

News
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 October
 2008

2008 has been a very exciting and eventful year for The Good Life Orphanage. It did not start very well, the post-election violence made it impossible to travel to Mombasa in mid-January as originally planned but after numerous telephone calls to Nico and David we decided to go ahead and book our flights and off we went in early February. What we found was not devastation caused by violence but an over reaction by the western media meant that the tourist trade was non-existent as the holiday companies had cancelled all flights and holidays, the people on the coast were existing on very little, the money generated by tourists was not there, Mombasa was a broken city. With unfaltering support from our friends and family in the UK & Ireland, we decided to forge ahead with our plan and under Kevin's strict supervision the builders managed to



progress with the first two houses, an office/stores for the Manager and a small two bed roomed house for the Farm Manager even though building materials were impossible to find and the costs had escalated due to the civil unrest and the general world market. It was all systems go and during a very stressful February, March and April the majority of the buildings were finished and the early development of the one acre farming plot was well underway. Then we started to interview for the House

Mothers, what a task that was!! Over two hundred women turned up at The Lotus Hotel in Mombasa city centre, the majority of them just joined the queue as it gave the promise of a job. We whittled it down to twelve and after many discussions we chose Grace and Jane as House Mothers and Purity as a House Aunt. A few days later they moved into the house lock, stock and barrel, well in Kenya that is about two cases. After a few initial problems with the matron we replaced her with Jackie who has proved to be a very competent manager.



What we did not plan for was the red tape which really frustrated us. The houses were pristine, the House Mothers were ready and waiting but at every stage we came up against a barrier, what take two hours to do in our western world may take two days or even two weeks to complete in Kenya, not good for impatient Northern Irish people. After numerous visits to hospitals, Department of Children, village chiefs and the local courts on Monday 28th April we received our first two children, little Gracie a six month old



girl and Michael a beautiful boy about eight weeks old, both children were abandoned and ended up in Coast General Hospital. Over the next week three young boys, Moses 5, Caleb 3, and Joshua 2 came to The Good Life. Little Janie also arrived and on Friday 3rd May just hours before we caught the plane home, we picked up Paul, Roisin, Naomi and little Kay from the local hospital. Kay was only 1.7kg, we did not think she would survive but she is a healthy baby today.

There were many tears and tribulations during this period from everyone including our Kenyan trustees, David, Nico and Peter who without their help it would have been impossible. Also the support we received during the twelve week period by messages and emails from our children, family and our very dear friends was priceless as it was the motivation we needed to just carry on no matter what!!!

HOW THE CHILDREN HAVE GROWN

Asanta Sana

We cannot put into words just how thankful we are for your support for our project. From our 1st Annual Charity Ball on the 12th



January 2008, which was a great success, we have been overwhelmed by the interest and the financial support we have received. Our

first year accounts will be published on our website in the New Year so you will see exactly just where your donations have gone. A massive Asanta Sana to each and everyone of you who made a donation, whether big or small, every single penny raised goes direct to the project, no money is deducted for administration, travel or accommodation expenses, every penny is spent wisely in Kenya.

Your support makes it so much easier for us to make the dream come true and provide a happy secure life for these children. God Bless you all !



Kevin & Mary xx

May 2008



Gracie
October 2008



May 2008



Caleb
October 2008



May 2008



Moses
October 2008



May 2008



Roisin
October 2008



May 2008



Paul
October 2008



May 2008



Kay
October 2008



May 2008



Michael
October 2008



May 2008



Janie
October 2008



May 2008



Joshua
October 2008



May 2008



Naomi
October 2008

