

# SASA

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

*every child deserves an opportunity.*

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## WELCOME TO OUR SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER EVA SHARES AN UPDATE ON SOME OF THE CHILDREN



Sheila with baby Damien, Brian & Faulgt

### ONLY A STRETCH AWAY TO ACHIEVE **SOMETHING INCREDIBLE!**

Faulat our eldest is about to make history for our AL family. Her journey in life has not been easy but she has always shown courage and determination to follow her dreams.

Initially Faulat wanted to become a pilot and it is still a goal she hasn't lost track of. But her sponsors, who are the owners of Ololo Safari Lodge, a beautiful resort at the edge of the Nairobi National Park, could not put her through the pilot training as that is a very expensive exercise even in Kenya. So Faulat enrolled herself in a business and commerce bachelor degree which she will finish at the end of this year. She is so excited and happy about that and it is an incredible achievement, I am so proud! Throughout her studying time she

also has been working at Ololo, first as a maid, then in the gardens where Ololo produce their own fresh food and finally in the office. At all times she has been determined and focused and gone through that hard period of adolescence. This is a particular difficult time for our young people, who do not have the guidance of parents to rely on. In my mind she is just an amazing young woman and I know that she will succeed in the things of life that are important to her. Faulat has also shown so much compassion and caring for the

other AL kids and teenagers. She has been the aunt of little Damien and the rock and 'sister' for Damien's mother, Sheila. On mother's day this year she blew me away saying "Happy mother's Day Eva. Thank you for loving us beyond boundaries. We love you. You might not know how much you've touched all our lives but we know just how much and thank you for being there for us." I had never gotten a Mother's Day card and I cried when I got that message from Faulat. I love you too Faulat, so much!

## LUCKY: THE SPEEDY PROGRAMMER (...BEWARE TVS)



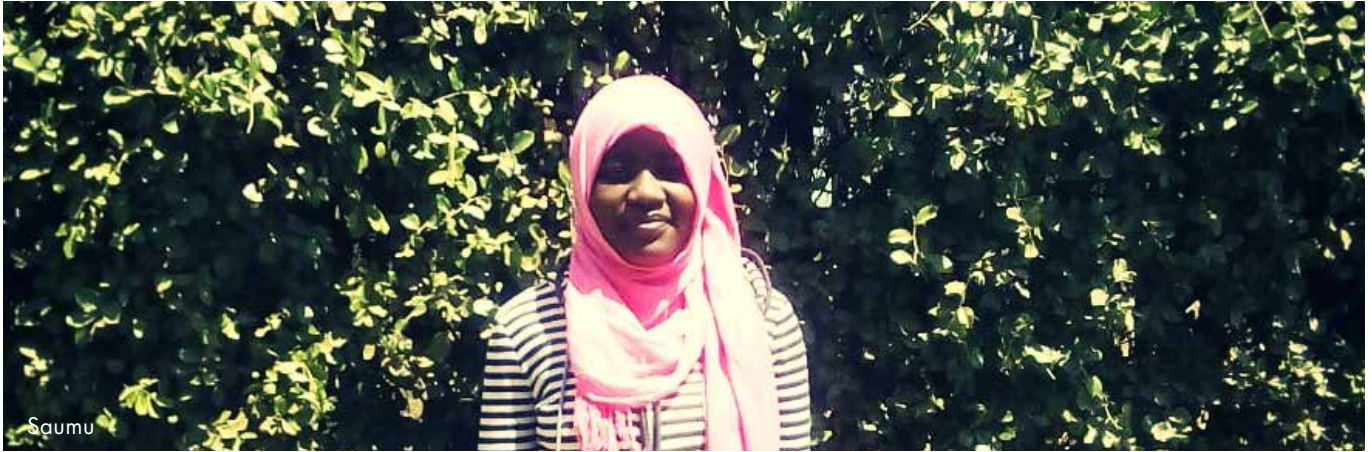
Lucky (far left) with his friends on a school excursion

Lucky is now in 5th class and doing really well and likes the subjects Science, English and Computer Studies. His foster-mother Jane wrote a short report to me at the end of the last term (end of July)

"This boy is amazing and very motivating to take care of. He keeps my family on toes due to the speed he is picking up things. George gave him an old phone and put some games in it thinking it would take him a while to learn how to play. He came home one week after and found he had learnt to play all of the games. He has messed up my TV and now he is the only one who operates it. I can't watch it when he is not around. He is also progressively improving in all subjects apart from mathematics. His class teacher says he does fails not because of ignorance but is too fast to finish that he does not read the question properly.

