

Boo Update

Direct form Vision Africa

July 2007

Seed of Hope, Nyamache

Seed of Hope Nyamache is making excellent progress. We have now been able to recover from the rough start we had with staffing and management committee problems. The centre is now running effectively and efficiently and staff and students are performing very well.

We are busy preparing for our first graduation which will take place on June 4th 2007. All of the teachers and the girls are very excited about this. It will be a great day of celebration for all. We are planning a large function for the whole community. It will be an opportunity for everyone who has been involved in the lives of the girls to come together and celebrate their achievements. You are more than welcome to attend! All of the graduating students will be presented with certificates in recognition of their success.

During the last two months of the Seed of Hope program the students are supposed to be attached to a local dressmaking business to enable them to benefit from practical application of their skills training. However, it was a challenge to find an adequate number of high-quality businesses being run in the area surrounding Seed of Hope Nyamache to accommodate the girls. This has been our problem in other rural training centres also. As a solution to this we formed 'Roots' Businesses.

We have established three Roots businesses around Nyamache in Magena, Nyacheki and Nyamache. The start-up of these businesses was funded through Seed of Hope and they were established by the girls themselves, with the support of Seed of Hope staff. Each business is visited daily by a staff member and each one is proving to be very successful. This has not only allowed the girls to be exposed to real business and dressmaking opportunities but has also allowed them to raise money for now beginning their individual businesses after graduation. It has also been a tremendous boost for their confidence, as they have been able to see their own success and potential.

The Roots businesses will also help to facilitate the post-graduation success of the girls. With this program in place, the graduates can be slowly released to do their individual businesses as they become ready. This also allows the Roots businesses to be maintained until the next group is ready to graduate.

The teaching staff continue to work hard and put all their efforts towards the success of the girls. They are devoted to training and counselling the girls for a successful future. Mr Gitau from Seed of Hope Nairobi continues to visit the centre once/twice per month and does a lot of the follow up work, overseen by Deborah.

At the graduation ceremony we will also be presenting an award to the most successful Roots business. This will probably be something practical that can be used to further their business efforts. We would also like to present something to the 'Best' girl, as well as several other certificates in recognition of special achievements or efforts.

Please send to: Boo Charity, Hamilton Business Park, Gore Road Industrial Estate, Gore Road, New Milton, Hampshire. BH25 6TH

Furthermore, following graduation, we will recruit one girl from each Roots business to go for one year internship at Johari. (www.joharidesign.com) Johari is a successful fashion house which is run by Seed of Hope, with two large outlets in Nairobi, and offers fantastic opportunities for our girls to develop their skills and confidence.

It is great to see the success of these girls, and in turn, the success of Seed of Hope Nyamache. Thank you for your support and your contribution to these efforts.

The centre currently has a total of about sixty girls. Our second graduation will take place sometime in November 2007 and fifty new students will be recruited in October 2007. We hope that we can continue to partner with you for the further development of the centre and its girls. Thank you for helping us to bring hope to the hopeless.

Best wishes



Russell Hicks
Secretary

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