

Child Sponsorship Newsletter

Welcome to Our New Sponsors

Welcome to our new sponsors, Grant, Jimmy, Jurek & Barbara, Lindsay and Philip, who have all chosen to help former street children to pursue their education. They will support Gerald, Joseph, Boniface and Anton respectively. Joseph will now be able to commence his secondary education in January 2010. The other three boys do not have suitable home environments to return to and, as a result of sponsorship, are now in primary boarding schools, an amazing opportunity for them all.



Gerald Kinyanjui at the Easter Holiday Club

Anton Kamau has been involved with the AfCiC programmes for the past five years. He is an extremely charismatic boy with amazing potential. At the end of May, after the continuous effort made by AfCiC staff, Anton commenced education at a boarding school.

Here is his story:

Anton is a 16 year old boy who dropped out of school in Standard 4. He left his home near Juja Farm and came to Thika about 5 years ago where he slept on the streets, begged for money and did odd jobs in order to fend for himself. Anton had severe problems at home, particularly with his Dad who repeatedly physically abused him. Unfortunately, Anton's mother, fearing for her own safety, was

unable to defend her youngest son. Coming from a family of twelve children, Anton felt rejected by his parents and this led to deep resentment.

On the streets, Anton was lonely but worked extremely hard pulling handcarts, collecting scrap metal or carrying luggage to earn himself a living. Eventually, Anton's frustrations led him to drug abuse as a means of forgetting his problems. Anton attended our Outreach Centre infrequently for some months before committing himself to a skills training in Barbership. Anton showed excellent commitment to his course over a period of 4 months and we were ready to employ him in our new Kinyozi (Barbershop) at our Outreach Centre.

After the AfCiC Christmas camping trip, however, where Anton got the opportunity to spend quality time with other older boys who had returned to primary school, Anton decided that he wanted to return to school himself "so that I can do the accounts for the barbershop". Anton was then referred to our Interim Care Centre, to help him tackle difficult emotional and drug issues, as well as preparing him academically for school.



Anton Kamau practising his artwork

He has now completed a six month rehabilitation programme whilst living in the first safe environment he has known in a long time. During the rehabilitation process, we realised that Anton is very bright as well as being extremely talented in arts and crafts and football. In our centre, he taught the other boys how to draw. Throughout the programme, he has been obedient and has shown great potential.

In the future, Anton hopes to be a professional artist and his dream would be to one day own his own art gallery. He hopes to have the chance to teach other street and vulnerable children about art, so that he can help them to have a better future also.

At the moment, Anton and his father are still angry with one another and going home is not yet possible. We are therefore extremely grateful for Philip's support and his contribution towards this great success.



Anton on his first day at school

You can help raise awareness of AfCiC

Despite its successful nature, AfCiC is a small, unknown organisation and as such we are always looking to raise awareness of our work. If you have a Facebook account, please join the Action for Children in Conflict group and invite your other contacts to do the same.

[Click here to go directly to the AfCiC Facebook group.](#)

Alternatively, do you belong to a church, gym, community group etc. which has a notice board? Could you display a poster advertising AfCiC and its work? If so please email sponsorship@actionchildren.org and request a copy.

Do you know about AfCiC's Projects?

Do you know about AfCiC's innovative drama advocacy programme, Hear Our Voice, which has recently been featured across major television channels and radio stations in Kenya? Are you aware, as well as Child Sponsorship, that AfCiC also runs a unique Family Sponsorship Scheme? Are you up to date with the continued work we carry out with people displaced by the post election violence? If you would like to know more about AfCiC in general why not visit our website and sign up to receive the quarterly AfCiC newsletter.

[Click here to sign up for the AfCiC newsletter](#)



AfCiC assists Internally Displaced People to set up income generating businesses.

Secondary School So Far

At the start of the year 10 children commenced their secondary school education as a result of AfCiC's Child Sponsorship Programme. In April, following their first term, many returned to Thika to stay with their families during the month long school holidays. Here is what a few of the sponsored children had to say about their life at secondary school so far:

"Life in secondary school is good and is enjoyable. Our teachers are good and our class tells us one of his mottos that when somebody sacrifices himself he will succeed."

Joseph Njuguna



"In my school there are many clubs and societies but I chose to join Debate and Agriculture club because they are my favourite. Though life in Secondary School is hard, am trying to do all my duties in good time and right manner."

Kennedy Mungai



"I had made a lot of friends and within the end of month everybody was like my brother. Also I became so friendly to teachers and for a short time I comprehended all what I was taught within my good performance I was appointed to be the class prefect."

Samuel Mungai



"In our country Kenya we have eleven subject studied in secondary school but all in all subject agriculture is my best subject since it deals with farming system. This is also the subject that I managed to score very high (94% A)."

George Ng'ang'a



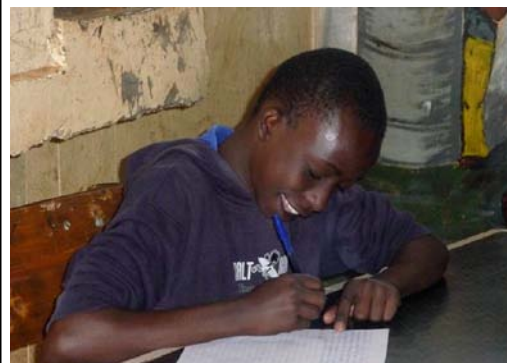
"I am very happy to start by telling you that I am a member of charity club in de

Anne Wanjiru



"It was fantastic to join the holiday club organised by AfCiC. I learned a lot from it. During that time I had fun and also concentrated on my studies because on opening day we will do our Continuous Assessment Test (CAT)."

Kennedy Waweru



Signs of Learning

Earlier this year, thanks to Child Sponsorship, we were able to send three profoundly deaf children to Kambui School for the Deaf. John, Mary and Francis have been progressing well and are really enjoying their new school which provides a safe, conducive and nurturing environment. In April, following the first term, they returned to Thika and took part in the School Holiday Club.

The school holidays are a crucial time for AfCiC as many children take the break from lessons as an opportunity to go to the streets to beg. Sometimes parents even urge their children to carry out small casual jobs in order that they can bring an extra income to the family. Unfortunately there is the risk that, once the schools reopen, children who have become accustomed to earning money during the holidays fail to return to school.

To overcome this problem, AfCiC runs a school holiday club targeted at the most vulnerable children in the local area. This month we ran a 4 week holiday club at Thika Primary School, catering for approximately one hundred children. Classes ranged from Maths to Child Rights to Yoga (which many of the children mistook for "yoghurt"!). Thanks to Thika's Hindu Women's League, local wellwishers and foodstuffs collected through a collection at local supermarket, Tuskys, we were able to provide lunch to all children who attended the club.

During the Holiday Club, Daina, AfCiC's Education Empowerment Officer, taught all the children present sign language classes. John was delighted to be able to assist with this and it was fantastic to see him getting involved with the other children. Daina, along with Margaret, AfCiC's Interim Care Centre Teacher, attended sign language classes thanks to the kind and generous donation made to AfCiC by Hazel's Footprints Trust.

