

Newsletter



No. 49 Jan to Mar 20

Firstly, have you noticed the change in the logo above. We have someone called Adam from whitepeakcreative.co.uk who is redoing our website. We hope you like it.

We reported in the last Newsletter that Kenya had been going through a bad time as they had experienced a drought for some time. This meant that the price of food rocketed. While we were there in October, the rains had actually started to fall, so much so that we had to walk some distance to the vehicle. The authorities had stripped the road back ready to lay a new one and as the rains arrived that was the end of that for the foreseeable future. So as the rains were washing the road away they were also washing seeds and crops away. Then the country was hit by swarms of locust eating all their crops. So food prices didn't fall at all. As if all this was not enough then COVID19 arrived. This obviously prevented us from doing our month trip to see everyone and check everything was going along well as well as being there to encourage the Kenyan trustees. What a start to 2020!!!

The good news is that all the boys are well and have been in lockdown since their schools closed at the end of March. They have all been taught about washing their hands and keeping them clean and so far everyone is fine. A number of the boys in Kisii left to visit their families for the school holidays and after we spoke to Andrew about this he called them to return to the safe house as we felt that if they did not they should remain with their families until the emergency was over. Most of them returned but a few remained with family. Andrew said that they should be fine because of how we had all educated them as to how to behave, be respectful and appreciate rules. The boys are now well equipped to visit their families and show respect to them and build bridges which is important if they are to continue to develop into valued members of society. This is what we are aiming for.

For this newsletter we felt that we would do something different. We have taken a number of poems and thoughts from the boys to "speak" to all of us and when Chris has been out there he has entrusted them with a camera to take pictures and "tell it as it is".

So we hope you enjoy the latest news and if you can think of a way to help us raise money at this very difficult time, please do not hesitate to contact us.

*Trustees:- Roger Dann (Chairman), Lesley Dann, Jackie Cooper, Mike Wilding, Ben Vince, Bill Compton,
Tom Nixon, Jackie Parker, Chris Dade*

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Meru

Chris also visited Meru for two weeks while he was in Kenya. He writes:-

In December I had the pleasure to spend 2 weeks in each house with the boys during their school holiday. We had lots of fun, from learning to roller blade to having lots of movie nights. As always I had a great time, even though the excessive rain brought it challenges which included completely making the road to the Meru house un-passable!! But we got by and still had fun. I hear now the road is being repaired which is great news.

The boys continued to learn how to take photographs and film, hopefully many of you saw the films they made on the Facebook page. Enjoy the photographs in this news letter by the boys. In addition we did some writing workshops which is always great for the soul. In the newsletter we also have some of their writing. They really are a talented and inspiring group of boys. I hope to bring out another book in the next few months with their writing and my photographs so keep an eye out for it on our Facebook page. I am please to report that the floors in the Meru house have all been re-laid thanks to Desbruslais Chartered Surveyors - thanks Rob Desbruslais for your kind donations. At the time I visited, the boys were all well and happy and they all send their love. I hope you enjoy their words and pictures.



Anderson



Above-Fun on the swing.



Toe



Left; Caleb learning to cook.

Here is a poem by the boys in Meru safe house. The boys talked about what people called them while they were living on the streets. This poem describes what often gets missed, street children are seen as either criminals or victims. But as the boys say they are so much more....

I am not a street dog.

I am not a pig.

I am not a garbage eater.

I am not a thief.

I am not a drug addict.

I am not a criminal.

I am not a bad person.

I am not a worthless.

I am a footballer.

I am a dancer.

I am an engineer.

I am a bright boy.

I am hard working.

I am gentle.

I am caring.

I am respectful.

I am peaceful.

Chris talked to the boys about their rights under the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child which about 53 countries of the world have signed up to including Kenya.

