



Inside this issue

| | |
|---|----|
| Musical Excellence Marks the Arrival of Ravenna Festival..... | 1 |
| Koinonia Children Celebrate Koinonia Children's Day..... | 2 |
| Tone la Maji Fish Farming Project..... | 2 |
| Mthunzi Boys Perform a Street Song 'Bustele'..... | 3 |
| Ndugu Mdogo First Music Video..... | 3 |
| Children at Ndugu Mdogo Rescue Acquire Art Skills | 3 |
| ZamScot 2011 Report..... | 3 |
| Catherine Odongo: A Story of Patience and Resilience | 4 |
| Koinonia Children Participate in Children Rights Campaign..... | 5 |
| Ndugu Mdogo Boys Learn to Operate the Video Camera..... | 6 |
| Ndugu Mdogo Donates Foodstuffs to Deprived Muslims..... | 7 |
| Koinonia Children Celebrates Day of the African child..... | 8 |
| Get Together Girls..... | 9 |
| Shalom House Hosts Seminar for Koinonia Staff..... | 10 |
| British High Commission launches Koinonia Children Self portraits Book..... | 11 |
| Battle of Wits at Jesus Cup | 12 |
| Ravenna Festival Pictorials..... | 13 |
| Red Carpet Event Pictorials..... | 14 |
| 12 Young Street Boys Rescued by Ndugu Mdogo..... | 15 |
| Esther Calls it a Day..... | 16 |
| Shalom House Hosts Radio Workshop...17 | |
| The Rise and Growth of Families to Families..... | 18 |
| Sad News: Koinonia Community Grieves Death of one of its Beneficiaries..... | 19 |

Musical Excellence Marks the Arrival of Ravenna Festival



With his well-defined flamboyance and gestures in music, from the smallest detail to the overall shape of a piece, world-famous Italian Maestro Riccardo Muti, Conductor and Music Director, ascended to the podium sending a crowd of Kenyan Classical music lovers into elated bliss. He skillfully demonstrated mastery of various musical styles backed by his more than 200 members of different Orchestras at a concert in Nairobi's Uhuru Park grounds on July 9.

Before an estimated crowd of about 4,000 people who flocked the park to quench their souls, a

humble Riccardo Muti saluted his audience to welcome the arrival of Ravenna festival roads of friendship in Kenya which went down the annals of history as his first concert in sub Sahara Africa.

From the time the ceremony kicked off at 2.30 pm, every moment seemed sensational as high-flying dignitaries and top CEOs joined artistes and thousands of fans to grace the daylong event, whose sole aim was to raise scholarship funds for needy children in the slums of Kenya. Among those in attendance was Kenya's Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka, Italian ambassador to Kenya Paola Imperiale and faith-based leaders,

including the Apostolic Nuncio to Kenya Alain Paul Lebeaupin. Members of the public from all walks of life braved the cold afternoon to attend the concert which was free of charge.

21-boy group from the Koinonia boys' acrobatic, a group comprising of street children with the talent in performing arts under the care of Koinonia Community, a charitable trust established in Kenya, accompanied Muti's team in Italy and performed at this year's Ravenna Festival.

Their week-long participation in the annually held festival was to stage performances in the concerts of the festival which was being held in three cities of Piacenza, Ravenna and culminating in Nairobi.

"It was an extraordinary experience for the Koinonia Children – confirms Fr. Kizito, founder Koinonia Community – A new world of music has opened up for them "

This immortalized event characterized by few technical and logistical hitches was easily dominated by the marvelous performances and dances.

Letter from Fr. Kizito

Dear Friends,

Eric, our communications officer, has put together some of the highlights of this year about to close.

At first sight, going through this newsletter, it is evident that the Koinonia children like more and more to express themselves using arts. New dimensions are coming up every year. The 2011 have been dominated by music, with the extraordinary experience of the participation at the Ravenna Festival. Just listening to the classical music performed by the orchestra directed by Maestro Muti has been for many a transforming experience. The most recent development is a children choir at the Ndugu Mdogo Rescue that is already about to be recorded in a CD.

Art is more than any other human activity able to give wings to our vision and our spiritual values. If the children receive a gentle producer they will take up the challenge and produce beautiful and moving pieces of music, theater, videos.

Sometime I feel a bit frustrated because while the children take to modern technology like ducks to water – give them a video camera and after few hours they have produced a beautiful story – they seem to have difficulties in using writing as a form of expression. But this week one has confided to me that he is writing the story of his life, and another one with a collection of poems. Shall we start a publishing house, too?

This year has been marked by the tragic loss of our friends Marco and George. For some week we lost courage and focus. But now we feel more and more that they continue to be part of our team.

At Christmas we will be all together in Kivuli. Join us with your prayer and the awareness that truly God dwells among us.

Father Kizito

Koinonia Newsletter 2011.

Published by the Koinonia Media Centre.

Koinonia is a lay Christian Community with a commitment to the plight of marginalized members of the society, especially street children, women and young people from deprived backgrounds.

Our initiatives are found in Kenya, Zambia and the Nuba Mountains of Sudan.

Koinonia Community
Shalom House
St Daniel Comboni Road,
P. O. Box 21255, 00505
Nairobi, Kenya.

www.koinoniakenya.org

Koinonia Children Celebrate Koinonia Children's Day

On Saturday 13 August, Koinonia Childrens from all the various homes gathered together in the company of Italian Work Campers, Koinonia Members and Staffers to celebrate Koinonia Children's Day at Anita's Home.

The annual event is sponsored by Koinonia Community in Nairobi. It aims at celebrating the deprived children that have come to form the axis of its existence.

