

# Family Sponsorship Newsletter

Welcome to the May edition of the Family Sponsorship newsletter.

## **Increasing number of single parent families.**

In Kenya, particularly in urban slum areas, desertion, death and imprisonment have led to an increasing number of single parent families in recent years. Statistics suggest that over 30% of families are now headed by single mothers. Being based in Thika, Central Province, many of the children we work with are from the Kikuyu tribe. In Kikuyu culture, when a couple separate, it is the woman who is left to care for the children, often struggling to earn enough money to feed her children. Many of the families we support through Family Sponsorship fall in to this social demographic. 60% of families supported through the scheme are single mothers caring for their children.

## **Peter Kamande Case Study**

Peter Kamande, sponsored by Anne, is cared for by his mother. He lives in Muranga South District, with his other three siblings. Peter's father left the family about twelve 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 through a business loan and by assisting with basic requirements such as food packages and sleeping equipment.

Whilst Peter continues to do very well with his welding course, his mother continues to provide for the rest of the family. Through the ongoing support offered through the Family Sponsorship Programme we hope to empower Nancy to work herself out of poverty. The extra income she receives from her business helps her to provide essential items for the family's survival, ensures that Peter stays on his welding course and that his younger siblings do not resort to life on the streets.

## **David Ndichu Case Study**



David Ndichu

David Ndichu, sponsored by Pete and Sue, is 13 years old. When David's father left his mother, Joyce, she was unable to provide for the basic needs of her five children. She had no job and no means of starting her own business. David ran away from home, resorting to

life on the streets in order to earn a small amount of money to survive on. He lived on the streets of Ruiru for 2 years, collecting scrap metal to sell, until AfCiC rescued him and brought him to the Interim Care Centre. David underwent 6 months of intensive rehabilitation before being reunited with his family and supported in returning to school.

Joyce continued to struggle to feed her five children, especially the older boys. Most days they had just one meal and sometimes, if she is unable to find casual work, they went to bed having not eaten at all. She worried that her children hated her because they were unable to understand why she did not feed them.

Joyce understands that a good education is her children's best chance in life and their best opportunity to have a future life free from poverty. Despite her financial challenges, she works hard to make sure all her children attend school, even the younger ones who she pays to send to nursery school. The two eldest boys are very bright and have great potential to perform well in their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE). AfCiC provides lunch for the two boys in order to encourage them to stay in school and increase their levels of concentration in class. Through Family Sponsorship, Joyce was able to set up a wholesale business,

selling charcoal and bananas to local traders. This has boosted her income so she no longer has to worry about her children going hungry.



The two eldest boys in their school uniform

Unfortunately Peter and David's story is all too familiar: a single mother struggling to bring up her family, with no support from the children's father. Both Nancy and Joyce want the best for their children but are financially unable to provide this without a helping hand. Family Sponsorship is vital in providing a starting point for the family to turn their lives around and the continued support of all our sponsors is very much appreciated.

*Best wishes,*

*Jo*