

SASA

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

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every child deserves an opportunity.



Christine



Junior



Diana

THREE MORE LEAF CHILDREN MOVE TO HIGH SCHOOL

Another three of our African Leaf teenagers are leaving the Steiner School at the end of this year. They are Christine, Diana and Junior. All of them are in year 9 now with Mr Laurence as their main teacher. When I spoke to him in March he told me that he is very fond of those three. He said that they have good manners, care for others and are working hard. Any parent would be proud to hear these words!

For me it still is amazing to behold these three now; how beautiful they are, lively and funny, inquisitive and confident. Christine and Diana love music and are very creative. Christine is also a Cricket Nut! Junior at some point wanted to be a farmer or driver in his future but he surprised everyone with his academic achievements in the last two years at Steiner. Who knows where they are headed when they have finished their next step of four years of high school. We know that they have been given a good foundation. The school has been like a home and the house parents, the teachers and pupils have been their family. They will be a little apprehensive about their new lives. A comfort will be that one of the houseparents, Pamela, has taken over the role of mentor for Diana and Christine. She will be the one to help finding high schools for them early next year, paying the fees, setting

them up with all they need and visiting them in mid-term break when family members visit their children at their boarding schools, bringing food and spending an afternoon together at the school. Pamela will also arrange transport and holiday care and will attend the schools for parent meetings with the teachers. Junior will have the assistance of Rose Ingala in all these aspects. She is one of the teachers at Steiner and she found Faith (Junior's sister) and Junior near her home up-country and brought them under African Leaf's care when they were 5 and 3 years old. During the holidays she has always taken them back to her home and she is like family to them. We wish these amazing young teenagers a good start next year and will keep you informed of how they are going in our next newsletter. ~Eva



Francis with Pamela & her son Francis in School uniform

AN UPDATE ON FRANCIS

We have previously featured a story about Francis who was taken to an orphanage after being found wandering the streets as a 2 year old. From there he was taken in by the Mbagathi Steiner School as a boarder. Needing a place to go during holidays he went to the home of Pamela, one of the house mothers who he now looks on as his mother. Because Francis experienced severe emotional trauma he did not settle into the Steiner School. Pamela and her husband now have full-time care and have found him a new day school exclusively for children with special needs. Our Giver of Hope donations provide care for Francis. Pamela has sent us an update ...

Francis joined his new school at the beginning of July of this year. It's called Joy Gardens Primary School. He was really looking forward to it and it happened. His class teacher is called teacher Roselyn. He really loves the school a lot and all his teachers. He has a very close friend called Glen who he talks about every day. His class has a total of

20 children. They report to school at exactly 8.00 a.m then they start their morning session lesson up to 10.30 a.m. After a 30minutes break they resume to the next lessons up to 1.00 p.m when they break for lunch for an hour. In the afternoon they only have one lesson then leave for home at 3.00 p.m. He arrives home at around 4.00 p.m.

On Fridays they have their Sports day where they spend their day in the field doing various field activities. He has really improved academically and he can now count really well. Francis really enjoyed the recent school holiday because my son was around and he really loved having an older brother taking care of him.

LETTER OF THANKS FROM THE NAIROBI STEINER SCHOOL APPEAL

In our Spring 2017 Newsletter, we advised that LEAF had donated \$1,500 to a fundraising appeal by the Mbagathi Steiner School in Nairobi where our LEAF children board. In May we received a letter of thanks from Mercy and Judith at the school. Here's what they wrote ...

RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL

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29th May 2018

Dear African Leaf Family
c/o Eva Schaefer,

Receive greetings from us here at Rudolf Steiner School Mbagathi, Nairobi Kenya. It is a pleasure to communicate with you, our partners and friends in helping the needy children in our school. The weather here is rainy and cold; but for a few days now the rain has stopped and the sun has been shining. The compound is green and radiant, a great natural sight to behold.

So far 2018 has been a good year and we are happy that you are a part of the reason as to why we are able to move on well. You have been such a support - thank you for your donation for our appeal which is making a big difference to the children's lives. Thanks to you among others the school is able to run smoothly and with fewer challenges.

African Leaf children were excited about Eva and Paul's visit and we were happy to see them too. The catching up was fun and well worth it. The children who are from Waldorf system which brings forth an independent well-rounded individual with every step of education have really grown.

We love you and you know it, wishing you wonderful times and success in all your endeavors.

With gratitude,



Mercy Njoki
Sponsorship Officer



Judith Brown
School Leader

"Even the flight of the sparrow moves the acacia tree"

The moral of this old African saying is that the stiffest of trees can be moved by the lightest of touches-we could say that even the smallest of the gifts-given with warmth of heart or generosity can make a huge difference to those in need.



LEAF'S KISERIAN CONNECTION

Kiserian is a bustling small town in Kenya's Rift Valley province, which lies at the foot of the famous Ngong Hills. (Remember the opening line from *Out of Africa*: "I had a farm in Africa, at the foot of the Ngong Hills"?) There is a famous Maasai community around Kiserian town and small Maasai villages called Olteyani and Olooseos. In the language of the Maasai "Kiserian" means "a place of peace".

For the past eight years or so, every visit we've made to see the African Leaf kids in Kenya has involved at least one - and usually two - road trips to Kiserian to buy beautiful handmade Maasai craft items such as keyrings, belts, bracelets and earrings, which we bring back to Australia to sell. It's one of several methods we use to make money to cover African Leaf's administration costs, so as much as possible of every dollar we receive from our child sponsors, regular Givers of Hope and other kind donors is spent on the kids and our other projects.