Catch a glimpse of this video in the link below. : http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0gP72sh7l8I&feature=player_embedded



Traditional African Wrestling at Shalom House



Sports for Youth Development Initiative (SYDI) an NGO affiliated to Koinonia community on Saturday 6 August organised a friendly traditional African wrestling tournament between Kivuli wrestlers, Naivasha prisons and Ruiru prisons. Catch a glimpse on the video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jrblfyQXGE&list=UU2IUbhG9yXZrDr5d9Ewqv5Q&index=7&feature=plcp>

Tone la Maji Fish Farming Project

Tone la Maji Beneficiaries went fishing within their premises on September 17. This initiative is their pioneer fish farming project to boost their sustainability. Catch a glimpse from the video below. :

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5w59CvCdQ8U&list=UU2IUbhG9yXZrDr5d9Ewqv5Q&index=4&feature=plcp>



Mthunzi Boys Perform a Street Song 'Bustele'

The song is popularly sung on the streets of Lusaka during happy moments and when good will visitors arrive.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=glEXXOMhnMM&feature=player_embedded



Ndugu Mdogo First Gospel Music Video

Young talents from Ndugu Mdogo Rescue Centre show case their vocal might praising the Lord in their thrilling song dubbed 'Baba Yetu' - Swahili for Our Father. Catch a glimpse of the video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkKKULzehE8&feature=player_embedded



Children at Ndugu Mdogo Rescue Acquire Art Skills



On 29 and 30 October the young enthusiastic boys had a 2 days workshop at the Centre premises with a team of students from Silkeborg Højskole in Denmark to learn skills on how to express themselves through art. Catch a glimpse on this video in the link below: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTgAwczE2Ok&list=UU2IUbhG9yXZrDr5d9Ewqv5Q&index=1&feature=plcp>

ZamScot 2011 Report

Scotland--Zambia Exchange 2011 report compiled by Marian Pallister, Mthunzi and Lilanda Initiative Founder & Chair

Download the 2011 ZamScot report as well as pics from the 2011

climate change visit at https://docs.google.com/leaf?id=0Bx7juPf9iltxMGE1NTOzZDYtYzhmOS00NDYwLTlkMTkMTkU0ZGNmMjVmMTA5&hl=en_US

You can as well visit M.A.L.I website by clicking here: <http://www.mthunzi.org/Mthunzi/Home.html>



Catherine Odongo: A Story of Patience and Resilience



For Catherine Amondi Odongo, 21, light is finally at the end of the tunnel despite the tribulations she had to go through earlier in life. She exudes confidence that momentarily makes her forget her troubled past. At only 21, she displays a persona of one determined to make it in life, after her successful stint at Anita's Home, the girl child centre run by Koinonia Community. And as she waits to join university, not even the sky can be the limit.

Born in the lakeside city of Kisumu in Western Kenya to a modest Christian family, Catherine is the youngest in a family of four female siblings. Her father, the family's sole bread winner passed on in 1993 when Catherine was only 3, a relatively tender age for one to lose a loving parent. As with every parent's demise, Catherine's father's death marked the beginning of tough times ahead as the family struggled to come to terms with what had befallen them. Her mother, left to shoulder

the responsibility of the family, had no idea where to start from. Financial constraints that followed in the wake of her father's death saw the family eventually in Nairobi's Kibera slums in 2001 where they planned to settle. With the high cost of living, the household could only afford to live from hand to mouth. As the situation deteriorated, Catherine was forced to drop out of school altogether.

"I used to sell roasted maize with mum the whole day long for a period of eight months adjacent to where we lived after dropping out of school," recalls Catherine.

But there was a turning point in her life, the same year the family landed in Nairobi, thanks to her mother's religious zeal. Lady luck smiled her way when her mother met Sister Rose Cheza from Franciscan Sisters at a nearby Catholic church in Kibera. She shared her family plight with the sister who listened attentively and took the initiative to find a rescue centre for Catherine and one of her elder sisters who remained with the mother while the others were taken into custody by some relatives.

Sister Cheza introduced the mother to Sister Carol Proctor of Sisters of Notre Dame Mission who was later to take the girls to

Rescue DaDa, a rehabilitation home for street girls and destitute children where they could get their basic needs. During the transition, the mother succumbed to illness when Catherine was 12, leaving her completely orphaned and vulnerable.

"There was no other place to call home but Rescue DaDa," states Catherine.

But against all odds, she managed to get scholarship and passed her KCPE exams with flying colours at Kalimoni Primary school in Ruiru and was admitted in 2006 to the prestigious Moi girls school, Eldoret.

However, as fate would have it, after completing the primary level of education, Catherine and her sister also had reached the age limit at which girls are expected to leave the centre.

"After class 8 we could not stay in Rescue DaDa anymore and with the help of our guardian Sister Carol, we were taken to Anita's Home," said Catherine reflectively.

"Over the holidays I used to come to Anita's Home which to me was fun," recalled Catherine. "The setup is family like and I felt at home," she added.

In 2009, Catherine sat for her final Secondary School examination. Her hard work and determination in school sailed her to greater heights as she

attained a mean grade of B+. When asked what motivates her to do so well in her studies, Catherine pauses for a moment, then lifts her eyes to respond.

"I'm grateful I had the chance to go to school which I am sure my late parent could not afford to take me to", she says as a matter of fact. "My aspirations and determination advanced from the day I was admitted at Moi Girls' School, Eldoret."

Catherine has been enrolled at Moi University's School of Business and Economics to pursue an undergraduate Degree course in Travel & Tours Operations Management. Studies commenced on Monday 29th August 2011 at the Eldoret Town Campus (Kiptagich House), where she will be attending classes.

"In future I will be happy to assist persons who have gone through hard experiences like I did to make them lead a better life," she concludes as she tucks away her university admission letter.

Koinonia Children Participate in Children Rights Campaign



Koinonia Children from the various centres, on November 12 participated in an awareness campaign themed "Violation of Child Rights is a Crime" held in Ngong town.

The aim of the campaign was to create awareness on protection of children rights by exercising responsible parenting, discouraging child labour and other abuses. According to the organizers, this is achieved by taking legal action against any violations of children rights.

Children from Kivuli centre, Anita's home and

Tone la Maji centre were among the participants of the half day event.

The organisers reiterated the day's activities were in line to raise awareness of the values of children rights, which included equal opportunity to access basic rights among others. The event took off mid morning with a march flagged off by the area District Officer at the roadside village of Zambia, snaking its way through the main road to Ngong town where the dais of the event was set.

