



To our dear friends and supporters of Footprints Children's Home.

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter 2018.

We hope you are enjoying the Football World Cup excitement, BUT hope you can just find time to read about what has been happening here at FOOTPRINTS !!!!

The second part of the year has brought wonderful progress and good health for the children, although we have been immensely challenged with logistics and operations caused by the inconsistency of electricity, sometimes with complete blackouts for days and heavy rainfall over the months of May and June, which has once again caused the road leading to Footprints to be completely cut off. The vehicles have been unable to pass through, there have even been days where the children have not been able to attend school.



Kenya Power is always on 'Africa time' so we can wait for days before the problem is rectified. So frustrating, the children are unable to complete homework and we have also lost 3 'hatches' of eggs from our incubator !!!! We are now seeking funds to have back up power in the form of solar panels and batteries to help us ease this problem.

Most importantly the children have been well both healthy and happy in school and progressing very well.

Rose celebrated her 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday recently along with Hassan, Dotty and Ayub, as you can see Rose is very 'bossy' and at the forefront of any activity, helping aunty around getting into lots of mischief along with her 'brothers' Adam and now the ever growing baby Nicholas who is sitting and trying to crawl. What a difference with your continued support, Footprints is making to these children's lives.



There are so many smiley faces forever at Footprints, but some of the children are beginning to ask what happened to their parents, some asking to visit the 'homes' they lived with their parents before tragedy struck their innocent lives.

None other than 'George', we rescued him when he was just 3 months old, after both his parents died within a few days of each other, he is now 8 years old and although loved and cared for by 'Ma' and the entire family here at Footprints, he is now asking so many questions about what happened to his mum and dad.



It is so sad and difficult to explain, but we decided to take him along with his sisters Jane, Mary and Elizabeth to visit the graves of his parents, I explained we normally take flowers as a sign of respect and remembrance, so with Aunty Pauline's help he made flowers from our gardens and we took him to the graves and area where he was living. His older sisters told him nice stories of his parents, we hope eventually he will understand and accept this situation and find peace as he grows up.



Footprints work is not only providing our children with love, care, protection and their basic needs but as they grow, to address their psychological problems too! This is challenging and needs care and time to help them to come to terms with the traumas experienced in their early lives. We continue to work hard to provide the best possible support.

Jackson and Ayub also asked if they could visit the 'home' they lived in with their mum before she died, we took them back only to find the home had been destroyed. Ironically the people living around the area were still there living in squalid conditions, drinking illicit brew, while their children were being exposed to all manner of inappropriate conditions., I was quite emotional but knowing that by rescuing Jackson, Ayub and David from this situation we had made completely the right decision!

Back at Footprints we are slowly achieving our sustainability plans, Daisy and Betty our milking cows are giving us 3-4 litres of milk a day, we are still waiting on our new cow 'Precious' to have her pregnancy confirmed!!!!.



Remember our first batch of incubator 'chicks' back in March, well we are pleased to say they are now on our 'plates'. We have produced enough hens to give us our children's intake of eggs per week and the children ate their first chicken stew and our own vegetables from our shamba last week so we are very, very proud!!!

The children get involved at every stage.

We welcomed more volunteers to share our children's life's with many new experiences to return home with!!





As part of our community outreach programs, we invited the "Mothers Union" from our local church, to sensitize on the work of Footprints and to help us spread the word about the need for foster carers or Kenya parents who are willing to adopt. As international adoption has been banned in Kenya, we are seeking to find 'maybe' childless couples, who are able to take on this responsibility, it's a very difficult topic but one we have to explain, as 'a children's home' shouldn't be, under the law of Kenya, a permanent residence for a child !!



On the 16<sup>th</sup> June every year we celebrate the Day of the African Child. This year the National Rally was held in our county, in a remote area called Lunga Lunga, an area renowned for the early marriage of girls and generally the undervaluing of girls! Children were invited from all over the County to receive a plate of food, Footprints was represented by some of our children, who went along and donated some sanitary towels to give out to the local girls.



I was overwhelmed by how we take access to these items for granted, the look on these girls faces was like giving them a gift of 'gold'

Last week we embarked on another outreach programme for 'first time mums' in our local village of Majimboni. We held our very first 'Mother and Toddler' group. We knew that having access to toys or interacting with other children is nearly impossible in our local villages, so we brought it to them, We set up the HBLZ with toys and watched as Rose and Adam played with the community children.



They enjoyed these new found activities, myself and Aunty Diana from Footprints endeavored to teach hand painting activities, we were sure the mothers enjoyed just as much as the children !



We took the opportunity to explain some first aid training techniques, such as choking and CPR.

I was quite shocked when we were asked what to do when a child drinks paraffin ! (Paraffin is used by all homes as a source of light in the evening - something we could never imagine!)



Keeping connections with siblings is very important, some of our children were separated from their brothers and sisters when their parents died. So Footprints work is to also trace family members to help the children have some identity in the future. Mutua was only 8 yrs old when his mother and sister died, and was already separated from his older brothers. Only last week we were able to trace a younger brother and re unite them via a telephone call, Mutua was so happy and we now hope the brother will come to our annual Relatives Day in August.

Once again our sincere gratitude for the continued support Footprints and our children are forever receiving there has been some amazing events that have taken place over the last few weeks and I personally send my overwhelming thanks to everyone's time dedication and belief in the Footprints Vision.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in the BASC Swimming Gala.

The total sum raised was £2,250 which is amazing and every penny will go directly to benefit our wonderful children at Footprints.

Special thanks to Craig Day for all of his hard work and effort in organising the event. Every swimmer participating was a real credit to their clubs and the event was so well organised and managed.

It was an honour for Mel Dixon and Vannessa Rolinson to be asked to attend on behalf of Footprints.

Our children will have the opportunity to participate in many enrichment activities in the Holly Brown Learning for Life Zone (HBL LZ) and we will encourage them to always do their best at everything they try or do, just like the beautiful young lady, Holly Brown, always did.

[#BeMoreHolly](#)

Once again, a massive thank you on behalf of Mama Kerry, uncle Patrick and the entire Footprints Family.





Congratulations to Ruth and Gail on their amazing sky dive for Footprints.

The ladies were both incredibly nervous but managed to conquer their fears and jump from the aircraft in tandem dives with their instructors. They raised in excess of £1000. Incredible.

Thank you ladies for your adventurous spirits and loving hearts.

I forward to meeting you in August for the 'Afternoon Tea' at Langdon's and for those who can't make it, maybe I'll see you at our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Charity Ball - this year once again back at St. Georges park.

**FOOTPRINTS ORPHANAGE**  
**10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CHARITY BALL**

**SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**  
**HILTON AT ST. GEORGE'S PARK**  
Newborough Road, Burton upon Trent, DE13 9PD

Black Tie Event,  
Arrival pre-dinner drink,  
Three Course Dinner,  
Live Music,  
DJ,  
Luxury Raffle,  
Charity Auction,  
Photographer

Tickets £55 early bird price – Full Price £60

(£20 deposit per person for early bird reservations to be paid by 30th June 2018)

To book your place contact  
[info@footprintsorphanage.com](mailto:info@footprintsorphanage.com)

Every penny raised goes directly to the children and the orphanage

Charity No: 1126987

On behalf of the children, aunts and uncles and the UK Committee and Trustees at Footprints, we say 'Asante Sana Sana' (which is 'thank you very, very much') for your support and continued commitment to our Footprints Family.

Enjoy the wonderful weather here in the UK.

Kindest Regards

Mama Kerry x