

# Family Sponsorship Newsletter

Welcome to the June edition of the Family Sponsorship newsletter.

## Welcome new sponsors

Thankyou to our newest Family Sponsors, Dorothy and Mike (Oxford) and the daughters of current sponsors, Graham and Joy (Braintree, Essex). It is fantastic to see the Family Sponsorship Programme growing and growing, allowing us to assist more vulnerable families.

## The Role of the Extended Family

Last month, I talked about the ever increasing number of single parent families in Kenya. However, many of the children we work with cannot return home to live with their parents. This can be due to death, abandonment, abuse or neglect. However, local Kikuyu tribe culture, means that children are often taken in by their extended family.

Many of the children supported through Family Sponsorship are cared for by the extended family. Assisting the child's uncle, grandparent etc. means that the guardian is more financially able to care for the extra child in their household, and this improves relations between the two.

## Case Study - Martin

Martin's mother passed away when he was very young. He was taken in by his grandmother as his father disappeared some time ago.

Nobody explained to Martin about his mother's death and therefore he has been unable to grieve properly. He stayed in school until Class 5 when he started to question what had happened and longed for some maternal love.



After many unanswered questions and being overworked by his grandmother, Martin ran away and ended up on the streets of Thika where Action for Children in Conflict found him.

Martin was given intensive rehabilitation in the Interim Care Centre from December 2006 until July 2007.

Martin is a bright boy but misses his parents and in particular his mother. He often questions where his father is as he would like to meet him. After a lot of counselling for grief and abandonment issues, Martin was taken home in July 2007 and despite ongoing challenges he was attending school fairly regularly except for when food was scarce.



Through Family Sponsorship the grandmother was given parental skills lessons and a business loan, in order that she be more able to meet the cost of feeding a teenage boy. As a result of Sponsorship, relations between the grandmother and the boy are much better and she is able to provide at least one meal a day.

*Best Wishes,*

*Jo Bayley*  
Sponsorship Co-Ordinator