"Without children we cannot have a future, without children we cannot have a good nation. We are here to create awareness in the community of Ngong," said the Ngong town

chief identified as Bernard. Other activities included a colourful traditional dances, poems, testimonials and short skits from children who took part in the celebration. Village Elders of Korogocho stage a charming short play on how children are initiated into drugs and other substance abuses by their very own care givers that left everyone present in stitches.

The most captivating presentation was one by the Tone la Maji boys. 'performance of a South African traditional song. Ngong police station OCS Mr. Hanington Kirimi who gave a keynote speech said the government has provided many avenues and measures to guarantee that rights of children are protected. He praised the new

constitution for taking deep concern into issues dealing with children, where he ensured to work closely with those involved to see protection of every child in Ngong and its surroundings.

The campaign was organised by the Ngong District local administration and the Children's Office, among other partners such as Napenda Kuishi Trust, Boma Rescue and the Village Elders of Korogocho.

**KOINONIA COMMUNITY WISHES YOU A BEAUTIFUL
HOLIDAY SEASON AND A NEW YEAR (2012) OF
PEACE AND HAPPINESS**



Ndugu Mdogo Boys Learn to Operate the Video Camera



Thirteen boys from Ndugu Mdogo Rescue Centre attended a one week media workshop which commenced on Wednesday November 2 to sharpen their knowledge in camera operations and storytelling. The boys were trained to narrate their stories, constructed from photographs and video material.

This initiative was conducted by Icebreaker Productions, a Finnish cooperative for media productions in collaboration with koinonia community. Icebreaker Productions targets to build bridges between Finland and other countries in addition to give a voice to the marginalized in the societies.

Known as DigiTales Workshops, the underlying theme was Story Yangu ya Kibera Swahili for My Story of Kibera. The target group was former Street boys

from Kibera aged between 10-16.

By the end of the two week training sessions, an immortalized gallery of the children's stories expressed through pictures and short videos was screened as well as printed for public exhibition at a Red Carpet Event in Shalom House on December 10 2011. The event was graced by dignitaries and members of the community.

Marita Rainbird, the Director of this project said, "The workshops was successful and I was surprised by the enthusiasm from the children to learn and they were quite ready to deal with sensitive issues of their past", says Rainbird. "My hopes are very high that we got touching stories during the course of training," she added.

The purpose of the project is also to develop the former street children's self-esteem and understanding of the world in a creative way. Through the DigiTales the aim of the workshops is to bring joy and creativity to learning as well as to give empowering tools to people working with vulnerable

children.

Rainbird was in charge of an EU funded Mundo project (media education and work training project for immigrant media professionals) in Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE. As a result of the international cooperation Mundo launched a digital storytelling method in Finland. Consequently, in 2009 Marita tested the storytelling method with AIDS orphans in Zimbabwe. The DigiTales method has been used in a Roma children's project of Vantaa City in 2011. The aim of the workshops was to give a voice to Roma children and strengthen their identity. The method was also tested in Buenos Aires in 2011. The workshops were arranged in Villa Carcova slum together with local MundoMejor organization.



Ndugu Mdogo Donates Foodstuffs to Families Living in Difficulties



Ndugu Mdogo Rescue Center on Monday 29 August offered bundles of assorted foodstuff donations to the deprived families of the Muslim community in Kibera ahead of the official mark of the end of the Ramadan fasting season. The donated foodstuffs were targeting 20 most poor families, the disabled and the aged within Karanja Road neighborhood at the heart of Kibera Slums, Gatwekera, Lindi, Makina, Soweto and Fort Jesus among others areas in the outskirts of Kibera. Distribution of the foodstuffs was carried out in the evening at the rescue center coordinated by the Center's Management and the area's Salama Mosque.

In acknowledging the fact that Kibera's Muslim Population is huge, the Rescue Center's contribution was a show of solidarity and respect to the Muslim society within their vicinity

during this time when they are celebrating the end of their month-long fasting season.

"The main aim of the donation was to offer the deprived Muslims in the area, who have been taking part in the fast, with something little to go and celebrate with," says Jack Matika, the Rescue Center Project Manager. "The poor have been fasting like any other person, but they don't have anything to celebrate with during this celebration. So it's important to share with them the little we have during this festive season" he added.

Muslim children from the center were not left out in the program, where they were feted with presents ahead of the official celebrations. They were presented with new clothes and shoes as an expression of best wishes from Koinonia Community for their dedication. They were seven children observing the holy month actively taking part in the fast.

Asked about the significance of the fasting, nine year old Balsim Karim from Ndugu Mdogo said, "it's a season we fast to repent and seek God's mercies." Karim together with

the seven others Koinonia beneficiaries who are marking the celebrations thanked the entire Koinonia community and their fellow house-mates at the center for supporting them during the period, welcoming everyone else to share with them in the coming celebrations.

Head of the Salama Mosque Sheikh Amani Salim was at the center to witness the distribution and thanked Koinonia Community for their expression of gratitude towards the Muslim society, praising it for the desirable work it is doing in the area.

"We thank Koinonia for their donations during this festive season; this contribution is more than a day's meal. We moreover thank Fr.Kizito for his work in this area of Karanja Rd and the entire Kibera", said Mr Salim.

Mr. Salim promised more cooperation between the Salama area and Koinonia Community in future projects, highlighting the need of such kind of partnership irrespective of societal diversities.

Elderly Abuba Fatuma Hassan who was among the beneficiaries of the foodstuffs expressed her joy saying that the much she received will help her mark the day like any other Muslim,

something that had kept her worried since she couldn't afford it owing to the high prices.

The Holy month of Ramadan for Muslims usually starts with sight of the new moon which marks the beginning of the 9th month of the Islamic calendar, and continues for a month until the first crescent of the new moon can be seen again.

Fasting is one of the pillars of Islam, which a Muslim has to observe during the month of Ramadan. They only have meals twice a day, one before the sunrise and the other after the sunsets. During this period, all able believers are called to fast as the best way to concentrate devotion to God "Allah", praying for mercies and forgiveness.

The end of Ramadan is marked by the Eid-ul-Fitr festivities which signify spread of love and happiness through the sharing of celebrations among all Muslims especially with the poor.