Their perspective of this is as follows:-

"The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child sets out rights to protect ALL children globally. There are many rights including:

- To be protected from violence, abuse and neglect*
- To have access to health services*
- Have the right to education*
- Have an adequate standard of living*
- To be protected from child labour, drug abuse, sexual exploitation,*
- If experienced trauma the right to recover our health, dignity, self-respect and social life*

Not even a single right is met for children who have to live on the street. When I was on the street it was the opposite, I was never safe or supported. Why on the street I am not being protected? I am still a child, where are my rights?"



Ayub (job) struggle when he has to go to school as he has had so many bad experiences with adults who have not treated him well. He is helping at the house until he is old enough to go to college where he wants to learn to cook.

Our Thanks go to the following for their Support We have so many people to thank this time. Please forgive us if we miss you out. We are so grateful to all of our supporters. Without you Harambee for Kenya would not exist.

Welcome Baptist Church

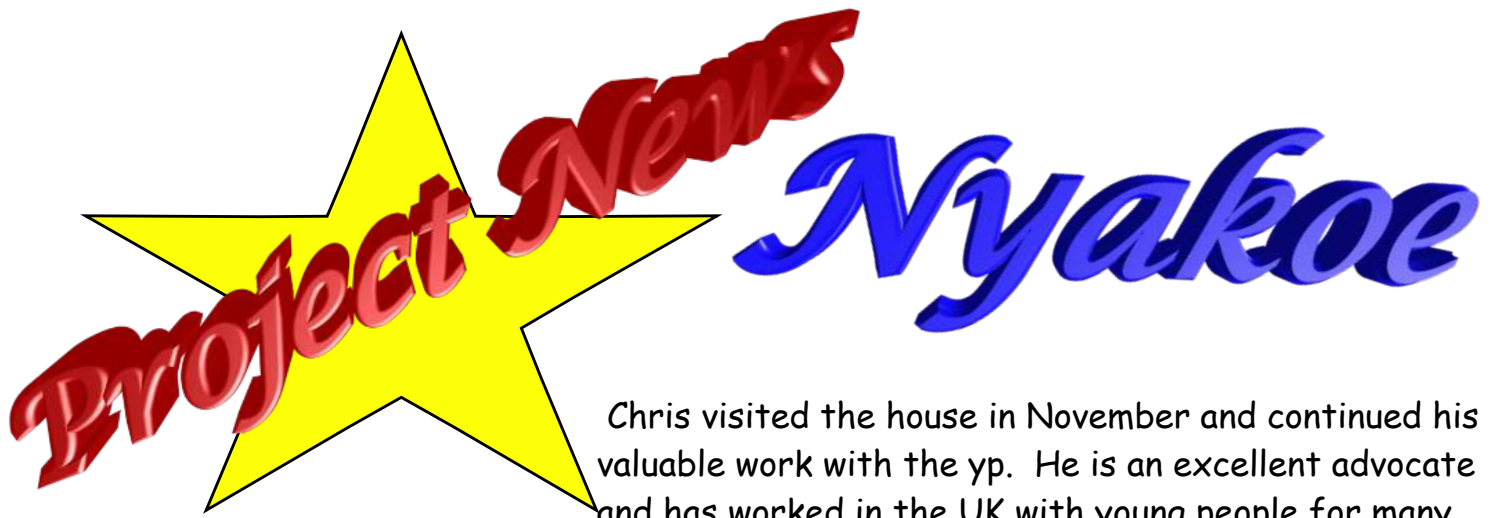
Jenny Manklow Mick & Mary Wilding. Nadine and James Robb.
Ian Armitage and Johanna Cunningham Adam at Whitepeakcreative.co.uk
Jenny Owens Dave & Shirley Prout. Helen Barham
Rob from Desbruslais Chartered Surveyors Veronique Stone. Ria Pelemen.
Alan and Ellen Alexander Margaret Collins Shannon Bowles Nan.
H Pan-Sesar Derek Smith Raphael Stipic Beth Williams Sylvia Ciccarellu
David Ball. Cassandre Rossel-Thomas Roy Goddard. Amanda Fearon.
Patricia Musgrave Katie Sturgess Laetitia Launay
Lewisham Scouts Kent Scouts. Gillian Clarke Rose-Marie Riley and family.
Rob and Jan Kendall.