The team of teachers will support him improve on the same. I will like him to be included in the outing that you have with children when Eva and Paul come in December."

We definitely will have him to stay with all the other kids when we bring them together at the Steiner School for a few days early next January and we are happy that he is developing so well! We are thankful to the sponsors and the Givers of Hope who make it possible to facilitate extra tutoring, special diet and supplements and the extra costs to have him educated at a school for children with special needs.



## SAUMU IS NOT GIVING UP & KEEPING HER DREAM ALIVE

Saumu is in form 3 and she will finish high school at the end of next year. She has been unfortunate in that she had to change school twice in the last two years. She is a Muslim girl and her wish was to be educated in an Islamic school. But both Islamic schools she attended closed down due to insufficient funds to keep them going.

Now Saumu is at a public boarding school and her marks are not so good due to all the upheaval she has experienced. After the first term results I wrote to Saumu and asked her if she would like to get extra help in the next holidays to improve her marks and she immediately was interested and grateful for the chance. Therefore AL is providing private tutoring for Saumu every day during these holidays. Once again

without the Givers of Hope we would be struggling to find these extra funds; so many thanks to those of you who support Saumu in this way! Jane who is her mentor sent the following report:

"I love this girl with a passion because she is very unique. She has no discipline issues at school and is full of respect. She has made some improvement and is giving me hope. She is also happy and getting

confidence with herself and the school. Holiday tuitions are quite expensive and she needs personalized support. I have managed through persuasion to get a group of teachers who have agreed to assess and to help her."

So we think that Saumu will be able to improve and this will enable her to work towards her dream of becoming a banker. Go Saumu!

### ... AND SOMETIMES OUR EFFORTS CAN'T GET THE WISHED-FOR RESULTS FOR OUR YOUNG ORPHANS

"It is with great disappointment from I and Sheila [a different Sheila, who is Purity's married older sister] as we let you know that Purity ran away with a man while on her way back to school. Sheila's husband says he hears that Purity is seen on and off near where they live. On behalf of the Kenya Leaf Family I wish to really apologize for the great loss of money that she and the brother who has just left Jail recently have caused the organization and donor to incur. My greatest apology to Mike and his family who gave it all to improve the lives of the two but

Now it is always great to be writing of improvements, education and hope for the future for all our AL teenagers over there. But sometimes things don't work out and such is life. Here a report from Jane about Purity, Kevin's sister, who we kept helping even when we had gone through some difficult times with her.

they never embraced the opportunity. Still I am sorry for insisting on Purity's education support when Leaf had made a decision to withdraw. I really do not know the words to express myself on this issue..."

Yes, I also feel for Mike and Alice because they have been disappointed twice as they were also the sponsors of Kevin who got himself constantly into trouble. Also the Givers of Hope have been contributing to Purity's education (as she has never had a full sponsor as such). But Mike and Alice are philosophical about it. Those siblings

are still better off than before, they can write and read, they do have an education and that will still help them in whatever situations they will find themselves. And poor Jane felt terrible and I reassured her that we had made a whole-hearted decision, all of us from AL, not to give up on a young person's life when we continued to support Purity. I said to Jane not to blame herself but to be happy with herself and acknowledge the goodness of her heart when she spoke up for a vulnerable person who had no-one around to help her at the time.





## AND THEN THERE WAS ONE...

At the end of this year we have three more teenagers leaving for high school from Steiner and then there is only Winnie left who is now in class eight. She will be the last to leave the nest of the protective and nurturing upbringing and schooling of the Steiner education system. The 'three

amigos' who are leaving are Purity (Ketty's sister), Brightlight and Eugene. Right now they are studying very hard for the end of the year exam and we are wishing them well! As with all the Steiner-leavers they will have mentors to accompany them the last four years through the Kenya public high school

system. Eugene will be mentored by Katunge, and the girls will be mentored by Pamela. As we have no current photos of them available right now we are showing you the drawings they did for our card designs.



