

kivuli NEWS

EDITION 11 – March 2011



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jambo friends,

Well it's been another exciting month at Kivuli, both in Kenya and Australia and much as been happening. Although there have been quite frustrating moments (especially in Kenya thanks to the existence of 'African Time') as usual God has been faithful and is answering our prayers. We have made a lot of progress with the court committals in Kenya and have raised a lot of awareness in Australia about the work of Kivuli. It has been encouraging to see so much happen in such a short space of time.

Kate and Dan are doing a fantastic job managing the project on the ground and recently celebrated their 2 year wedding anniversary by spending a well-earned night at 'The Ark'. We are however starting to get a little concerned that they're raising the bar a little too high. It appears we're going to have to take cake-decorating classes before our return or we may have some very disappointed children in the future come birthday time...

Love and blessings,

Dan and Dee Rutherford



baby news

On the 23rd of March at 8.26am Kivuli's newest family member entered the world - beautiful baby girl, Zoe Ava Rutherford weighing 3.72kg. Dan, Dee and big sister Marley could not be happier and they're all doing well. Praise God!



staff profile

Aunty Loise, Kivuli social worker



Tell us a bit about yourself?

My name is Loise Wanjiku Kariuki, I'm 25 years old. I was born in Kenya and have lived here my whole life. I'm professionally a social worker. After secondary school I went to Kisumu and studied social work and community development for three years. In my free time I enjoy reading novels, watching movies and travelling.

What you do at Kivuli?

In Kivuli, I work as a social worker, caretaker and a teacher. Whereby, in social worker I am involved in guidance and counselling, making the follow up with the children and visiting children in their home environment. In care taking, I'm involved in maintaining cleanliness, helping in the kitchen and other duties. In teaching, I help the kids during their preps at night.

What do you love about being a social worker with kids?

With kids I like helping them to go back to their normal status after a problem has occurred. I especially like working with girls who have been sexually harassed or abused. I like giving care and love to those kids who are neglected or abandoned by their family members or their community.

How does Kivuli work with childrens' services in Kenya?

In line with the children's department, we work mostly on the referral cases, where they refer a child in need to Kivuli. We then do a home visit to their home community making sure they fit the criteria to be in a children's home and then I work on committing the child to our care. As a children's home we are under the registration and care of the childrens' department.

And lastly, if you could travel to any country in the world, what would it be?

I would travel to Australia and Italy because I want to see how other social workers in these countries work and I want to learn from them.

committals

For the last few months the Kivuli staff have been busy preparing for the children to be committed to Kivuli's care. This means that each of the children have a court order making Kivuli their legal guardian. It has been a long preparation process, involving home visits, collecting required chiefs letters, filling in lots of paper work and preparing reports. In the required documentation we have had to prove that the children do require 'care and protection' and therefore need to be at a children's home such as Kivuli.

Once we had completed all the preparation we were ready to bring our children to court, for a magistrate to commit them to Kivuli. Thankfully we were able to organise a magistrate, court clerk and a prosecutor to come to Kivuli to have the

case, otherwise the process of transporting all 40 kids to court would have proved quite difficult!

After many cancellations and case adjournments, we had seven official people arrive at Kivuli wearing suits (3 from the court and 4 from the children's department) and the Kivuli dining hall was transformed into a courtroom. The kids had a special day off school for the occasion and they spent the morning cleaning and making the place spick and span for our

guests. Most of the kids had little idea about what 'court' meant, so we spoke to them about what might happen, how to behave and how to look presentable for the occasion.

Upon the arrival of the magistrate, the kids stood up and greeted her in a very polite way. They also sang some songs for their guests and answered all their questions. Each of the children's names were read out individually and the children stood to be witnessed by the magistrate. The kids were a

little frightened of all the scary adults in their posh looking outfits, however they did a great job and did exactly as they were asked.

Although we are still waiting for the final paper work to come through, all the Kivuli staff are very grateful that court has finally visited and we are so close to having the kids committed – a big step for Kivuli!



highlights for the month of march – kenya

- Much needed rain has arrived – the excess amount of dust that was around is now turning to mud!
- The boy's dorm had a visit from a poisonous African frog. There were squeals from the girls who ran away and laughter from the boys as they tried to catch it and kill it!
- We have MORE baby rabbits – we now have about 20 rabbits altogether!
- Games days at school – no lessons just sport all day.
- We have a new class 8 study room, with Kivuli-built table and chairs, a special place for the older kids to study as they prepare for their important exams.
- A church service by the river followed by picnic lunch and swimming.
- Receiving a special newsletter from Uncle Dan and Aunty Dee.
- Attendance at a meeting for staff from other local children's homes – great support for us here at Kivuli, to hear stories and share ideas.
- New prospects for purchasing land have arisen and we are praying that we will have good news to share very soon.
- This month we celebrated 6 of the kid's birthdays – Happy Birthday Virginia, Benson, Sue, James M, Jimmy and Cyrus! Lots of yummy cake for everyone!

school games day

by Peter Kariuki, class 6

It was on Monday, when all Kivuli's woke up as usual. They took their breakfast which was including tea and scones. Kivuli kids were happy as kings. When it reached six forty-five, we met at the Kivuli's assembly; they said the grace so that they could go to school.

When we reached to the school, the games master teacher called us to go to mark the field. We were upset because when we reached we had been given some work. When it reached eight o'clock we started the games. There were a lot of people that were wearing different uniforms.

The football match boy was the one starting. They were playing Ndaragwa verses Nyahururu and there were two Kivuli boys called Peter and James. Out of the Kivuli members it was just two boys who were presenting. Uncle Dan and Auntie Kate were too proud of us two boys.

From Peter.
Kivuli newsletter author.
God Bless you all. Goodbye.



fundraisers

Warrandyte Festival

On the weekend of the 19th and 20th of March Kivuli Project had a stall at the Warrandyte Festival. The weather was perfect (except a little too hot for our Chai tea sales) and many people tried our Mandazi, a Kenyan snack similar to a doughnut. We gave the hot jam donut stall some healthy competition! We had many visitors and opportunities to share the work of Kivuli.

A special thank you goes out to the fundraising team and all the volunteers that helped man the stall.



Cricket match

On Labour Day a charity T20 cricket match was played down at Barnegeong Reserve in Croydon to raise money for Kivuli. There were enough gents to make up two teams and they played two games over the course of the day, winning one game each.

Thank you to Chris Noy and Al Murray for organising the day and to all the people who came along, played, ate sausages and generously donated – over \$750 was raised!

for those that pray

Prayer Points

- Safety for the Kivuli kids as many of them head home to their guardians for their school holidays during April.
- That positive steps can continue to occur for purchasing land.
- For Dan and Dee as they settle into life with two children and start making preparations to return to Kenya.

Praise Points

- Praise God for the arrival of rain in much needed dry parts of Kenya.
- Thanks to God for his provision in the process of committing our kids to Kivuli's care.
- Praise God for the safe arrival of little Zoe Ava Rutherford!

to donate

Donations to this Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993) approved aid and development project J606N Kivuli Project are tax deductible.

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