

Educaid Africa

NEWSLETTER

December 2011

Edition No.3

Chairman's Letter

Dear Friends

May I begin by thanking you all for your continued support for Educaid Africa. It is noted and very much appreciated. Our visit in February, which was the main theme of our previous newsletter, certainly validated all the work that is going on to help pupils in the Mombasa area of Kenya. Here in the UK we do tend to take education for granted but, if we are to help to solve the manifold problems in Kenya for the long term, it is certainly going to be by ensuring that the citizens of tomorrow get a good sound education.

Confucius stated:

If your plan is for a year plant rice

If your plan is for a decade plant trees

If your plan is for a lifetime, educate children.

And how true this is!

I look back on how I came to be involved in Educaid Africa as a Head Teacher in Solihull. Here was a venture that really could make a difference to individual children, their families and their community and this was borne out on my visits to the Mombasa area. Here is a charity where every penny is going to these individuals. I have met each sponsored pupil personally and can vouch for their authenticity, their needs and the added value we are making to their lives. This is not something every charity can claim! Educaid Africa has been able to achieve such a great deal because many people have become interested in supporting a charity through which they can learn about the individual children they

are helping. Furthermore, they recognise that the money they donate actually goes to these pupils and not to the administration of the charity. Since returning from our latest visit to Kenya in February, we have spoken to a variety of groups and shown them videos and photographs of what we found and experienced there. This has included illustrated talks to Solihull U3A, Shirley Baptist Church and four Beaver Scout Colonies. Everywhere we have been warmly welcomed and great interest has been shown in what has been achieved through people's generous donations.

We have now adopted a Mission Statement for Educaid that helps us to focus on our prime purpose.

Educaid Africa is committed to supporting the education of children and young people in the Mombasa area of Kenya

We have firm links in this area which means we can use our funds directly to enable students in poverty to access education and a healthier lifestyle, whilst contributing some of the appropriate equipment to schools and pupils

Believing that education opens new doors and brings hope where there is none, our aim is to give financial help at all levels of education.

It is said that education means liberation and how true this is. One of our pupils stated, **"Where there was no hope, you gave me hope."**

I do hope that we can all give that same hope to so many more needy pupils in the coming year. May I close by wishing you and your families every good wish for a very happy and meaningful Christmas celebration.

Ian Carnell - Chairman of the Trustees

Registered Charity No : 1087844

Visit our website at www.educaid-africa.org

Email us at info@educaid-africa.org

Congratulations to Felix

EducAid Africa became involved with Felix seven years ago. He was a clever boy with no hope of gaining a place at secondary school as neither his parents nor his village were able to pay the fees. As a pupil at secondary school he achieved very highly and we were very pleased to be able to support him through University.

We are all very proud of Felix's achievement. He graduated this year from Nairobi University with a 2:1 degree in Agricultural Engineering. During his years at university we have all enjoyed reading his letters keeping us up to date with life in Kenya. (letters on website)



Further Education

Thanks to generous sponsors we are pleased to report that at the present time we are supporting Happy Konde at Teacher Training College and Beatrice Shauri who is in her second year training to become a nurse.

Equipment in Primary Schools

When you visit an English primary school you will see a wealth of equipment from computers to counting blocks, from paint materials to sports equipment. Visit a Kenyan primary school and all you will find are a few books (often one amongst three), pencils, paper and a blackboard. Since our visit in February this year we have given money to purchase equipment such as balls, skipping ropes, paint and books. As you can see from the pictures the new equipment has given the pupils a great deal of pleasure.



Registered Charity No : 1087844

Visit our website at www.educaid-africa.org

Email us at info@educaid-africa.org

Sponsored Event

This year we decided to change the format of the Sponsored Run and instead of holding the event at the Norman Green Centre, we held fund raising events in two local schools: Coppice Junior and Greswold Primary. On the 18th October Coppice held a Fun Walk and Chat. On a beautiful sunny afternoon 230 children and some parents were to be found walking the boundary of the school. The plan was for Year 3 to walk with Year 6 and Year 4 to walk with Year 5. For the allotted 45 minutes the children walked and chatted. Staff acted as marshals and encouragers as the pupils walked the course that was about half a mile each circuit.

One of the Trustees walked with the children and everyone completed four laps and had plenty of time to chat. All the walkers were asked to contribute £1 with some pupils giving more. The children raised £350, which will go towards sponsoring Monica in her secondary education.

Thank you to Mrs J McCarthy for allowing the children to take part in the fund raising event and to the staff who marshalled and supported the children, in particular to Mrs Noble for organising the event.

Greswold Report

The sun shone as we headed to the field in the name of charity. Greswold has been supporting the Educaid charity for a number of years. It sponsors children in Kenya who would not be able to go to school without the help of the charity. You have done a great job raising money, children, as the total by the end of the day had reached over £2400! Wow! A big thank you to everyone who took part and to all of the families who sent in donations.