It's about a 70 km round-trip from where Eva and I usually stay, near the Rudolf Steiner School just out of Ongatta-Rongai (commonly known as just Rongai) on Nairobi's southern outskirts, and it's home to the rather grand-sounding Kiserian Beads and Leather House, which is actually an extremely tiny and almost

unnoticeable shop located in a small, rubbish-strewn dirt lane off the busy Kiserian fruit & vegetable market.

Over the years, we've become well acquainted with the shop's lovely owner, Catherine, and she greets us warmly and happily sells us whatever we need at 'locals prices', which are far below what we'd otherwise have to pay as 'wazungu' (white people) for the same items at local markets or at any of the hundreds of so-called 'curio shops' which cater to tourists. And if she doesn't have it in stock, she'll happily take our order and get it made through one or more of the many Maasai women's co-operatives from which she sources her wares, for us to collect just before we return to Australia. Thus the reason for our second trip out there.

We are usually the only wazungu we see in the whole town when we visit, so we really stand out and are something of

a novelty among the throngs of Maasai men, women and children in their brightly coloured, traditional garb. On our last visit, we called Catherine a few days ahead to tell her we were coming and she kindly offered to open the shop especially for us on a Sunday afternoon (after church of course!) when it is usually closed. It was such a luxury to have the tiny space to ourselves and be able to browse and choose what we wanted - and place our orders for the things that would have to be specially made - without the usual chaos of having to squeeze in and compete for her attention with just about every second Maasai woman in town!

She told us that we are her best customers and we know she'll be extremely happy to see us again when we next visit late in 2019. And we're looking forward to seeing her too. ~ Paul

NEW ONLINE BUSINESS OFFERS SUPPORT



We were delighted to be contacted by a start-up Online Business based in nearby Cabarita Beach with an offer to donate 5% of their sales to LEAF.

The online store, Eve of Indigo markets natural and organic products for babies and toddlers. The owners of the site are a mum and dad who believe in creating a sustainable way of life for children and future generations, so they are choosing to work

with environmentally aware companies who are making ethical choices.

The Macdonald family, who started up the business, contacted LEAF after viewing our African LEAF website. They liked the work that LEAF is doing and wanted to support a local charity which was helping disadvantaged children.

Please check them out on www.eveofindigo.com.au

GIVERS OF HOPE NEEDED

An important part of our income comes from supporters who become Givers of Hope by making a regular monthly donation. Generally this is \$40 but can be any regular amount you are able to donate.

Currently, Giver of Hope donations help towards:

- School fees for Purity (sister of Kevin) whose family lives in dire conditions in the slums.
- Additional sponsorship fees for Lucky Moses who requires a special diet lunch at his school and extra tuition as he is on the Autism Spectrum.
- Care for Francis who was found wandering the streets as a 2 year old (*See previous article*)
- Medical emergencies for all AL teenagers and kids
- Holiday care for Ketty and her sister Purity

Contact admin@africanleaf.org.au for information on how to make a regular donation.

OCEAN SHORES PRE-CHRISTMAS STALL

Popular items of the very colourful beaded craft ware made by the Maasai women are keyrings, bracelets and earrings. We also sell beautiful pure cotton Kikoys, the African name for sarong, which are very popular. They all make lovely, inexpensive stand-alone or stocking filler gifts for Christmas.



Sample Keyrings



Sample bracelets & earrings

Our Admin assistant Susan will once again be at the Ocean Shores Shopping Centre from 9 to 5, Monday the 3rd to Friday the 7th of December. So if you're a Byron Shire local, come along and support us and get some lovely, inexpensive gifts for Christmas.

CAPE BYRON STEINER SCHOOL STUDENTS SUPPORT LEAF



Ziggy (on right) & Lizzy

The local Cape Byron Steiner School held their annual Spring Fair in September. Two of the students set up a stall and decided to donate any money raised to African LEAF. Many thanks to Ziggy and Lizzy. Here's what Ziggy had to say about her experience ...

My name is Ziggy Love Sullivan and I attend Cape Byron Steiner School. I am a member of the Student Representative Council and this year we decided to support a charity. I suggested we run a stall at our annual Spring Fair and that we support African LEAF as the charity for the day, because our family had recently become a supporter of an African LEAF teenager [Lincoln] and my mum had visited the Steiner School in Kenya a few years ago. We all agreed that African LEAF were the right choice for our charity and I hope we can support African LEAF again in the future.

We made wax cloth wraps which you can put over food to reduce single use plastic waste, we sold these at the stall and we also sold African jewellery supplied by African LEAF. We had lots of positive feedback from people who visited the stall about our charity work.

We raised approximately \$450 on the day and hope to present the money raised at our next SRC meeting to an African LEAF representative.

Thanks African LEAF for giving us the chance to help support your kids.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

We are planning to hold an Art Auction fundraiser in March 2019 and are calling for donations of Artwork to enable this to happen.

If you are an artist and have a piece of art that you would like to donate, or if you own a piece of art that you would like to donate, please contact **Susan on 0407 573 386** or admin@africanleaf.org.au

Your art donations would be much appreciated to help us to repeat the success of the Art Auction we held 2007.



LESSON 22 LEARNING KISWAHILI DINING WORDS

Restaurant	Mkahawa	Fork	Uma	Glass	Glasi
Cup	Kikombe	Spoon	Kijiko	Waitress /Waiter	Mhudumu
Knife	Kisu	Plate	Sahani		

love • educate • acknowledge • feed

African LEAF Limited

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