

CHink Newsletter 2013



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Registered Charity No. 1122874

CHink (CHildren in Kenya) has gone from strength to strength over the past year, due to the support from all the sponsors and volunteers and the ever increase in the charity shop donations and to the quality of the items that are for sale.

Sponsorship has risen again and this year alone, **CHink** has welcomed 14 new sponsors. As a result of this, **CHink** Academy now has an attendance of 155 poor and needy children, with support staff consisting of an Administrator, 1 Head teacher, 10 Teachers, 2 Cooks, 1 Night security Guard, 1 Evening and Weekend Guard, 1 Cleaner, all of which is possible from the generosity of all the sponsors and supporters of **CHink**.

January 2013

This visit was to inspect the new kitchen with its deep twin sinks, cooking area and storeroom. After giving the thumbs up, the organising and construction of the dining area and staffroom was discussed. The project was started as soon as possible on the site of the old tin schoolrooms. It was well on its way before we left Kenya.

A belated Christmas Party was



organised by Ingrid and Guy a nice couple from Belgium, who were most impressed with the school and all the children. After a good meal there was a disco with dancing on the schools flat roof. As a special treat, Ingrid hired an entertainer, "Bendy Boy" who was enjoyed by all the children and staff.

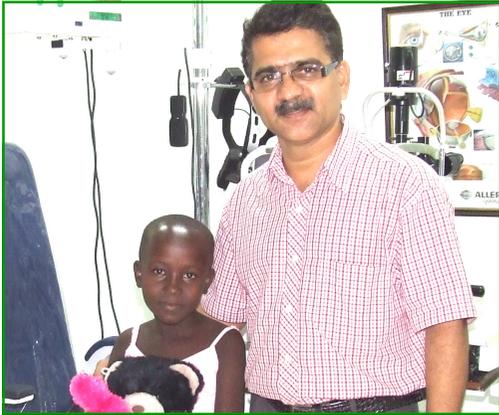
A trip to Kilifi to see the education officers who advised us about registering the school and what is required by law. The trip also involved the payment of the land rates to Kilifi District Council and a trip to Vipingo Health Ministry to certify that **CHink** Academy is up to the required health standard ready for the registration.

May 2013

The plane arrived early into Mombasa airport so we were at the hotel by 8.00am. Having checked in and had a little breakfast, we rang John, who lets us use his car whilst in Kenya, for a small fee. Having been shown our room and unpacked our cases, John had arrived so we were soon on our way to the school. The weather was typical rainy season weather, it rained for 3 whole days, but this did not deter us in our projects. The new dining area looked lovely and very spacious, now the children can eat their meals in comfort without them eating in their classrooms.

On the Wednesday the weather changed from rain to sun. So it was into Mombasa to change the money, the rate was a little low to what we normally get. Then to the lawyers to see about registering the school. After

A long talk of all the ins and outs of registering, we had another appointment with Rina, the Mombasa Lions lady who took us to see the surgeon, Vishwanatha Gokhale who performed



the operation on Yvonne's eye, the operation was a great success and now Yvonne is a totally different child, at the clinic, Mombasa Lions Eye and Blood Clinic, there are pictures of Yvonne in all the waiting rooms, before and after the operation. In March 2013, a quiz night was arranged to pay for Yvonne to have the operation, £454.70 was raised.

From there it was a drive through the town to the plastic shop for pots, pans, plates and cup and then to the prison to order a Jiko, which is a charcoal burner for cooking on. The day was very long so it was back to the hotel for refreshments and a cold beer.

The next couple of days were spent at the school organising with the teachers, measuring the new pupils for their uniforms, and trying to explain to the joiner how to make the new tables for the dining area, not quite what we wanted but they were big and sturdy and very heavy.



On the Saturday, 18 children from the surrounding area came to school to sit an exam for standard 6. As there are only 10 children at the moment in standard 6, we need at least 15 for the final exams when in standard 8. The top 10 children, all poor and needy, were put on the waiting list awaiting sponsorship on a short term basis. Mpensi, the day guard cooked lunch for all the children, the staff and ourselves. The joiner and 2 builders also had lunch of mince and rice with chapattis.

