



Our dear friends and supporters of Footprints Children's Home

Welcome to our September Newsletter 2017.

Once again we bring you news about our Kenyan family and as ever the challenges that we face daily. Some of these now even I have to accept are becoming the 'norm' in Africa.

So what has been happening in our lives.

After a few unbelievable days Footprints welcomed its first new children for 2017.



Gift has a little brother called Adam and they both came together. Their other name is unknown, as their mother died about 2 months ago. She was still unburied and had no identity when I met the boys for the first time.

Their mother had been

drinking illicit brew and she made a living however she could - life was desperate! Both boys were taken in by an elderly, kind neighbour in Ukunda. Her room was no bigger than 12x12 - she tried her best but Gift's brother Adam is so underweight he was becoming more and more malnourished. No relatives could be found, no father and no details of ages or names. It never ceases to amaze me that the local people will do their best no matter how little they have, with true compassion. Footprints has worked its magic and Gift and Adam are thriving. Look what a difference a day makes.



After nearly 8 years of rescuing children I thought I'd witnessed the worst possible living environments, where vulnerable children have to survive, but in July I witnessed the ultimate of sickening places, the most vile place where children are still living.

A rubbish dump site within our County that is home to families who live and survive off it daily, the clothes they wear, the waste food they eat, the partially empty alcohol

bottles they drink from, even the houses they live in are made from the rubbish that surrounds them, not a place for animals let alone children!

Footprints was asked to intervene to rescue two children living in this horrendous place, Mathias and his sister Lupina were found surviving on this pitiful site. After failing to convince their mother to relocate and explaining to her the neglect she was inflicting on her children, we had no alternative than to act.

Neither child has a birth record, so it is difficult to work out their ages. Patrick and I, were accompanied by our Children's Officer (because of the volatile situation) and we removed and rescued these two distraught children, they are now safe at Footprints in a clean, loving environment. They are slowly acclimatising to their new home and family, while the Children's Department and police deal with their mothers neglect. It is tragically sad how places like this offer a refuge for children and that it is allowed to continue !

The children have settled in well and if you'd like to see more photographs please visit their own pages on the website. Here Lupina is receiving her first pair of shoes.



Mr Kivuli, the Children's Officer went out with Kerry and Patrick on the social enquiry to try to find out more about Lupina and Mathias' background.

As the enquiry became so difficult it was important to have an official with them. It just goes to show what a difficult process this is , but it is so important to find out everything that is known about the children before they come to live at Footprints.

Kerry and Patrick will continue this harrowing work in order to provide a home for the most needy of children in their locality.

End of Term Celebrations.

How wonderful, at the end of term presentation at Massai Corner Academy, some of the Footprints children received certificates. The staff and Mama Kerry went along and were very proud of the children.



Harrun came second in his class, as did Mwongeli and David was awarded the 'Best Improved Student' in his class. The rest of the children have also done very well and everyone is proud of them.



Our Water Problem is Solved.

Everyone has been involved in collecting water since the pump broke- as you can imagine having enough water for 50 people is unbelievable! It has been such a challenge, but thanks to Rob Wallace and his persistence the pump arrived and is now installed. Our new pump works fantastically.

Getting a pump delivered to Kenya is a huge undertaking, on route it passed through 11 places. It started in Denmark then moved to Germany, Sunderland, Nottingham, Macclesfield, London, Heathrow, Nairobi, Mombasa, Ukunda and finally Kwale.



No matter how long it took, we'd like to thank everyone involved in helping us to solve this problem.

Water is fundamental to everyone's health.

Out of tragedy brings opportunity for our children at Footprints.



Sadly Holly Brown, from Burton on Trent, tragically lost her life in July 2017.

Her parents and twin sister made the decision to ask for donations to help Footprints to continue its work out in Kenya by enriching our children's lives. In excess of £5000 has been donated in memory of Holly - testament to this popular young girl and her family and friends.

As a long lasting memory the money raised will enrich and touch many children's lives at Footprints - just as Holly's parents enriched her life in the UK.

Our community room at Footprints has never had power and now it will be fitted with solar panels to bring in light and life.

An activities programme of dance, sports, cycling, additional tuition and community outreach projects involving the local children, will mean that the children of Footprints will have a full and exciting life, just as Holly did.

The room will be called:

The Holly Brown - Learning for Life Zone.

A dedication to a vibrant young girl taken from our world too soon.

Her memory will live on in the children's lives at Footprints.

Pingle Academy Supports Footprints.

The Learning Support base students and Y7 pupils at The Pingle Academy were so taken by the visit of Marian Askew from Footprints Orphanage, sharing her experiences of when she spent 4 weeks out there in May 2016, that they were desperate to help. They have been collecting shoes and fundraising, by baking and selling cakes at sports day and by making donations on a non uniform day. A total of £231.37 was presented to Marian by Mrs V Sharples (Principal) and two year 7 pupils. As well as raising money the pupils also collected 9 boxes of shoes, trainers and flip flops! This may seem strange but foot ware is the most expensive item of clothing to buy, and probably the most important, as without shoes the children are susceptible to chigoe fleas found in the sand, which burrow in to the feet and lay eggs. As well as being painful, infections can lead to amputations and in the worst cases, death. Teacher, Lucia Covell said, 'We are now asking pupils, parents and staff to sort through their shoes and donate them to Pingle's shoe collection.' Black shoes for school are the most needed.



Well done to all the pupils and staff, it is greatly appreciated. Our volunteers will be taking the shoes out to Kenya when they next visit.

A Coast to Coast Challenge.

Our dear friend, Gay Ward took on the challenge of walking 190 miles coast to coast starting from the Irish Sea coast finishing on the North Sea coast on the 18th of July. After recent injury she has recovered enough to once again support Footprints and our children in taking on this tough challenge.

Amazingly Gay has raised a tremendous £1,412



Farming Developments.

Finally our self sustainability programme is on its way !!! We welcome our chickens, all 68 of them, the children are excited but going to be very busy looking after them - a wonderful project to have at Footprints - thank you to everyone who contributed to make this happen. We can't wait to have our own fresh eggs.



A huge 'thank you' goes to all of our supporters all over the world, without you our ever growing family of 34 children would not have a loving home, in which to flourish.



If you want to find out more or get involved, please look on our website.

Mama Kerry x

Please contact info@footprintsorphanage.com for more information



Remember the Footprints Charity Ball 2017 at The Belfry on 25th November 2017 is selling out fast, there are only a few tickets left.

If anyone would like to donate a prize for the raffle at the ball we would be most grateful. Please contact us on the info e-mail above