifth child in a family of seven children though the last born boy died in 2008.

Bosiana lives with his mother and his siblings in a single room made out of corrugated iron. Their father died in February 2004. His mother does casual work to earn money but the jobs are not easy to find.

Bosiana is in Class Three and is a happy energetic and talkative boy. He loves to play football. He walks to school with his siblings.

**DANCE NIGHT** REVISITED

Our apologies to all of you who were looking forward to the 'Kurtis' dance party at Ed Ahern's farm, which was scheduled for May 22 and subsequently cancelled due to cyclonic weather conditions and widespread power blackouts.

Unfortunately it's not been possible to reschedule the full Kurtis band in the near future, but in their place we've managed to secure 'No Future' (which includes several of the Kurtis band members) shortly before they depart for their forthcoming European tour and featuring special guest Rick Fenn, lead guitarist with the UK band 10cc.

Weather being willing, we will be able to dance under a marquee to the wonderful music of 'No Future.' 7.30pm on Friday 21 August

**UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS****A CAPPELLA FOR AFRICA**

We're delighted to announce the 2009 return of what is now becoming an annual event – the A Cappella For Africa concert. This year's show will be in the newly renovated Mullumbimby Civic Hall featuring 3 of the region's top a cappella groups: Men Wot Sing, Headliners and The Jazz Drops. 7.30pm Saturday 8 August \$15/\$12 concession. Food & Licensed Bar available from 6.30pm

**DINNER DANCE AT THE BLUE ROOM**

This will be our Christmas celebration fundraiser. Come dine and dance at the Blue Room licenced restaurant, overlooking the river in Ballina. Enjoy a delicious 3 course meal and dance to some cool jazz. Tickets \$100 per person. Friday 27 November

**Invitations and publicity material for all these events will be emailed with more details closer to the dates. Please mark these three great events in your diaries!**

**EVA & PAUL'S KENYA WEDDING**

DEAR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS OF AFRICAN LEAF,

IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR, MY PARTNER PAUL AND I WERE MARRIED AT THE MASAI LODGE ON THE EDGE OF THE NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK IN KENYA. WE CHOSE THAT LOCATION AS THE WILDLIFE IS ABUNDANT, AND THE AFRICAN LEAF CHILDREN ARE LIVING JUST DOWN THE ROAD.



In 2006, Paul and I lived near there and would often ride our bikes down to the Mbagathi Steiner School, where all of the African LEAF children are boarding. We taught English at the school for 4 months, got to know the children and established lasting friendships with the teachers and staff at the school. So we were very happy that many of them attended our wedding together with the kids and their housemothers.

They all looked beautiful in their festive clothes and were as excited and radiant as the bride and groom. Rose Ingala, a teacher from the school, was my bridesmaid and two of the LEAF children, Lincoln and Ketty, were our flower children. Also present were our beloved friends and family from Australia, England and Germany including my brother who officiated at the ceremony.

I withdrew to my cabin before the guests started arriving and saw five graceful giraffe walking along the ridge just across from my porch ... such a beautiful sight! Five is Paul's favourite number and the giraffe is my favourite animal – a good omen for our wedding!

When I finally stepped out of the cabin I was surprised by an unexpected honour guard formed by the local Masai who looked stunning in their beautiful traditional attire. They danced and sang me all the way to the Acacia tree where everyone was waiting. It was very moving, and made our wedding very special and unforgettable for everyone. The Masai presented Paul and I, best man Ed Ahern and Rose with the traditional Masai wedding decorations and did a great deal more dancing and singing for us. We felt truly blessed.

The Wedding Feast afterwards was duly demolished and everyone danced away into the night with the band Yunasi from Nairobi playing for us. Kenyans love music and dancing and we didn't stop until the musicians had to go home. The kids had a fantastic time and we were so happy to have them enjoy this special night with us.

In my wildest dreams, I did not expect to have such a special wedding and I will always cherish it. Thank you all from my heart for supporting the children! Love to you all from Eva.



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**African LEAF Limited**

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