

## Boo Update

March 2007

### **Bournemouth Rotary Club: Visit Kenya**

Boo Charity is honored to have the assistance of the Bournemouth North Rotary Club who have to date invested £25,000 into the Boo Nyamanche “Seed of Hope” college which is situated in Kisii North West Kenya.

During September 06 a fellow Rotarian Stanley Webb accompanied by his brother Harvey decided to make the trip to Kenya at their expense to view the progress of the project and meet with our project partners Vision Africa which are headed by John & Vera Packard with the support of Project Administrator Deborah Ross.

Due to unforeseen circumstances with internal air transport in Kenya, Stan & Harvey were unable to make the journey North to visit our project. However what follows is an account of the progress made from the Nairobi “Seed of Hope” which is an exact model of our project in the North West. The Nairobi facility was the first such project which started in 2002.

This account captures Stan & Harvey’s journey which can also be seen via the DVD Visual/Audio documentary of the trip.

Firstly, at the Airport when the flight delays took place S & H made use of the time by interviewing Deborah and John Packard. Deborah Ross introduces herself as the Vision Africa Project Administrator with responsibilities for the teaching curriculum at all colleges which includes Life, Business & Vocational Skills. Each of the girls who join the college are from backgrounds of poverty and destitution, some have only one parent remaining others have neither and more often than not they have been subject to abuse.

These girls are given the chance to develop not only in spiritual terms, but also in life skills such as, crafts, parenting, childcare, cooking and later in the program business skills. The objective of the college is for the girls to graduate after two years and either become employed or start small businesses to help sustain their future.

Rev John Packard the founder of Vision Africa has the role of Field Director along with his wife Vera. John has responsibility of for all building construction projects and preparing accounts on each project ensuring the projects are to the highest standard and that every penny is accounted for.

To date Vision Africa have four “Seed of Hope” Projects, Nairobi, Kareti, Boo - Kissi Nymanche & Ketouie across the four projects 250 students are in place and 50 have graduated.

At each of the “Seed of Hope” colleges the girls learn to cook for themselves and they prepare one meal a day for each student which is made up of rice, beans and cabbage. The colleges grow their own crops, so become self sufficient in a short space of time. They also have running clean water which they can collect and take home at the end of the day and proper flushing toilet facilities.

The Nairobi school which Stan & Harvey visited is the most mature centre. Here they were able to see the teaching facilities along with the major development made in dress making.

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They then followed the story of a young lady called Rosebella who had graduated from the Nairobi “Seed of Hope” and with the ongoing assistance of Vision Africa set up her own dress making business. S&H were taken on a trip to Kibera the second largest slum in the World which occupies 1 million people in one square miles and where 40% of the population are under the age of 18. You would have seen this area on the recent TV Comic Relief footage. In this area Caroline has set up a workshop where she employs two other “Seed of Hope” graduates to make the dresses and garments to support a very high standard Shop in the prestigious area of Westlands West of Nairobi city centre.

The girls in the workshop work 7 days a week producing garments to supply to the shop as well as local uniforms for local schools and some garments are being made for contacts in Glasgow. The profits from this project help the girls sustain life for themselves and family as well and profits going back to the SOH college in Nairobi.

Our Boo “Seed of Hope” in Nyanche Kisii now has 120 girls enrolled of which 60 are in the second year of the program.

The students go through the same syllabus to learn, life, vocational & business skills setting them up for a sustained life. They learn dress making, crafts, parenting, childcare, and health care. Development of English, Maths and Kiswahili are also critical to the move onto business skills such as customer care, time management, marketing, and basic accounting. The project has been awarded with a very high percentage of the girls graduating to gain employment or self employment.

Our second year students will be finishing at the end of this year and we are looking for sponsors to support the new business start up program which costs £250 per unit of 3 girls. This program has the same objective as the successful story above.

We will then be starting the next enrollment of 60 new intakes and again are looking for sponsors for every child.

Stan & Harvey were both overwhelmed by the incredible work and dedication carried out by Vision Africa and the remarkable transformation of these girls into confident young ladies who now have a future.

With your support we can help Vision Africa continue with this excellent worthy project and long may the Boo “Seed of Hope” continue.

Best wishes



Russell Hicks  
**Secretary**

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