



The Christmas Party at Nairobi Children's Rescue Centre

When you think of the Christmas period, food, gifts, time with family and friends come to mind. Now imagine a bunch of kids in a rescue centre somewhere in Nairobi, brought together by the same circumstances, bound by an uncertain future, and united by a common destiny. To them, Christmas is just like any other time in their lives; porridge in the morning, time spent playing singing games, a lunch break, only to go back to the field to swing away the afternoon and retire to bed without knowing what tomorrow holds.

However, as a tradition, Our Kenyan Kids has always tried to make sure that Christmas is not just another time in their lives and that the spirit of Christmas is felt in this 'home', the Nairobi Children's Rescue Centre (N.C.R.C). Why is this the home, you may ask? Home, where the seed of our Kenyan Kids was first planted and germinated to be what it is today, an organization that touches the minds and the hearts of the people in Kenya. N.C.R.C is a government owned institution that takes care of lost and abandoned children in Nairobi (The Kenyan capital) and its environs. Being in a government institution, the children are forced to make do with what they get from the government and from well-wishers. Our Kenyan Kids is such an organization that has committed itself to support eight caregivers in the home and a party at Christmas is always a welcome gesture.

This year was no different. After a hard year for the kids, especially those who were not lucky to reunite with their families or find a new home, a Christmas party was a happy event to ease the burden wearing down their tiny hearts. A piece of cake, a bottle of soda, face painting and a bouncy castle delivers heaven to the kids. They hope that every bounce will deliver them to a better tomorrow.

Another Christmas, another heart is touched.

Josphat Kageni, Project Coordinator, Our Kenyan Kids

(Pictures from the NCRC Christmas party are in this Month's Photo Gallery)



News and Events

"Soup"er Lunch

Join us on Sunday, Feb.1st 11:15 am to 1:30 pm in the Gymnasium at Wall Street United Church for a light soup lunch being served in support of Our Kenyan Kids. Lunch includes your choice of homemade soups, rolls, cheese, squares, tea or coffee. Free will donations will be accepted and appreciated. Tell your friends!

Open Meeting

At Wall Street United Church, Brockville on Monday February 23rd at 7 pm. This an opportunity to catch up on activities in Kenya and to see the 10th anniversary video made in Kenya.

Annual Garage Sale

Mark your calendars for Friday June 12th and Saturday June 13th.

Thank you to...

June Guild for raising \$1,040.00 in 2014 for Our Kenyan Kids with her milk bag project (making and selling colourful, waterproof handbags from plastic milk bags)

Rita VanSpriel for raising \$2,118.60 for our projects in 2014 by creating and selling her unique knitted dolls.

Our Kenyan Kids
thanks

Wall Street United Church
for making its facilities freely available to Our Kenyan Kids for meetings and events.

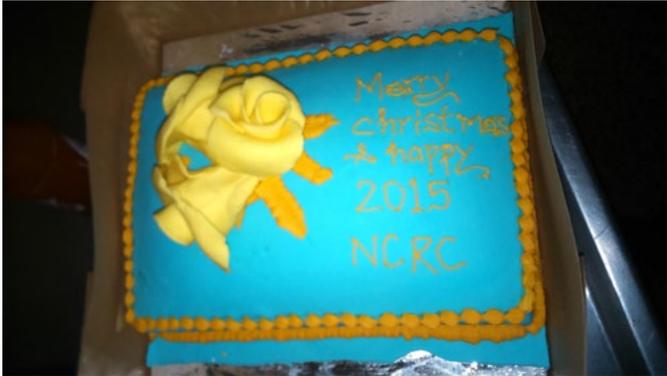
Are you reading a second hand copy of this Newsletter? You can receive your very own copy by sending your e-mail address to info@ourkenyankids.com.

Our Kenyan Kids, P.O. Box 164, Brockville, Ontario K6V 5V2

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Photo Gallery

The Christmas Party at Nairobi Children's Rescue Centre



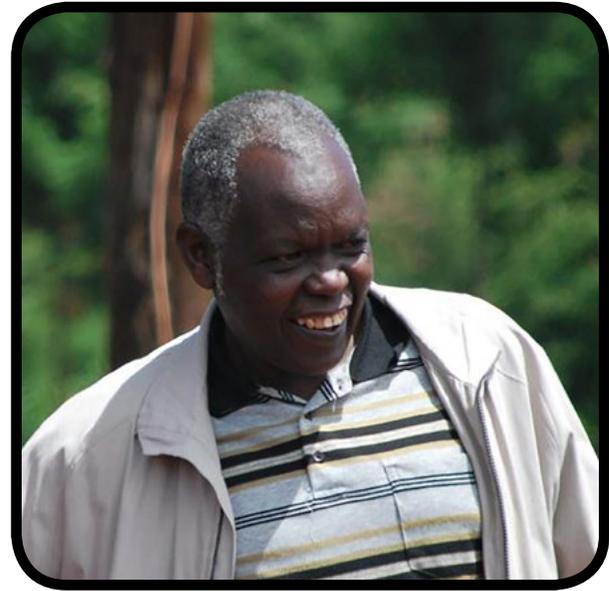
Kagumori Goat Project

In 2013, the Kagumori PLWA (People living with AIDS) support group asked if Our Kenyan Kids would purchase goats for the group as an income-generating project. A special fundraising effort raised enough money and the group has had their goats since October 2014. The 15 member group drew up a contract saying that 15 female and 1 male goats are owned by the whole group so no one can sell the goat in their care. All members of the group attended a day of instruction from the Kenyan agriculture department on how to house and care for the animals. Each person had to build an enclosure which was inspected before the goats arrived. There is a government program to exchange the male with another group to avoid inbreeding after the first generation of offspring which is already on the way and expected to begin arriving in April.

Linda James



A Tribute to George



It is with deep sadness that the Board of Directors of Our Kenyan Kids announces the death of George Mbugua.

Who was George? He was a friend, an organizer, a leader, and a role model. George Mbugua was the director of Gathaithi Orphans and Vulnerable Children's Centre in Kenya. I have known George for many years and have had nothing but the highest respect for him.

As a friend, he was always there to support me, especially when I spent a week teaching at Gathaithi Primary School. Be it Christmas greetings, certificates of appreciation, or just a kind word, George never missed an opportunity to show his appreciation. His support of the work of Our Kenyan Kids knew no bounds. All of us who met him had a friend in George.

As an organizer and leader, George was always planning the next steps to improve the lives of the children under his care. Converting old, unused school rooms into dorms, setting up a proper dining hall, supervising the building and operation of the Gathaithi Maitland Garden of Hope Greenhouse are just a few examples of his vision for the organization and thus for the children.

George served as a role model for the children, the staff and the community. His dedication, vision, and positive attitude will be sorely missed by all those who knew him.

Carolyn Matheson