

Family Sponsorship Newsletter

Welcome to the March edition of the Family Sponsorship Newsletter.

Family Sponsorship is helping more and more people!

Thanks to Anne McClure, we are now able to support two more needy families in setting up a small business with the intention of empowering them to become financially self sufficient. Through Anne's regular donations we will provide help to the families of two of our Interim Care Centre children, Charles Kamau and Peter Kamande.

Peter's family live in Muranga South District in Central Province, Kenya. Peter's father left the family about 12 years ago leaving Nancy, Peter's crippled mother, responsible for bringing up the four children.

Peter, being the oldest, felt under pressure due to his mother's struggle to provide for the family's basic needs. He fled to the streets of Thika to search for food.

Peter survived on the streets of Thika for 3 months before AfCiC came across him and brought him to the Interim Care Centre for rehabilitation. After rehabilitation, Peter was reunited with his family and found a place on a welding course as he was unable to go back to school. Since then, AfCiC have been supporting the family by assisting with basic requirements such as food packages and sleeping equipment.

The family are living in severe poverty and lack basic necessities such as food, shelter and clothing. The mother is very capable of starting a business and last year AfCiC gave her a business loan. Unfortunately, at the same time, Nancy contracted Typhoid, resulting in large medical bills. This, added to rent arrears, led to Nancy being unable to use the money in the way it was intended.

Whilst Peter continues to do very well with his welding course, his mother continues to

struggle to provide for the rest of the family. Through the ongoing support offered through the Family Sponsorship Programme we hope that we can offer more comprehensive support to Nancy, empowering her to work herself out of poverty. The extra income would provide essential items for the family's survival and will ensure that Peter stays on his welding course and that his younger siblings do not resort to life on the streets.

Anne McClure was the Director of Action for Children in Conflict in Kenya 2005-2007 and knows the incredible difference we are making. Despite no longer working for the charity she is a dedicated advocate and supporter of our high impact work for vulnerable children. Thank you!

Sleeping Children Around the World

March has been a busy time here in Thika. At the start of the month Sleeping Children Around the World visited the area to distribute 600 bed kits to vulnerable children. The kits consisted of a mattress, mosquito net, bed sheet, pyjamas, flip flops, towel, school bag and stationery set; items which the children we work with often go without. AfCiC Director and Rotarian Eleanor Harrison coordinated the event on behalf of Rotary Club of Thika. Many of the children supported through Family Sponsorship qualified to receive these kits and they will go a long way in improving the families' standards of living.



Mungiki Action

Unfortunately, at the start of the month, Kenya witnessed disruption caused by the outlawed Mungiki sect. A UN report was released which criticised the extra judicial killings frequently carried out by Kenyan police. Often these killings are carried out against members of the Mungiki sect and, as a result, they saw the report as support of their group. On the day of the uprising many businesses in Thika were closed due to threats made by Mungiki members and public transport all but shut down. Luckily no major incidents occurred in Thika, despite it being a stronghold of the group.

The Mungiki mainly comprises of idle, unemployed, frustrated young men who are swayed by economic incentives. Many of the children we work with are at risk of being recruited by the Mungiki and it is essential we assist them as early as possible in order to present alternative possibilities for the future. Through Family Sponsorship, AfCiC supports families to provide safe, stable environments for the vulnerable children we work with which protects them from the threat of such groups and other abuses on the streets.

Facebook Group

Despite its successful nature, AfCiC is a small, relatively 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.

ICC Running Club

AfCiC has always encouraged the children at the Interim Care Centre to participate in physical exercise. Not only does it help them to become fit and healthy, it is a good way of them dealing with other issues such as drug withdrawal and any emotional problems they may be facing.

In November 2008 the ICC Running Club was formalised following years of being ad hoc in nature. This was through the combined efforts of ICC House Father Edward Osoe and international volunteer Kathryn Becher. In October, Edward completed the 10km race, which took place as part of the Nairobi Marathon, in order to raise money for AfCiC. Encouraged by his performance and his desire to complete the half marathon in 2009, the children also expressed an enthusiasm to go jogging each morning.



AfCiC are extremely grateful to the staff at Leap Confronting Conflict, UK, who donated full running kits and trainers to all the boys at the centre. The boys now look very smart on their morning runs around the town and are giving us great publicity in the Thika area!

If you would like to be kept up to date not only about Family Sponsorship, but AfCiC as a whole, then you can sign up to the charity's newsletter by visiting www.actionchildren.org and following the link on the home page.