

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2008



*'What you did for the least
of these'*

About us

Cariad Kenya has been in existence since 2001 and as a registered charity since 2006. It is a relatively new charity that has helped set up a children's home for neglected and under-privileged children. The home is in the Kilifi district, one of the poorest areas in Kenya. Child labour, child prostitution and forced early marriages are common in this area. Our challenge is to rescue these and other abandoned children and to sustain them socially, morally and spiritually.

The Village

The home is in Kikambala which is about an hour's drive from Mombasa. The Indian Ocean is a half hour's walk away. Mombasa is south of the equator where there are only two seasons – wet (Feb-April) and dry. Day time and night time are the same length with the sun rising and setting at six in the morning and evening every day.



During the wet season, local vegetation is tropical and luxuriant, with coconut, banana and mango trees growing. On our visit this Summer, we saw Nasib climb an 80 foot coconut tree with great ease – he could see all the way to Mombasa! Apparently, some boys from the coastal region learn to do this at an early age.

The people in the village are very poor and live in primitive homes, with no sanitation, electricity and

little water. Most of the people grow their crops on their small patch of land.



Women are engaged in small scale crop growing for home consumption. Since the political crisis in December 2007, food prices have rocketed and most people live on beans and rice.

Water and Latrine

Our recent visit in August highlighted the extreme poverty in the village contrasted with the improved accommodation and reasonable comfort in the Mudzini home. We are grateful to the Kitchen Table Charity for donating a grant so that we can bring water and a latrine to the village. Imagine the excitement for the villagers. A new water tower has been built at Mudzini and a tap put on the outside wall for the villagers to have access to clean water. The village elders have been consulted and they arranged for help to build and maintain the long drop latrine.

The House and Shamba

In the Mudzini house, there is the main living room with 4 bedrooms fitted with bunk beds, suitable for 40 children and the 3 house mothers – Alice, Saida and Leonida. The kitchen is in an outside cooking area with store rooms covered by corrugated sheeting. The entrance space is used as a dining area. We use the library as a classroom where Lillian the teacher gives extra Maths and English tuition. Many of the girls started school late and have catching up to do. Anthony lives in rooms attached to the office block while other workers live in a row of simple dwellings.

The shamba is thriving and there are now 6 cows. One calf was born while we were there and we called it Valerie; a guard dog had 6 puppies and George the donkey is very happy that he has work to do!



The Girls

There is a new 9 month old baby called Jamila. She is beautiful but looks very bewildered at times. Jamila's teenage mother used to live on the streets but is encouraged to visit her.



In the holidays, Brenda comes home from her boarding school. All the girls go to school and this year Juliana will sit her final exams, while next year Gift, Kimberley, Jane and Riziki will also be leaving for their boarding schools. Officially none of these children existed because their birth was not registered as they lived in the slums or in similar situations. Mudzini has worked hard to obtain birth certificates for all the girls. This gives them an official identity.



Last year we informed you about the twins Macharia and Agnes, who had been rescued from dire circumstances. Sadly Macharia died but Agnes is thriving and has been fostered. She is living in Nairobi. Agnes still visits Mudzini and the police officer who rescued her came to the home with her birth mother and was amazed with her transformation.

All the girls are a tribute to themselves and to Anthony, Alice and all the staff who so lovingly care for them. They are loving, spontaneous and open despite the traumas of early childhood.



Occasionally you can glimpse the shadow of sadness. This is what Christine, the financial worker, wrote, *'Sometimes we find it difficult to feel with them when they run to us when they are feeling low. Sometimes the girls tell us they want to go back to their homes however bad they are. We feel with them because it is not easy for us since we work very far away from our homes and family and we have dedicated ourselves for them. The girls sometimes have very sad stories that I find hard to take. This is because they have gone through issues that I have never gone through. We ask you to pray for us.'*

Holiday Club 2008

The Holiday Club this year was based on Mark's gospel and called 'Meet the King'. Every day we learnt stories, acted them out, memorised Bible verses, played games and enjoyed many craft activities. We had a mini-Olympics, a four day holiday with mattresses piled high on top of the bus, a treasure hunt and visits to Mombasa Baptist Church and to the cinema.



One friend who came with us states, *'What would our memories be? Of the transparent gratitude the children showed to all the kind people back home who had sent new clothes and provided new shoes; of their delight*

in learning new skills; of their simple faith? Yes, all of this and more. Waking to the crashing of a coconut or the daily rain shower battering on the tin roof, visits from snakes and no hot water were a small price to pay for the privilege of being with children who asked for and expected nothing but who thrived on simply being given VALUE and LOVE.'

Justice

A group of young post-graduate law students visited Mudzini. They were visiting Uganda, Rwanda and Kenya through an initiative of the Lawyers Christian Fellowship in the UK. They were looking at the work of CLEAR (Christian Legal Education and Research), a part of the International work of LCF, as a stimulus for these young people to give some of their time and talents to assist the underprivileged. You will remember that two of our trustees, Dan Leader and Andrew Stephens, came with CLEAR years ago to work in Kenya and met Anthony and from that has grown Mudzini and Cariad Kenya.



The Children's Officer for Kilifi District, Charity Muinde, has encouraged charitable homes in Kikambala to form an association to be a stronger voice for children. They held a special party to thank a magistrate, Charles Obulutsa, for his contribution of help to the homes because of his concern for neglected and abused children.



Gift gave a speech on behalf of the homes: *'We regret that you are now leaving us and we cannot forget how*

kind you have been to us as you have fought diligently for our rights even when we were in a situation of no hope. Thank you so much for the support and love that has changed our lives, from difficulties and problems, to where we are now, in a place where we can find peace and feel as human beings and like other children. You have enabled us to have self-esteem. We appreciate that. We feel that we are now in a good home where we get parental love, education, food, shelter and freedom to express our problems. We give thanks for having been rescued from the many struggles the girl child faces, such as early marriages, sexual molestation, rape and prostitution. We are happy to be in such a caring environment.'

Thanks

The most exciting part of our visit was to witness the growing faith of the girls. Their praise and worship time was inspiring and their fervent simple prayers, robust singing and hearts of love were awesome and challenging.



- Let's give God praise for blessing and prospering the home.
- Let's give God thanks for the grant from the Kitchen Table charity to give water and a latrine to the village.
- Let's keep praying for the children and the staff.

**On behalf of the Trustees,
thank you for your ongoing
prayers, support and finances to
the work of Cariad Kenya
Charity Number: 1113463**

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**For more information about
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www.cariadkenya.btik.com**