Koinonia Children Celebrates Day of the African Child



Over a hundred children drawn from different schools in Kajiado township including Koinonia's Ndugu Mdogo and Anita Homes staged various spectacular performances at this year's 2011 International Day of the African Child celebrations. The celebration was held on Thursday 16 June at Beacon of Hope grounds in Ongata Rongai, Kajiado District located west in the outskirts of Nairobi.

This year, the events of the day focused on the plight of the 30 million street children estimated across the continent under the theme: "All Together for Urgent Actions in Favour of Street Children".

The day, set by the Organization of African Unity - the precursor of the African Union, insists that African governments should take stock of their rehabilitation

programmes targeting street families.

While the definition of a "street child" is much debated, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has suggested that the term applies to children who live in urban areas; have family ties that are weak or non-existent, are forced to develop survival strategies, rely on the street as their main place of stay and for whom the street has replaced the family as a place for socialization and face specific major risks. Street children are among the most vulnerable children on earth and are often subject to violence, abuse and exploitation.

The 2011 observance of this Day seeks to contribute to widespread awareness of the dangers street children face, promote the taking of urgent steps to protect them and determine strategies for providing effective child protection and care. As it is the tradition, the Koinonia children stole the show like they have in the previous

years. This was possible through their unique blend of native African folk tradition with elements of Kenya's emergent urban youth culture, succeeding to appeal to all the diverse ages and backgrounds in the audience. Their art of using the drums left all those present in awe and called for more performances by the enchanted young boys. The Ndugu Mdogo children exited the open air podium with similar spectacle; a number of them somersaulted their way out as the crowd wowed with modest awe. Various other schools and juvenile groups from Kajiado district presented poems, songs and dances. Two major banks in attendance, the Kenya Commercial bank and the Bank of Africa.

The Children's officer said in her closing remarks "As we celebrate the Day of the African Child today, take time to reflect on the plight of the less fortunate among us - the most vulnerable being the street kids. All they need is a little help from you to actualize their true

potential."

A 2004 report from The Cradle and Undugu Society - two local NGOs working among children and youth and present during the ceremony - said they earn as little as Sh10 or Sh20 for each client. "It is easy to forget children; they won't raise a militia, they won't vote you out of office," says Florence Kinyua, a child rights and gender advisor at Plan International-Kenya.

In Kibera- the event which was co-sponsored by Koinonia Community and the government was marked with a jubilant march to raise awareness on the plight faced by street children, who were the main concern of this year's event. The walk which was staged along the Kibera Drive way from "42" bus terminus point to the "DC grounds" where the event was being marked drew more than 200 children from the attending schools.



There's a woman, a long journey, a love story and, given the difficulty of the challenge, there might also be some praying involved in the adventure told by 'Get together girls' the new independent documentary directed by Italian filmmaker Vanessa Crocini.

But the protagonist of 'Get together girls', Grace Orsolato, hasn't had much time to taste exotic food or meditate. As a matter of fact her story has nothing to do with Elizabeth Gilbert's self-indulgent memoir, *Eat, Pray, Love*. There's no Javier Bardem in her love story but a continent and a group of girls that captured her heart and soul.

Crocini, 29 had been to Africa before, working as an assistant director for the documentary 'The consul list' which was shot in Rwanda in 2010 and was looking for a good

opportunity to go back there. When she heard Grace's story from a member of the Italian NGO Amani Onlus, she understood that the opportunity had finally arrived.

Crocini went back to Africa, this time to Kenya, to tell the story of six Kenyan former street girls who are now fashion designers thanks to the G2G project, the tailoring workshop created by Grace Orsolato, an Italian woman who left her steady administrative job at the well established firm Pirelli to give these young women an opportunity for their future. Orsolato first met the girls in 2002 while she was volunteering at Anita's Home, a center managed by Amani Onlus, where the girls had moved after being rescued from the streets. After that first experience, she went back to the center every summer and became the volunteer coordinator.

In 2009 she decided to start this project in order to create a job opportunity to prevent girls from going back to the streets

after their high school years, since the job opportunities in Africa are so few, especially for women. "I decided to tell this story because it's a beautiful example of a project that can really help young women to improve the quality of their life by becoming self-reliant" says Crocini who spent an entire month with Grace and the girls at Anita's Home, following their everyday life.

"I wanted to be as unobtrusive as possible so I decided not to have a crew and I went there by myself. During the first week I didn't shoot anything. I just spent time with Grace and the girls and carried my camera everywhere even though it was off, because I wanted them to get used to it. I have to say that I've built an amazing relationship with Grace and the girls."

The documentary was produced by Cinerentola, 2503 Production and supported by the Italian rock star Vasco Rossi, but in order to raise funds to finance her project Crocini also relied on more creative fundraising methods: she opened an account on the crowd funding website Indiegogo which helped her raise about 3.700

dollars and organized fundraising events, such as the pizza night she held at her house in Los Angeles, where she currently lives.

"I invited all my friends and that night we raised 1600 dollars. One of the best things of this experience is seeing my friends' support". The postproduction of the documentary will be finished by the end of the summer and 'Get together girls' will be submitted to some of the most important film festivals around the world.

Crocini also intends to organize screenings of the documentary in schools: "The aim of the documentary is spreading awareness about the conditions in which many people are still forced to live, but this is also a story of hope that can inspire people to take action, for this reason it should be heard and seen especially by teenagers and young people."

Shalom House Hosts Seminar for Koinonia Staff



Koinonia community in collaboration with Kenya Institute of Administration (KIA) held a weeklong seminar at Shalom House from March 28 to April 1. The short course namely Training of Trainers (ToT) was conducted by a team of lecturers from Kenya Institute of Administration (KIA). Among the participants were Members of Koinonia staffs from various parts of the community projects including; Kivuli center, Shalom I.T Center, Anita's home, Tone la maji and Ndugu mdogo rescue center.

The objective of the seminar was to build capacity, train trainers on Information Communication Technology (ICT), enhance knowledge in budgeting for programs, development, nutrition and rehabilitation of street children as well as administration of projects.

The Coordinator, Mr. Obondo Kajumbi, Technical adviser at Kenya Institute of Administration expressed his gratitude to Koinonia community for inviting him as well as the partnership as a 'new beginning in progressive administration'. He lauded the participants for their cooperation during the training as well as their affinity to add knowledge.

