

FAMILY SPONSORSHIP NEWSLETTER

Edition: 1

May 2008

Hello everybody and welcome to the first edition of the Family Sponsorship Newsletter!

My name is Megan and I started volunteering with AfCiC Kenya in March as the Family Sponsorship Coordinator. As well as sending you all individual updates about the family that you are sponsoring, I thought that you might like to know how the Family Sponsorship scheme is developing.

First of all thank you to all of you for choosing to sponsor a family, with your support we are able to make a lasting difference to whole families rather than individual children.

This month I'm pleased to welcome three new sponsors to the programme! Karibu Sana! We will spend the upcoming weeks making home visits to identified families in need to assess their viability for the sponsorship programme.



Michael Ochieng playing in the AfCiC office. His family have just started to be supported with Family Sponsorship

This month, Bruce Gow, a financial planner from the U.K joined us to give detailed training on budget handling and micro credit giving us improved knowledge on helping families create effective business plans and ensure successful Income Generating Activities (IGA).

We will be encouraging families to start saving some of the income generated from their business by showing them how to record their earnings and expenditure and helping them to open a bank account. This will help them to plan for any large purchases or unexpected costs.



Peter with Bernard Thuo learning to repair bicycles through our skills training programme

Soon we hope to hold regular group meetings for all of the families who are being sponsored so they can learn off each other and our dedicated staff about ways in which they could improve their businesses.

We also hope to hold some skills training sessions which would encourage more creative thinking when deciding on a new IGA and hopefully provide the skills to allow families to move away from a basic subsistence business to a more innovative and profitable one.



Evans visiting the sheep that David Kinuthia and Hilda Wambui's uncle with the sheep he bought through the Family Sponsorship Programme

At a recent meeting, it was decided that from now on, Family Sponsorship would be given in the form of a repayable loan rather than a gift. Not only will this discourage dependency on aid but will in time be recycled to help more families.

By helping families to develop a well structured business plan and asking them to repay a small amount of the loan each week, they will learn how to budget and run an independent and responsible business.

That is all for now, as you can see there are some exciting developments within the Family Sponsorship Programme which I hope to be able to update you on in the next edition. I am also hoping to include some interviews with members of staff and stories from some of our families to widen your understanding of Family Sponsorship!

If you know anybody who would like to read this newsletter and perhaps sponsor a family then please pass on our details. Please send any comments or questions to me at kenya@actionchildren.org

Megan Burley