

Welfare Education Justice



Newsletter: Sept 2006

Thank you for continuing to support the children in Kikambala, Kenya. In August, we met three new teenage girls called Riziti, Juliana and Jacqueline. Jacqueline had just arrived at the home, she had been abused by her aunty who had threatened her with a knife and denied her food. Many neglected girls are taken in by members of their extended families and used as servants. We also saw the home Jacqueline had come from: it was no more than a tin shed and made our garage look like a palace! We actually went to the law courts where her case was being heard. Much of Anthony's work is making sure there is justice for all children who have been neglected and abused.



We also visited a very simple dirt-floored shack in the slum area of Shanzu, where a 16-year-old boy was caring for his mentally sick mother and three sisters. We were taken there by Anthony, June (the children's worker) and the elder of the village. It was a really sad case. The 12-year-old sister had been sexually abused and was pregnant (the home will look after the new baby). Sexual exploitation is a big problem because exploiters feel safer from prosecution in developing countries. This is because of poverty, unemployment and corruption. Now you can understand why girls in particular are very vulnerable and need help.

However, back at the Mudzini Kwetu home, the children are in a wonderful, safe environment, where there is love and support. The children feel valued and have aspirations for the future, living in a big family where they have a great feeling of hope. We are so impressed at the values and skills being instilled into these children to help them learn to lead successful adult lives. The older girls all have a younger child to look

after; they often sleep in the same bed together. There is not often time for play; that's just the way it is in Africa. There are chores to be done and they all take their turn in doing the cooking, cleaning and washing. When we go, we try and make sure they have some treats, and play lots of games with them, as well as plenty of singing. The Indian Ocean is only about 10-15 minutes away, but it is mostly the tourists who spend time on the beaches.



The children's lives have improved so much, thanks to people like you who have supported this work with love and commitment. The children are well and they are able to have vegetables and fruit from the shamba (farm area), milk, some eggs and clean water. Of course none of these things are constant because of drought and climate change, but things are so much better.



The workers at Mudzini Kwetu Centre are very happy. Since last year, five very simple one and two room homes have been built for them. They feel as if they are in the lap of luxury. Macharia, the farm worker, is getting married because he now has somewhere to live. There is another building in the process of being built, which we hope will accommodate volunteers, visitors and possibly a kindergarten.



Our concerns are to continue caring for these children and others. We also have a burden for the village of Kikambala, where the people have no sanitation or clean water. Anthony is already exploring ideas of how to help them by building a well and, in the long term, building a school. It may be possible for the Centre to administer medicines, for simple ailments, to the villagers.



Thank you so much to all the supporters of CARIAD KENYA. Without your help and God's grace and mercy, none of this progress would have happened.



Thank you for everything you do

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