Kajumbi expressed optimism with his class and reiterated that he was looking forward to more partnership with Koinonia Community as a bid to foster good relations between the two institutions.

The sessions were interactive and were conducted through lectures, dialogue, questions and answers, role plays, case study, discussions and group works. Team work was highly accented based on an African proverb which states; *if you want to walk fast go alone, but if you want to go further go with others*.

Participants were awarded certificates at the end of the week's training. One participant, Harrison Kyalo of shalom IT center was delighted for being part of the training

and asked for more lessons either within or outside Koinonia.

"This kind of training will keep us abreast with the changing trends both in the administration and management sectors," said Kyalo.

In line with Koinonia's motto: *We belong to each other*; this training and many more to come will see to it that Koinonia Community develops into an efficient, cohesive and communal unit where issues that affect the society and those of Koinonia community are addressed. This is one of the many stepping stones towards realizing the growth of Koinonia Community.

The Kenya Institute of Administration (KIA) is a Public Management Development Institute. The Institute was established by the Kenyan Government in 1961. The main Purpose of the institute is to build human resource capacity and enhance management Skills.



British High Commission launches Koinonia Children Self portraits Book



The long awaited book 'Koinonia: Self portraits by Nairobi Street Children' was officially launched on Monday, April 18. The afternoon event was held at the lush manicured lawn at the British High Commission in Upper Hill, Nairobi. The white sumptuous tent, the photo and drawing exhibits and the books display as well as the expectant audience created an apt ambience.

Present at the launch, was UK High Commissioner Rob Macaire, Koinonia Community Director Father Renato Kizito Sesana, British artist David Fulford, members of the press and other distinguished guests.

This charity publication has photographs and drawings made by 21 street boys from Kibera slums in Nairobi. Kibera is the largest slum in Nairobi, and the second largest urban slum in Africa. Thus the children had more than a story to share about

the place they call home. This is evident in the themes advanced in their pictures and drawings. Thus in collaboration with the Koinonia Community, Fulford through a workshop collected the content of the book in 2006.

The workshop focused on 'Self-Portrait', and encouraged the boys to consider various elements that constitute a self portrait; the people, objects and surroundings that define an individual in their environment. Using simple 'point-and-shoot' disposable cameras, the boys then left the classroom, with an idea to collect images that would in some way define themselves.

The boys who took part in the workshop and consequent making of the book were present and were elated that their story could now be told to an even larger audience through the launched book. The photo exhibit as well as the power point slides spoke volumes of the innocent perspective of the street children who took part in this initiative. Their ages ranged from 7-14. For instance there was a drawing of a City Hopa, a bus service provider common

along Kibera; there were also drawings of a man in colorful attire.

The book is graced on the cover with a picture of an iron corrugated makeshift in Kibera; the dark house contrasting with the ripe yellow background of the books' hard cover. The content largely draws from the visual self-portraits that present each boy's personal visual world. Leading through the narrow streets and into the slum dwellings of Kibera, the boys' images provide an intimate representation of children's lived experience on the streets of Kibera. The book goes for 38.6189 US Dollar and the proceeding from the sale of these books will be donated to raise funds for Koinonia Community projects.

"Such projects help bridge the gap among the people" the UK High Commissioner, Rob Macaire said during his speech at the launch.

The ecstatic and entertaining performance by the rehabilitated street children from Kivuli center (Kivuli Acrobats), one of Koinonia's programs, brought the afternoon ceremony to an end. The acrobatic show and charismatic African dances by the boys left the audience in

admiration. This goes without saying that a lot of talent is tapped in Koinonia Community, which through workshops, trainings and nurturing of these talents will open more avenues for the empowerment of marginalized groups such as orphans and street families.

Fulford said that this was 'the third and most significant book launch', thanking the team that journeyed with him through the 5 year realization of the book.

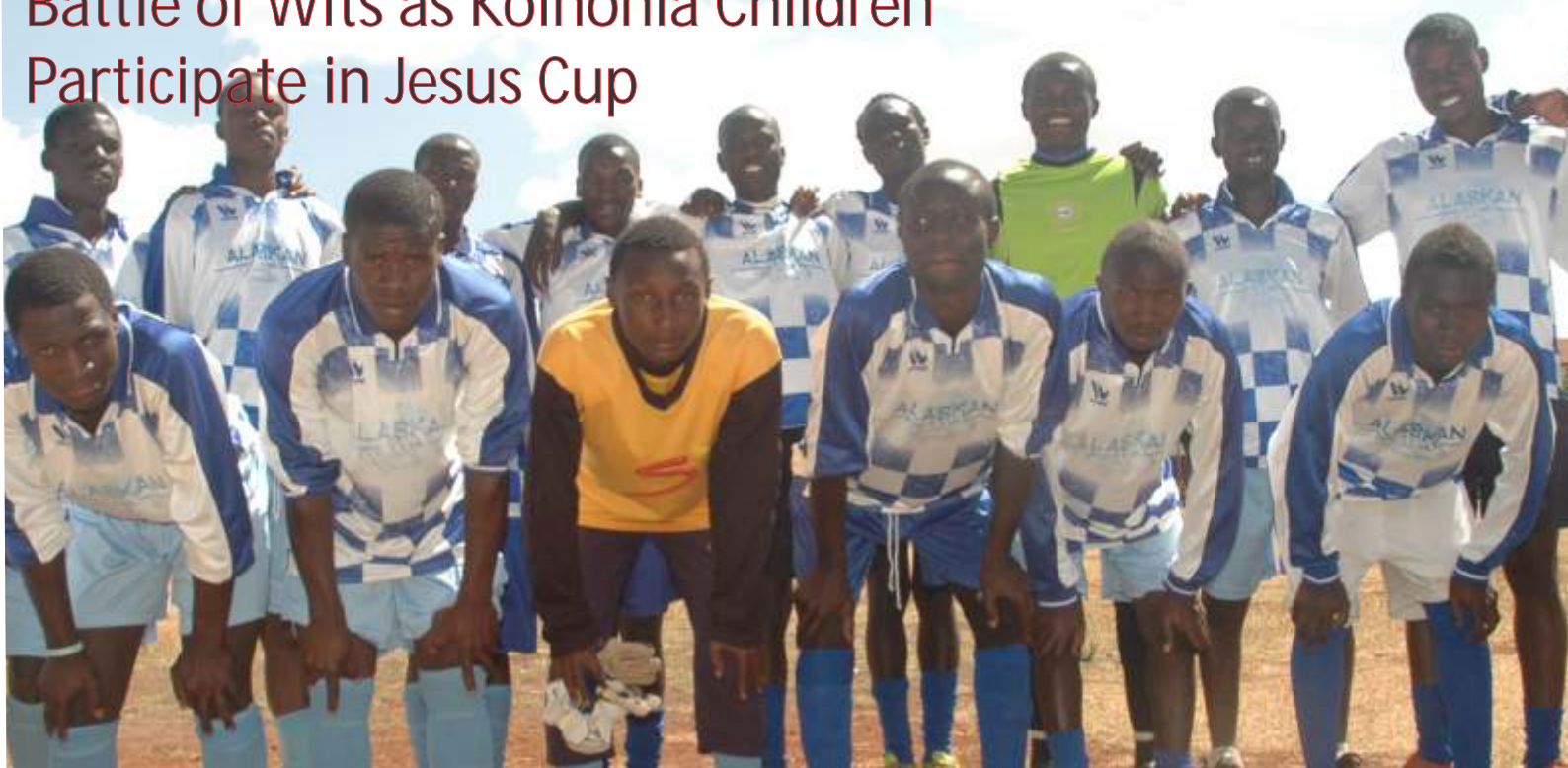
"The project began here in Kenya and it is important to celebrate this book with all the children who have been involved and for them to have the chance to share their stories with people here in Nairobi," said Fulford.