baby Paul K



Ketty, Alice & baby Paul K

## WE ARE GRANDPARENTS ONCE AGAIN

Ketty only told us of this surprise package two months prior to the birth. So for a while her further education will be postponed. She finished high school at the end of last year. Thank god there is a father around! His name is Simon, a boda boda driver (motorcycle taxi and delivery driver) and Ketty is presently living with her new family with Simon's parents in their home near Ngong. You can see from the photo

below how happy and proud Ketty is with her new baby –boy! And have a guess what his name is? Paul K! Paul was quite moved by that and I said so to Ketty in a message when sending our congrats and telling her that we love her. Her answer was: " I love you both so much and yes you people have done a lot to me that we saw this baby deserves to be called after Paul. Thanks so much for everything" Paul and I are

very happy for her and are looking forward to meeting the new family when we are going to Kenya at the end of this year. Alice Wakesa was proudly around as soon as little Paul popped out. Ketty had been living with Alice's family in Ngong while she finished her last year of high school and has been staying with the family for many years during the holidays.



Francis drawing together with a friend

## FRANCIS IS THRIVING IN PAMELA'S AND HER FAMILY'S LOVING CARE!

You all remember Francis, don't you? A boy that was abandoned at a very young age in the slums of Nairobi and who has been lovingly cared for and embraced by one of our boarding parents, Pamela and her family.

With the aid of our Givers of Hope we are able to help Pamela to bring up this gorgeous boy. He is now in class two but no-one knows his real age. The aid we supply to Pamela helps to pay for a nanny when Pamela and her husband are not around as they are both working. Pamela gave me an update on how he is going: "Francis has really shown a great

improvement especially in class. When he joined his new school he did not know how to write anything, but now he can write letters of the alphabet and also count one up to ten and write it down. He can easily express himself better. He now needs to join another school where they have teachers who are trained to handle children with special needs. If possible he

will join one next term. We travelled upcountry this holiday and Francis was super excited with Everything around him this includes the long road trips and also seeing cows, goats and chickens. He is really looking forward for another holiday so that he can visit again. He loves painting and drawing a lot, he does this in his free time."

## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

### OCEAN SHORES PRE-CHRISTMAS STALL & CHRISTMAS RAFFLE



Our popular Christmas stall is brim full of items including the colourful beaded craft ware made by the Maasai women, keyrings, bracelets and earrings. We also sell beautiful Kikoys, the African name for sarong. They make wonderful stocking fillers and gifts for Christmas. Our stall will once again be at the Ocean Shores

Shopping Centre on the 10th, 16th, 17th, 19th, 20th and 21st December. So if you're a Byron Shire local please come along and support us and purchase some lovely, inexpensive Christmas gifts and some raffle tickets to win fantastic prizes in time for Christmas.

## TRIVIA NIGHT TRIUMPH

Our fantastic African Leaf Trivia Night returned to the Byron Bay scene in July this year, hosted by the Byron Bay Bowling Club. Almost 140 Trivia Nuts raised over \$4000 for African Leaf in one night. Alison Mackay, our lovely Quiz Mistress

and her delightful assistants including husband Gerrit, were once again on hand to compose and mark the questions. The crowd was thoroughly entertained by the hilarious MC Mick O'Regan. Special thanks must go to Fiona Hunter for her

Raffle ticket sales and prize gathering and thanks also to the local businesses who generously donated prizes for our raffle and Trivia Prizes. Look out for the date of the 2020 Trivia Night!

## OLD LAPTOP APPEAL

When Eva and Paul go back to Nairobi to see all the kids again after Christmas this year they would love to be able to take along a laptop computer for Annet, who has recently finished high school and is now enrolled in a Business Diploma at a technical college. It doesn't really matter how old or slow it is, or even if it has minor faults. New computers are relatively expensive in Kenya but older ones can be easily and cheaply repaired and/or upgraded, and the students really only need them for basic applications such as word-processing, spreadsheets and email.



If you or someone you know has an old laptop that is no longer being used, we'd love to be able to have it 'rejuvenated' on our arrival and give it to Annet, who would be ecstatic to receive such a wonderful gift.

If you can help please contact Paul. Email: [secretary@africanleaf.org.au](mailto:secretary@africanleaf.org.au) or Mobile: **0404 484 832**

### LESSON 24 LEARNING KISWAHILI LANDSCAPE WORDS

**Ziwa (Zeewa)** Lake  
**Mti (Mtee)** Tree  
**Mlina (Mleena)** Mountain

**Shamba** Farm  
**Pori (Poree)** Jungle  
**Mto** River