

Seed of Hope Nyamache

October 2009

It's been a challenging, yet exciting year at Seed of Hope. Seed of Hope Nyamache are performing with excellence, they have come on tremendously in the last couple of years.

They currently have a staff team of five teachers and three security guards. The Headteacher, Edna, leads the others very well. The security guards not only keep the compound secure but work together with the girls to ensure that it is clean and tidy. They have developed beautiful flower beds which read 'Seed of Hope'.

The learning continues to follow our syllabus of Vocational Skills, Business Skills and Life Skills. There have been a few alterations to this over the last year. We have now added a subject called 'Fabric and Fashion Design' which enhances the skills learned in both 'Marketable Crafts' and 'Dress Making'. We also introduced a Final Year Project through which we expect students to demonstrate the practice of many of their skills combined. This teaches them to use their business skills and crafts skills to enhance their dressmaking skills, enabling them to run a more effective and competitive business.

Also, as you may remember, our girls previously sat the government trade exam Grade 3 (the lowest grade) at the end of Year Two. However, our syllabus and teaching has progressed to the extent that the girls now sit Grade 3 at the end of Year One and Grade 2 at the end of Year Two. This not only means that they graduate from Seed of Hope with a much higher qualification and skills level, but it also sets them above students who graduate from the local polytechnics having only reached Grade 3 after two years of study.

One of our key goals this year has been to establish income generating projects to encourage the centre to be more self-sustainable. This has been implemented across all Seed of Hope Centres for two main reasons. First, for some of our centres, funding is quite inconsistent, and this can interfere with the girls' learning. Second, we are constantly encouraging our girls to become independent, yet we have not been modelling the same. The centres have come up with some very unique and exciting income generating projects. Some are keeping cows, pigs and chickens. Some are growing special grass to sell for cow feed. Nairobi have launched a recycling project, collecting waste materials and selling them on for re-use. Nyamache have really developed their farming and now grow a lot of their own food. Nyamache have also started a bakery, selling cakes, loaves and doughnuts to the local community. All

Please send to: Boo, C/O Higar, Unit 1, Hamilton Business Park, Gore Road Ind Est, New Milton, Hants, BH25 6TH

Helping the children of Africa



Donate online and help
us make a difference
info@boo-charity.org

centres are producing uniforms for local schools, which not only has financial gains but allows the girls to practice their skills.

All of our centres are also involved in Crafted. Crafted is a brand being run to both build our graduates' businesses and raise funds for Seed of Hope. We are buying produce (clothes, jewellery, accessories) from our graduates and selling them through both local and international channels. We are trying to grow a wide network of supporters who can sell the produce at events or outlets, both here, in the UK and beyond.

In the next couple of weeks, we will be launching this year's 'Roots' program for our new graduates. The 34 graduates have been divided into five groups. They have worked in these groups to develop a business plan and are now ready to begin. For the success of 'Roots' we work very closely with the girls and their parents. Before 'Roots' commences the girls are expected to use their skills to do a little work in their spare time to raise enough money to help their group buy materials for initial stock for the business. The parents of the group also contribute, with each one buying something small yet significant for the business. For example, one parent may buy a mirror, another one a stool, another one some charcoal for the iron, another one some scissors. Seed of Hope then contributes a sewing machine or two, three months rent, and the required trade licence for one year. All of these efforts combined ensure that the graduates get off to a good start. The contributions of both parents and girls ensure their commitment to the business.

We are looking forward to the graduation ceremony which will take place at the end of November, and will surely be a time of celebration for the whole community.

Thank you for your continuing support. Seed of Hope Nyamache is a success as a result of your kindness and generosity. The staff and students of the centre sincerely appreciate all that you have done and continue to do for them. THANK YOU!

**Please send to: Boo, C/O Higar, Unit 1, Hamilton Business Park, Gore Road Ind
Est, New Milton, Hants, BH25 6TH**