"A display of the original mono-print drawings from the book also showed off the boys' creative talents," he added.

Similar events have previously taken place at *Present London* and *Partners Spade New York*.



Battle of Wits as Koinonia Children Participate in Jesus Cup



On Saturday January 29, Koinonia Community, had the privilege of taking part in a colorful ceremony that marked the opening of the “Jesus Cup”, a special youth tournament that takes place annually at the Don Bosco Boys Kuwinda in Karen, about 25 km south west of the Nairobi Central Business District. The tournament, whose theme is *Experiencing God Through Sports* sees the participation of youths from Karen and its environs. It is organized by the Catholic Church and encompasses various sports disciplines ranging from volley ball, football and netball, and has attracted more than 14 teams.

Present at the ceremony during the launch was retired archbishop of Mombasa John Njenga, who led the mass. The tournament will run for the next 12 weeks. He further said that this is aimed at nurturing talent

and giving the youth a positive alternative to vices such as drugs and alcohol abuse which are hurting our society.

The chief guest, Mrs. Kahuho from Airtel Kenya emphasized on the importance of sports in fostering social integration. She encouraged the youth to take part in such tournaments so as to shape their futures from an early age.

This tournament was initiated 10 years ago during the Don Bosco Boys Kuwinda School's inception. At that time, the students used to study half day. They then decided to work on a modality to keep them busy the entire afternoon, thus the tournament was born.

The tourney also seeks to remember Don Bosco, the patron saint of the youth which has grown significantly over the 10 years, gaining popularity and transforming lives of the youth in the region.

Some of the teams participating in this year's tournament include our very own, Tone la Maji, Kivuli, Ndugu Mdogo and Anita home.

Koinonia uses this tournament as a platform to help the children develop a life skill

which ends up in molding their life ethics, preventing them from the vices which have previously put them in peril.

Through this initiative, it gives these teams a platform to showcase their skills and talents in different sport disciplines.

Other registered teams are, Br. Bisany, Utume oratory, Upperhill, Light Centre, Dagorreti girls, Don Bosco Boys, Kuwinda, St. Vincent, AIC Milimani and Ngamwanza Centre.

The chief guest during the ceremony, Mrs. peris Kahuho, emphasized on the contribution of sports in fostering national unity, citing example from the South Africa world cup,

“Today there is a lot of joy in the players and spectators. Sports events are a time to show one another love and courage especially those that we support. Sports bring social/national integration. During last year's world cup we put our differences aside and came together as one nation” she said.

The one and a half month tournament kicked off with a football match between the defending champions Kuwinda and Kivuli Boys Centre. A goal by Musa gave Kuwinda an early lead.

Towards the end of the match, Kuwinda scored an own goal, bringing the score to 1-1.

The women were also not left behind as two teams, Church on the Rock and Don Bosco battled in netball. Don Bosco girls outplayed their opponents, who were the defending champions

“ We believe that it is going to be smooth sailing all the way to our victory, since the biggest obstacle is out of the way”, said Mary, Don Bosco's captain.

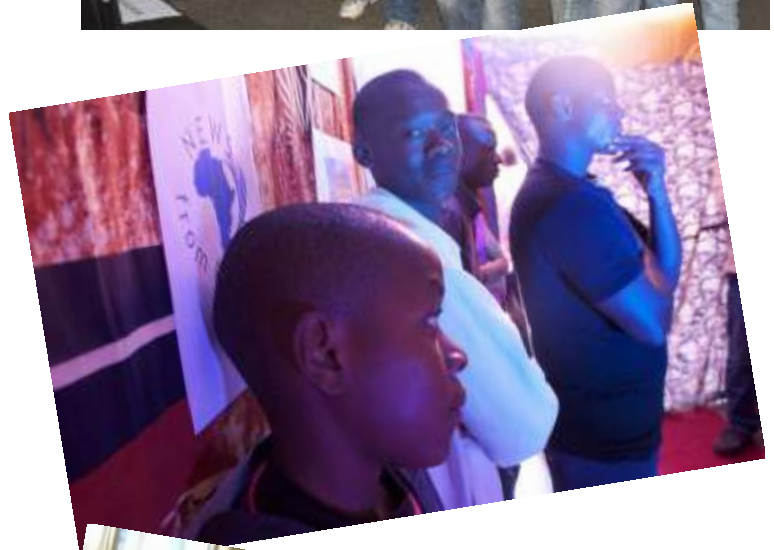
“This is not to mean that we are relaxing, we will practice as usual. We don't want room for any surprises,” she adds.