Monday was house checking day of the 10 children who passed the exam. Rachel and Philip (daughter & partner) went with Georgie and Grace. The experience for Rachel was very emotional as to how these children and the conditions in which they live. Most upsetting. On a couple of days, guests from the hotel visited the school and as Georgie explained how the charity started, the background of some of the very first children who attended the school and what they had been through, brought tears to their eyes in disbelief.

A visit to Haller Park with the baby class and KG1, 2, and 3 was arranged for Tuesday of the second week. A bus was hired from another private school, Elite Academy, who was most



CHildren in Kenya

Application Form

If you would like to :-

- Sponsor a child
- Purchase a Desk
- Make a single/monthly Donation

Please fill in the form below and Post to the address at the bottom of the page.

Registered Charity Number 1122874

Name -----

Address -----

Postcode -----

☎ -----

E-Mail Address -----

I would like to :-

Please Tick Box

- | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| ☉ | Sponsor a Child | £15.00 /€20 per month | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ☉ | Sponsor a Teacher | ask for details | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ☉ | Sponsor a Cook | ask for details | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ☉ | Sponsor a Security guard | ask for details | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ☉ | Purchase a Desk | £ 20.00 | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ☉ | Purchase a Mattress | £ 10.00 | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ☉ | Purchase a Mosquito Net | £ 10.00 | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ☉ | Make a Donation | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ☉ | Apply to Gift Aid | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ☉ | Pay by Standing Order/Direct Debit | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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Another parents meeting took place which was held for two teachers that were retiring. Grace who was head teacher for the baby classes and Kombe, who at the age of 76 "needed a rest". All the children were saddened by the announcement with some in tears. Farewell songs by each class were sung which made it more emotional and very upsetting. Grace and Kombe were praised by all the staff for their time and dedication to CHinK Academy. An official party has been arranged for January 2014.

With the two teachers retiring, the need to interview new applicants for Standard 1, 2 and 3 was undertaken. The three successful applicants will start in January. After the interviews, time was not in our favour as we had 12 children and our 2 guards to take shopping, it was a long morning. Time for lunch. So it was off to Muntaz, a local café for the local people. 12 children, 5 teachers, 2 guards, Felister and ourselves,(2) tucked into chicken and chips, pilau rice,

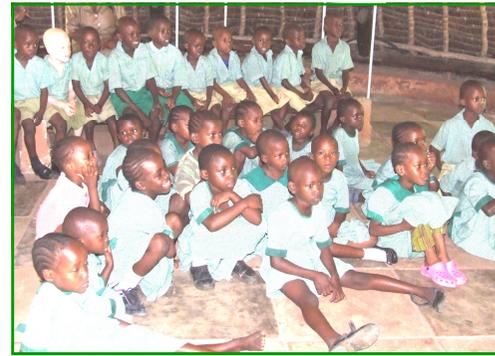
beef biryani and pop. 21 meals with pop for just under £21.00. Muntaz, the best café in Mtwapa.



On behalf of the Trustees of CHinK we would like to thank all the supporters and volunteer shop staff, sponsors and donors for your support in making CHinK, what it is today. **THANK YOU**

Special thanks to :-

- Retford Lions**
- Francis Soubry**
- Southwell Lions**
- Malcolm & Jenny Summers**
- Tuxford Academy**
- Ryton Park School**
- John & Joan Bower**
- Tuxford Pharmacy**
- Bags 2 School**
- Worksop W.I.**
- Pete Smith**
- Viv Elsworth**
- Andreas Ritter**
- Kirchenpf Gruentors**



helpful as to what we were doing for the children and there was no problem in hiring his buses. The children were picked up at the school and from them getting on the bus they never stopped singing till they arrived at the park. The noise was horrendous. All the children were very excited as this was the first time most of them have never been on a bus, or even been out of the village. On the way back from the park it was just as noisy, but the children enjoyed every minute. On the way back to school we called in at the hotel and the children sang some songs for the hotel guests, who were most impressed with the children's singing and how loud they were. From the hotel it was back to the school. The singing was so loud from the children that we could hear then, and we were 3 cars back behind the bus. A brilliant day out for all the children and staff.



Two new signs, 4ft X 3ft, were made for directions to CHinK Academy, the first at the junction on the main road, the second on the lane leading to the school. They look rather nice and bright.

