



the longest journey begins with a single step

It's when you come to write things down that you realise the scope of what Footsteps is achieving in Kenya. Things can feel like they move slowly on a day-to-day basis but, on reflection, when you compare quarter to quarter, it quickly adds up.

In the last few months we have completed a number of classrooms and have put in place plans for a new children's ward to adjoin our existing medical centre at Katito. You can read all about these projects in this newsletter.

Many thanks again to all of you for your help and support. We may be a tiny drop in the African ocean but we are making a big difference to the people who live around Katito near Lake Victoria.



## Wenwa School as it was



## Wenwa School as it is now



## Schools See Completion of Building Work

Thanks to a generous bequest from one of our children's sponsors who sadly passed away two years ago, we are building the final classroom at Rae Mixed Primary School. The Mike Barnsley classroom will be opened by his wife Lynwen, as part of our Rafiki Programme on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July.

The final stages of work are taking place at a number of our other schools. Since our last newsletter in March we have completed a block of five classrooms at Wenwa Primary School. At Kanyalwal Primary School we have installed a Water Tank, laid floors for the 8 new classrooms, plastered and painted walls, and put door and window frames in. The garden, set up by some of the Rafiki Volunteers in 2009 at Kanyalwal, continues to thrive: without the clean water the plants would have continued to rot.

Our big project for the coming year is at Obingo Primary School, a school so far off the

beaten track that you need a 4x4 to reach it. The school is so old and dilapidated that it will probably be our biggest project yet. The rebuilding of four condemned classrooms is our urgent priority and will be the focus of the money raised by Peter Jackson and David Burditt during their climb of Kilimanjaro. Peter and David were able to meet with the Headmistress of the school during their visit to Kisumu in February and have first-hand experience of the dire conditions she faces every day. Thanks once again to everyone who supported them and thanks most particularly to Peter and David for making the climb and for generously supporting Footsteps.

We also have to give a big thank you to our friends at Cable & Wireless who have generously agreed to provide the funds to complete the school. Footsteps has been selected as the company's chosen charity for this year. Its Charity Coordinator Tracy O'Brien, will be joining us on the 2010 Rafiki trip and will have the opportunity to get a clear insight into the work we are doing in Kenya.

## Rafiki 2010

We are all keenly anticipating this year's Rafiki programme which takes off on July 23rd. Twenty-six of us will be on location at Magunga Primary School and Kanyalwal Primary School for a week-long programme of sport, solar cooking, tie-dye t-shirts, art and painting classrooms, among other things.

This is our fifth programme and each year seems to exceed the previous one so our hopes are high. This is an opportunity for participants to see and experience a dose of Kenyan reality, the face of the country you don't see on the beaches of Mombassa or in the safari parks. It teaches valuable life lessons to those who participate: that happiness is not all about

wealth and comfort; and what a huge kick you can get from the simple act of giving something of yourself to others with no expectation of receiving anything in return.





## African dinner at Headington School in Oxford

Once again a fantastic night was had by all at the annual African dinner held at Headington School in Oxford. The evening was a mix of African drumming, an African bbq cooked by Kisumu local chef Mary Ireland and a tremendous display of raffle and auction items to raise money for the Rafiki programme 2010. We even had a minister from David Cameron's newly formed cabinet in attendance. The combination of hard work by Emma Mobbs and Marlene Macauley, an African atmosphere, a great venue, a heap of generosity from all who came and a little bit of May sun, made it a really special evening. We raised a total of £15,033 and made a profit of over £13,000 on the night for Rafiki.

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## Children's ward at Katito Health Centre

Footsteps for Africa is a charity that targets Kenyan children. Even though our actions sometimes have wider implications, such as when we connect a school to a fresh water supply, our focus is on the children.

To this end in 2008 we opened a medical facility which is targeted at the effective treatment of HIV/AIDS. Children are affected by HIV/AIDS in a variety of ways, in the worse cases children are born with the disease – in fact we have 2 children on our sponsorship programme who are receiving anti-retroviral treatment thanks to our programme. However, in most cases children are affected by the loss of one or both parents, and the community as a whole suffers when the generation that is supposed to be most economically active is depleted. The average life expectancy in this part of the world is around 44 years of age.

Now we wish to expand our facilities at the Katito

Health Centre and invest in a similar sized building to the HIV/AIDS medical centre. This time the building will serve three purposes:

- A children's ward with a capacity of 20 beds will deal with in-patient children who currently have to travel several kilometres to access such services.
- A laboratory to test for all the most commonly seen diseases in the area. A current laboratory already exists, but with pitiful equipment in a tiny space of 3m x 3m.
- Accommodation for 2 nurses to sleep overnight.

We have been to see the local medical authorities and the local MP to discuss our plans and subsequently we received a letter from the Officer of Medical Health for the district, a Dr. James Otieno who wrote:

"The catchment population of children is 22,500 for those under 5 years of age. The

population of age under 1 year is 4,800. The Out-patients' children seen at the facility are 100 daily and those referred for in-patients' admission to the District Hospital are averagely 90 children per month. The District Hospital is 8km away, and most mothers rarely have enough money to make the journey. Cases of malnutrition requiring in-patient care are on average 15 per month and of pneumonia requiring referral are 40 per month, malaria averagely 98 per month. Thus these figures have informed us to prioritize a children's ward at Katito Health Centre."

We believe that this project is worthy of being adopted by Footsteps and to this end our November dinner aims to raise £30,000. Once we reach our target we expect building to start in the first quarter of 2011 ready for completion in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