As cheers from the winning teams marked the end of the colorful ceremony, the event reminds us of the Chinese adage that states, “Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand.”

Ravenna Festival



The Red Carpet Event (Documentary Screening)



12 Young Street Boys Rescued by Ndugu Mdogo



Twelve young Street Boys aged between 5-14 years were on May 10 rescued from the street of Nairobi and are currently undergoing rehabilitation at Ndugu Mdogo Rescue Centre.

The street boys had earlier been identified by Koinonia Social workers and were scheduled to be rescued from the street and taken to the centre for rehabilitation. The Rescue Centre targets to rehabilitate at least 20 street children per year. The workers always have to devise ways to reach out to these children and gradually befriend them, which they do over a period of about one month. This is because many are fearful of street children and look upon them as criminals, due in part to their increasingly bold begging and extortion techniques. Consequently, the street children display apathy to the social workers' overtures.

The social workers endeavour to deepen

their newfound bond with the identified children by engaging in various activities with them. On the said date, the children were taken for breakfast by the social workers in Ngong town and later headed to Ngong Stadium where they played football.

The child experienced hostile conditions some at home others at school, and opted for the streets as a way to escape from the unfriendly environment. The social workers before the rescue visited the children's homes of origin. Incidentally, most of the children actually have parents or guardians, but seek to escape from certain unfriendly situations. These visits give the workers an actual glimpse of the real reason for the child's sojourn on the street, which may vary from abject poverty to abuse by alcoholic parents or guardians among other possible reasons. During these visits, the workers reach out to the parents in view of the child's rehabilitation. Where the parents or guardians have personal problems that strain their relationship with the child, the social workers try to counsel them into supporting the child's rehabilitation process as much as they can.

After leaving the Stadium, the Social workers took the children for a hearty lunch of meat, soda and Ugali. After which clothes and shoes for the children were purchased in Ngong town. Excitement was written all over the children's faces when they were told that all the new, clean clothes were theirs.

The children were later taken into their new secure home. The Ndugu Mdogo Rescue Centre at Nairobi's Kibera slum. The hope in their faces was tenfold. They took a shower, shed off their old, tattered lice infested clothes and wore new clean clothes. This marked their transition from the street life into a new rehabilitated life. The 12 former street Children are now on their way into being new members of the society that earlier sunned and feared them. The one year rehabilitation ends in either December/January: This month marks the end of the rehabilitation programme. The social workers carry out an assessment of the child's family to determine the stability of the home environment and capacity to provide for the child's basic needs and stationery for impending school placement. Where the situation is favourable, the child is reintegrated back into the family

at this point, but in cases where further fostering is required, the child is either considered for admission to the main Ndugu Mdogo Home at Kerarapon or referred to another rehabilitation centre.

The United Nations has defined the term 'street children' to include "any boy or girl... for whom the street in the widest sense of the word ... has become his or her habitual abode and/or source of livelihood, and who is inadequately protected, supervised, or directed by responsible adults." Street children are also divided into two groups: those who live IN the street (spend all their time in the street), and those who live ON the street (those who return home at night). Street children and young mothers have become part of the landscape in most Kenyan cities and towns. It is difficult to establish the exact number of street children in Kenya and Nairobi in particular. It is estimated that about 250,000 – 300,000 street children with more than 60,000 of them in Nairobi. Shanty towns like Kibera and Korogocho are home for some of these children.

Esther Calls it a Day



The staff and members of Koinonia Community hosted a party to bid farewell to its outgoing administrator Esther Kabugi while at the same time welcoming Harrison Kyalo, the new administrator. The occasion, that also turned out to be a celebration by staff to mark the end of the year, was held in Ongata Rongai, in the outskirts of Nairobi. During Esther's superannuation, staffers who have worked under her since she took over the reins in 2009 were full of praise for the lady who initially joined the Community in 2008 as a communications/programmes officer.

"She was an inspiration to many of us", said Anne Wanjiku, a programme administrator at Ndugu Mdogo. "We shall work with the new administrator to ensure the Community progresses".

Esther joined Koinonia Community in 2008 as a

communications/programs officer and was later appointed as programme manager at Anita Home. In 2009, she was promoted as administrator. Although Esther leaves at a time when her services are required most by the Community, her desire to pursue personal interests could not be stopped.

Herbert Wamalwa, the Community's Human Resources Manager, recorded his appreciation for the role Esther played when she was at the helm. He called on the incoming administrator to follow in Esther's footsteps to steer the Community to greater heights.

"I must say I have enjoyed for the time that we have worked together, the environment in central administration has been good and strong with the teamwork that made work easy," he said.

The climax of the event came when Esther cut the cake to mark the celebrations, which was later followed by presentation of gifts from other colleagues and friends. But the icing on the cake was the unveiling of a glass plaque inscribed with citations highlighting her outstanding

achievement at the helm of Koinonia administration.

"Esther Kabugi, 2008. Thanks for the exemplary service to Koinonia community. Asante sana, read the citation."

In her farewell speech Esther thanked everyone for their support during moments they shared in work.

"I will carry with me so many interesting memories. All of you are interesting people," she said. "I want to challenge you, if given a task, do it with all your heart, to the best of your ability, and be happy", she said with a disarming smile.

She jokingly remarked how she was going to miss tea-time at Baraza Cafe, which she described as being the best chance to bond with people.

Later, she presented the symbolic shield and spear to the incoming leader who vowed to fight and defend the Community in his responsibilities.

Kyalo talked of his experience with Esther saying that she had shown him how to be strong through hard times. He called on fellow staff to take up challenges at work and do their best.

"When you are given a responsibility, it either challenges you or you challenge it. For me the

responsibility I have been given is a challenge. In life I always say I like challenges, because if there is no challenge, you will not open up. When things are that okay for you, you will not see far, said Kyalo"

In his closing remarks, the Community's Elder Brother John Ndayishimiye wished everyone whom they have journeyed together in Koinonia best of luck as the year comes to a close. He congratulated both the outgoing and incoming leaders, longing blessings for them all wherever they will be.