Friday was the day for Yvonne to have her check-up at the clinic, whilst Georgie was busy banking the money for the staff wages and food for the next few months, Roy picked Yvonne up from school and we both met up outside the bank. We took Yvonne to the hotel for a shower and dressed her in a new pink dress as a special treat for being such a brave girl. The surgeon was very pleased with her progress and how well she was. She has to have drops in her eye for a further 2 weeks and a final visit to the clinic in 6 months' time. Rina who arranged the operation, met us at the clinic and after the check-up it was chips and pop all round at the local café. It is something that Yvonne will remember for the rest of her life, knowing that there are some people in the world who love and care for these poor and needy children, like Yvonne.

The 2 weeks went rather fast, but we are very pleased with what has been achieved since the visit in January, the completion of the dining area, the staff room, and a secure storage room under the stairs, but the painting was put on hold and will not be done until the completion of the next floor. The last day has arrived with all the last minute tasks that seem to crop up at the last moment and then all the good byes until the next time, can sometimes be quite emotional.



October/November 2013

The first floor building above the dining area looked fabulous. It wasn't long before the painters were called in to paint all the rooms and the dining area. The electricians also arrived and fitted wall sockets and light fittings in the office, staffroom and 2 outside lights for security. During this visit a large amount of maintenance was carried out by ourselves to reduce costs. All the toilet cisterns and taps were stripped down and cleaned. As the water is a little salty all plumbing soon gets clogged up with the salt crystals.

As the traffic into Mombasa is horrendous the visit into the city was limited to once, this was to the lawyer, exchange the money, pick up the school uniforms that were ordered and purchase items that were needed for the kitchen from the plastic shop. The whole day was taken up on this venture.

As the Baby classes had their outing in May, Standard 1, 2 and 3 visited the Butterfly Pavilion. They had a great time playing in the park on the swings etc., then a tour of the Butterfly House, then back to the park for pop and crisps before returning to school in time for lunch.



The following day Standard 4,5 and 6 had the pleasure of visiting Fort Jesus, another educational outing that took 2 hours. From Fort Jesus it was into Kilindini Park where lunch was served, beans, rice and chapattis. *(The cooks had an early start to prepare and cook the food as we left school at 9.00am)* After lunch the children strolled to Likoni ferry for a boat trip across the port entrance and back. It was a little frightening for some to experience the hassle and bustle of the stampede of the passengers trying to board the ferry. From there it was straight back to school, singing all the way.



The 68 children who received extra money from their sponsor for Birthdays or Christmas were taken shopping. Taking them all at the same time would have been a disaster so they went in groups of 10 and this was much easier as some can be quite a handful, especially the young ones.

As the shopping went so well and the children were as good as gold they all enjoyed a small tub of ice cream each. Taking the children shopping took longer than anticipated, 3 whole days. The girls had a dress, shoes and school bag each, the boys had shirt or jeans, trainers and school bag. All received food with the monies that was left over from shopping. The not-so-lucky children had items of clothing brought from England. Every child also received 2 pairs of underwear.



Joseph the carpenter was available to build 7 new desks and a teachers desk for the new classroom, this will be for standard 7 in January. A small dining table for the small children as the other tables are much too high, it meant that the little ones had to stand up to have their meals.



The prize giving ceremony went very

well with 30 children being awarded prizes for their achievement in school over the past year. Felister welcomed everyone to the presentation and stressed to the parents/guardians how lucky their children are to be sponsored and it was very important for the children to attend school regularly and to keep uniforms, shoes and themselves clean and smart at all times. Hygiene is a big issue at CHinK Academy.

Stephanie, who had malaria and meningitis as a young girl, which has caused some brain damage, was having a problem walking and controlling her left leg. She was taken to Port Reitz District Hospital, which operates as a mental institute, children's hospital and prosthetics centre. Stephanie will have to have a full leg brace. This was an excellent result to hear that something could be done to help her walk again. A special shoe will have to be made for her, a cast of her foot was taken so the shoe can be made. As this is Kenya, a vital part of the brace had to be ordered from Nairobi, alas it arrived 2 weeks later. At the end of our visit, Stephanie had the brace fitted and can now walk with the aid of a crutch. *A quiz night in August was held to raise money for her treatment and a total amount of £266.00 was collected.*