Registered Charity No : 1087844

Visit our website at www.educaid-africa.org

Email us at info@educaid-africa.org

Saint Luke's Day

We may complain about our National Health Service but in Kenya there is no health provision and all medicines and treatment have to be paid for. Thanks to an anonymous donor who gives money every year to provide medicines for people in local the community, St Luke's Day is very well attended. All who come receive free treatment from the hospital staff and free medicine on that day.



One of the hundreds of patients who benefit from the St Luke's Day donation



St Luke's Hospital, Kaloleni

Donation from Streetsbrook Infant School

Streetsbrook Infant and Nursery School presented another big cheque to our charity at the official opening of the new building on the 20th October. We were invited to attend a celebration assembly to receive a cheque for £1000. The children had raised the money by holding a sponsored marathon where they ran round the school grounds. Some of the money that the school raised last year was used to purchase much needed books and play equipment. This latest donation will be used to help nursery and primary schools.

A big thank you to all the children and staff at Streetsbrook for their tremendous hard work. Their donation will certainly make a difference.

Special thanks

The Trustees would like to thank Charles and Kim Jukes who visited Kenya recently for a holiday and very kindly took out a variety of materials for the schools, including hearing aids donated by Rotary for the school for the deaf in Kibarani, material for the dressmaking classes and books for the primary schools. We have already received a letter of thanks from the School for the Deaf thanking us for the donation. It is good to know that these gifts have been well received. The Trustees would like to thank Charles and his wife for supporting EducAid whilst on their holiday.

Registered Charity No : 1087844

Visit our website at www.educaid-africa.org

Email us at info@educaid-africa.org

New Pupil Opportunities for Sponsors

It is the time of the year that we have to assess how many new pupils we can sponsor. There is always a great need and we receive far more requests than we can meet. The difficult decisions have to be made by our representative in Mombasa who knows the circumstances of these children and, based on guidelines of need and potential, he allocates the sponsorship.

To sponsor a child costs
£1300 for four years or
£325 a year or
£27 per month



Thank you for sponsoring us

Kenyan Christmas



This picture is of the widowed mother of one of our sponsored pupils and her grandchildren. Stephen visited her and found them having lunch which was a sort of porridge with no sugar or milk as they had nothing else to eat. This may be all they will have to eat for Christmas!

You see them in their home, which is a basic mud hut. The famine they are experiencing has meant that their crops haven't grown. I now understand that many of our sponsored students will be going home to conditions such as this.

Registered Charity No : 1087844

Visit our website at www.educaid-africa.org

Email us at info@educaid-africa.org

See the child standing there, in the rubble and the dust.

He is standing all alone, there is no-one he can trust.

The soldiers took his father and his mother ran away.

It's a politician's game and he doesn't want to play.

*So take this child by the hand,
And lead him back to love.
Leave the fear and the misery behind.
Take this child by the hand,
And lead him back to love.
And show him that people can be kind.*

See the child standing there, as he sees the world go by.

He is standing all-alone and he'll always wonder why,

When nations spend their millions on power and on might,

That he never had the chance, to learn to read and write.

See the child standing there, with hunger in his eyes.

He is standing all alone, as a nation slowly dies.

He knows that he is hungry and he doesn't understand,

There are just too many people in this dry and barren land.

Chorus

*So take this child by the hand,
And lead him back to love.
Leave the fear and the misery behind.
Take this child by the hand,
And lead him back to love.
And show him that people can be kind.*

Where there was no hope, you gave me hope.

Thanks to all our Sponsors

The Trustees would like to thank the following organisations for their generosity:-

Oak Cottage Primary School

Streetsbrook Infant School

Widney Junior School

Lady Katherine Leveson Primary School

Greswold Primary School

Coppice Junior School

Damson Wood Infant School

Dorridge Infants School

Lyndon School

Langley School

Christ Church URC

Union Theatre

St Helen's Church

St Mary's Church, Temple Balsall

Solihull U3A

Shirley Baptist Church

Solihull Scout Fellowship

Cole District Beavers

Blythe District Beavers

Knowle Society

Hagley Free Church

St Margaret's Church

Olton United Reformed Church

Solihull Methodist Church

Solihull Trefoil Guild

Soft Cat

Coleshill Probus

In addition to many individuals

The Trustees of Educaid Africa, Patrick Langmead, Harry Mills, Ian Carnell, Jenni Kitson, Angela Robson, Linda Maxfield and Lorraine Armstrong would like to wish all our sponsors the complements of the season

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Registered Charity No : 1087844

Visit our website at www.educaid-africa.org

Email us at info@educaid-africa.org