The gala night was crowned off with dinner prepared for all staff members who ate and drunk to their fill. It was a colourful night as staffers engaged in lengthy chats, sharing hearty laughter in celebration of the end of a year that was seen challenging to the entire Community.

Shalom House Hosts Radio Workshop

Shalom House hosted an eight days radio training workshop from 6-14 December, coordinated by Koinonia Media centre (KMC) and the Italian public broadcaster *RAI Internazionale*.

The training aimed at equipping participants with radio management skills as well as to prepare a team that will play part in programming and running of the upcoming Koinonia owned web radio, *mtaaniradio.or.ke* starting 2012.

Conducted by two of *RAI Radio*'s professionals; Lorenzo Pavolini and Marcello Anselmo, the workshop saw over 16 youthful participants most of whom are beneficiaries of Koinonia community initiatives, converge at Diakonia Institute to acquire the much desired expertise.

Much of the training were based on practical ways to create, run and manage different sorts of radio programmes and the entire radio station. The

prospects are to endow the youthful participants with practical skills ahead of their running of the much anticipated web radio.

The training saw participants engage in a variety of activities including class sessions on how to handle studio equipments, conduct radio interviews and various outdoor exercises to help them develop different practical operational skills.

At the end of the training, the two facilitators vowed continued support of any kind, possible to see the upcoming radio in operation. They equally challenged the participants who took part in the workshop to exercise further the acquired skills towards realisation of this project.

Many participants expressed satisfaction with the training content but were in a state of sulky discontentment with the short time over which it had to happen, calling for a more detailed similar workshop in future.



THE RISE AND GROWTH OF FAMILIES TO FAMILIES PROJECT



Families to Families project is a initiative of Koinonia Community. It was born in 2009 so as to facilitate a reintegration/reunification process that focuses on the well being of family relations where the child feels included, protected and his/her rights safeguarded.

First Group: (Year 2010): The first involvements of the project began with Ndugu Mdogo home in Kerarapon. The Social project identified ten cases (10 boys) that were then shared with Families to Families project for further preface.

Preparations: Efforts were put in transforming children attitudes, psychological preparation, process awareness and ownership by interested parties, the project assessment and involvement in the process. An atmosphere of reciprocal trust and exchange of ideas was then developed in order to deal with past uncertainties and identified conflicts while focusing energies on the best interests of the child. Ten boys managed to be reunified back to various

homes in December, 2010.

Out of those ten boys, two boys have completed their forth form at Domus Mariae school this year 2011, and eight others are still with attractive performances in Secondary Schools.

Second Group: (Year 2011): At the beginning, the project worked in cooperation with Anita and Ndugu Mdogo home.

Preparations: Quite a lot of schools and home visits, workshops, Retreats, counseling, Group meetings, parents/guardians' business micro - finance and empowerment training were held with the help of APDK (Association for Physically Disabled of Kenya) staffs so that to simplicity the nervousness, progress communication, socialize, developed joint strategies to deal with any challenges Family economic empowerment/loaning, child home coming party and child transition process., economic empowerment and business follow-ups.

During the negotiations of year 2011, it forced the project to hire an Administration police in the process due to lack of understanding because Maasai ethnic community who still holds believes that young girls

ought to be married, hence are not to be in school. Fifteen (15) former streets children (11 Boys and 4 Girls) were reunified/ reintegrated back to various homes, hence, they joined the project's Out-reach Program which was launched in April 2011 at Nairobi-Arboretum, with the growing number of 25 children as members.

Feeling: Parents/guardians have shown total acceptance of their children and are working harder to make sure that these children are not back to the streets like before through fighting the vices that led to the streets.

Input: There are supplementary activities to be done as child family reunification is concerned, the community did wonderfully in rehabilitation and transition of hundreds of children/beneficiaries but lacked proper follow-ups to these beneficiaries, hence, to keep their contacts for the community future reference.

Plans: Though the project is under sponsorship of Amani-Italy, its management is planning also to fund raise locally to curb high cost of living and inflation of the commodities that promotes to families living poverty .

To create an Income Generating Activity (IGA) for the project's

reliance and to work hand in hand with Koisacco Limited(a cooperative society) through savings and mobilization of the project's parents/guardians to save for future loaning.

DOMUS MARIAE SCHOOL



A mixed day and boarding school situated in a serene environment conducive for learning, halfway between Karen and Ngong town, along Kerarapon drive.

The school, backed with highly qualified teaching staff and well developed infrastructure, aim at empowering all-round student with emphasis on:

- Spiritual development
- Quality education
- Physical development

The school is equipped with up to standard laboratories including a computer lab with internet connectivity.

ADMISSION ON-GOING For FORM I,II and III

For more information contact the principal

Box 24082-00502 Karen, Nairobi.

TEL: + 254 20 2117450/+ 254 701 698837

E-mail: principal@domusmariae.ac.ke

www.domusmariae.ac.ke

Sad News: Koinonia Community Grieves Death of George Munyua



It is with great sorrow that mid this year, we lost George Gathuru Munyua a Form 1 student at Domus Mariae and a beneficiary of Koinonia initiatives, on 2nd July 2011, at noon (1 pm Kenyan time), while swimming at Singita Beach, at Marina di Ravenna, in Italy.

He was in the company of fellow boys from Koinonia Homes and several Italian friends. George was one of the best artist of the Koinonia Children Team, and with 20 other members of the team had arrived the previous day, in Italy where they went to perform at the world famous Ravenna Festival. He was at his third Italian tour.

One of the Italian friends, Marco Colombaioni, 28, died in the process of rescuing George Munyua. With the help of others, Marco had first contributed to take to safety other four boys. His heroic gesture of love will never be forgotten. He truly gave up his life for the sake of his friends.

As Koinonia Community we express our condolences and solidarity to relatives and friends of George and Marco and we feel more and more that they continue to be part of our team.

WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER
YOU IN PRAYERS
RIP





**KOINONIA COMMUNITY
WISHES YOU A BEAUTIFUL
HOLIDAY SEASON AND A
NEW YEAR OF PEACE AND
HAPPINESS**



We belong to each other

www.koinoniakenya.org