And all our regular supporters

Hi all, Chris here.

Just wanted to let you know about my Facebook fundraising, which has been a real success. Its so easy to do and I feel in the spirit of Harambee (all pulling together) we can all support the charity more effectively to fundraise. This is a really vulnerable time for us all, but particularly Kenya. Even more of a challenge has been not being able to get out and fundraise in the community which Lesley and Roger take a lead in. It feels like the right time to all pull together to make this job more easy for them. social media is an effective way of doing this. There are so many options such as starting a Facebook fundraiser, Selling things through our charity EBay page, promoting the charity though the website. I am happy to help anyone who is unsure how to do this, you can call me on 07906743282. Also think about the churches, scout groups, schools, universities etc that we are involved in, they may well want to help through social media. We need your help, and it is such an easy and effective way to make a difference. Thank you



The logo features a yellow five-pointed star with a black outline. The word "Project" is written in red, 3D-style letters across the left side of the star. The word "News" is written in red, 3D-style letters above the right side of the star. To the right of the star, the word "Nyakoe" is written in large, blue, cursive-style letters.

Chris visited the house in November and continued his valuable work with the yp. He is an excellent advocate and has worked in the UK with young people for many years. The boys respond well to him and he has

managed to get them to express themselves in many ways, which is very therapeutic. I am sure you have seen videos of them dancing and having fun. He has also challenged them to write their feelings down too and here are some examples of what they have come up with. These are their own words and we have not made any changes.

Benard Orina- It's pleasure that we come along journey, a Street is like a jungle that contains numerous types, sizes and shapes of all beasts of the world. Its a struggle and only the fittest to survive, for someone to get food , shelter or clothing is just like a hyena who wants to hunt an antelope and as you know it is not a easy job for the hyena to catch an antelope maybe is less limited. But remember in life there is always an end to everything that is beginning only Harambee for Kenya that seems to have no ending, we can prove to the world that we can make it even if we are Street boys. Lastly remember that there is no home which is better than Harambee for Kenya. This is the home that I have ever seen in my life. Actually it is an inspiration to me and the boys.

Kelvin Peter writes "The Joinery"

Its a pleasure that we have come on a long journey since we meet. Remember in life always has an end to everything that has a beginning. Only H4K has no ending, it is such a hurt that soon I am going to leave you all alone I don't know what you are going to feel but my aim to you all is to see you passing to greater heights so as to prove that even though we were street boys we can make it if we work hard in our studies love one another and respect each other.

And "Dear Brother"

We have this in common is that the road which has never been travelled is the road to success. through this aim I surely know that you may pass

lastly remember that there is no home that is better then H4K. This is the home that I have ever seen in my life actually it is an inspiration to me.

love you all, from your loving brother Kelvin Peter.

More meaningful writing by some of the boys. Chris certainly manages to get the best out of the boys.

To my brother in Harambee for Kenya by Issac

Always make your face happy no matter what happens and work hard for your success because without successful people struggle like you. Keep on working hard to achieve your goals always remember your background and it should motivate you to work hard. H4K is a place that is safe and protects you so you can work hard. I ask you brothers to work hard and you will be a successful person in life. from your loving brother Isaac.

Life is like A Rotating World by Emmanuel

Since life is like a rotating world, you should not give up.

To me when my mother died I saw that everything was over, no future ahead.

Things changed when I was invited to join the boys at the safe house

To become brother of the same womb.

I was happy and things started to change.

I am one of them and I am excited.

Everything is possible, no matter how difficult it gets.

The difficulty is in you when you see things as impossible.

I am happy, I now have hope, I am seeing my future come alive.

Since life is like a rotating world, you should not give up.



Benard and Hudson on the left, are two of our older boys. Benard is training to be an electrician & Hudson is going to teacher training college.

Nash on the right is our youngest at the age of 6yrs old.



All these pictures were taken by the boys. They had no remit and thoroughly enjoyed expressing themselves.

Gallery



