

August 2015

KOFUP's GALLERY OF STARS (a tiny sample of the many children and young people helped by KOFUP over the years)

JOHN OTIENO OCHOLA, 19yrs – John's mum left the family when he was small. He lives with his father who is in poor health. KOFUP paid John's secondary school fees where he rose to be head boy and president of the student council. He is very bright and got an A- in the final Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE). He is off to university in September to study statistics and engineering.



Eliud, left, and John

ELIUD NYAERI, 20yrs – KOFUP has supported Eliud since primary school. Both his parents are dead. He rose to become chair of the Christian Union. He achieved grade C in the KCSE and is hoping to go to college to study journalism.



EDITA ANYANGO AMADI (left) 21yrs – attended Atemo Mixed Secondary School located in a grindingly poor area in western Kenya where many of the pupils are semi or total orphans. KOFUP supplies bursaries for the children who can't afford the fees. Edita will be entering her fourth year at Nairobi University this September doing a Bachelor of Commerce degree, specializing in finance. She was one of the first girls to benefit from KOFUP's 'Mama Always' programme which funds sanitary wear for the girls.



CLEMENT OMUKA, (right) 19yrs – has been supported by St Joseph's Rehabilitation Centre in Luanda since 2009 when he was found on the streets in a bad way. He secured grade B in KCSE and starts at Maseno University in September to study Education with IT.



RASHID OWUOR, (left), stayed at the St Joseph's centre in Luanda in the early days. He is now married with a little girl and KOFUP funds paid towards the construction of a house for Rashid and his family. Before he married, Rashid took his bride-to-be back to the centre for their approval!

ST JOSEPH'S REHABILITATION CENTRE, LUANDA, WESTERN KENYA

First step of St Joseph's mission: to provide security and a safe place for children who find themselves on the streets

'Greetings to you all dear friends. We wish to thank the entire KOFUP group for the continuous support to our rehabilitation centre. The support has been tremendous towards the development of the centre's activities, more so for welfare of children from the streets. We are able to carry out street work intervention, home and school visits as well as making follow-ups and taking care of the running costs at our rehabilitation centre due to your support. Many of the children in our programme are studying at different levels and this has been possible because we are able to pay school levies in time. Thank you very much for considering us..... We are very grateful for your support and happy that you think about us. You have been very kind and supportive in giving new hope to children from the streets. Let us continue to join our efforts in working for the welfare of those who are needing in our society. Thank you very much.' Sr Pauline Namuyemba (FMSJ), Project Co-ordinator St Joseph's Rehabilitation Centre.



Sr Pauline & staff with KOFUP visitors and some of the boys currently staying at the centre

KOFUP started its involvement with the project in 2003 and has watched it grow steadily over the years. In 2008 KOFUP trustees attended the grand opening of the rehabilitation centre to which we had donated a significant proportion of the cost.

- **St Joseph's is the only rehab centre for street kids in the whole of Vihiga County**
- There are currently 84 children in the programme (up from 64 last year)

- 17 children were successfully reintegrated with their families and into school this past year
- Currently 28 children are sleeping at the centre though it is only set up for 20 meaning that space is a significant issue

Aggrey and Moses: Aged around 6yrs and 8yrs, their story is one of abandonment and neglect. The boys' parents separated and they were left with their father who has mental health issues and a drink problem. Their home was destroyed in a fire and their new home, erected by their father, is a tiny space measuring around 3' x 6' constructed of plastic sheeting and banana leaves. Each day the father leaves home around 5am and doesn't get back until after 9pm. The boys were unable to look after themselves and went to the streets where they were found by St Joseph's staff and brought to the centre. They will stay there until their home situation can be resolved. They currently attend the centre's informal school until they are ready to be integrated into the state school system.



Above, Aggrey and Moses (front row) with some of the other boys staying at the rehabilitation centre and, far left, their tiny home.

The needs in the area are enormous with many more children on the streets than can be accommodated at the centre. Children become hard to rehabilitate even after a short time on the street and the longer they are there the more vulnerable they are to becoming addicted to drugs and alcohol which are cheap and readily available and provide a way of forgetting their problems and easing their fears. The staff carry out night outreach where all they can do is approach the children to try and persuade them to go back home. Their hope is to expand the current facilities and maybe even build a second centre if they can find the funds.

BAKING BREAD!



KOFUP has helped start a bakery by funding the cost of an oven for the **YIRO Girls Network**, a programme which aims to empower girls, giving them space to discuss problems and develop their leadership skills, self-esteem and confidence. The KOFUP group were able to sample the produce this year, delicious buns and



loaves with the texture and flavour of brioche. Income from the bakery will help the group become more self-sufficient and pay for needs as they arise.

Some of the YIRO girls & (far left) the oven in action

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS SUPPORTED US OVER THE YEARS. WITHOUT YOU THERE WOULD BE NO KOFUP AND NO HOPE FOR THE MANY CHILDREN WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY YOUR GENEROSITY.

BECAUSE KOFUP TRUSTEES PAY FOR ALL ADMINISTRATION CHARGES, 100% OF THE MONEY YOU DONATE GOES DIRECTLY TO THE CHILDREN BRINGING LIGHT AND HOPE INTO DIFFICULT AND GRINDINGLY POOR LIVES.

For further information about KOFUP please contact Brendan on 01702 343562 or 07918158475 or Tricia on 01702 713287 or 07939 031491. To make a donation please make cheques payable to KOFUP and send to Brendan at 68 St John's Rd, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 7JZ. Alternatively, you can make a BACS transfer to CAF Bank, KOFUP, account number 00011612, sort code 40-52-40. If you would like to take out a standing order please ask Brendan or Tricia for a form

KOFUP – MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN CHILDREN'S LIVES

www.kofup.org