

Report

You are special

So many of the Kindfund children have suffered terrible loss in their short lives, and have dealt with rejection, abandonment and extreme poverty. We noticed the majority are shy and mistrustful, and were reluctant to engage with us at first. However this soon changed! It was interesting to note that the children who had been rescued from birth are much more stable and adopt a carefree attitude, even to strangers, highlighting the importance for Kindfund to continue their wonderful work.

Putting together a 3 week programme was a daunting process. We wanted to address the children's psychological needs. After careful deliberation, we chose topics on identity, friendships, bullying, and coping with difficult emotions, using The Fields of Life Wellbeing programme, which was a wonderful resource. Our overall theme was, "You are Special". We underpinned the topics with memory verses from scripture which evidenced how important the children are to God. Using psalm 139 v 13 - "You created my innermost being. You knit me together in my mother's womb" - Sally delivered the story of creation and Hazel encouraged them to draw their "life river" from the miracle of their birth, highlighting their journey thus far. They drew their obstacles and highlighted where God had intervened in their lives by using the people in Kindfund to bring comfort and create a sense of purpose in their lives, through love, education and his word. We identified their goals for the future and how they could be achieved.



This message was pitched at the various ages and stages of development and woven into each activity in a fun-loving and sensitive way, using art and creative techniques. Sally's puppets, Sammy the Seal and Jeffrey Giraffe were useful in getting the messages across to the youngest group. Hazel and Sally, alongside one the leaders or teachers in each home, delivered the lessons and helped run outdoor and indoor games. Sally also taught the older children and leaders to crochet, uncovering some undiscovered abilities and talents.

To our amazement, the children plan and conduct the entire Sunday service. All the children participate and even the youngest are encouraged to pray aloud and quote scripture verses - something the adults in our congregations would struggle to do! We were astounded at the children's command of the English language and the speed at which they absorb and learn new songs and verses. They especially love singing; no instruments are needed. Using their hands, a stick or a pencil they drum a rhythm. With the harmonies of their beautiful young voices, the music is touching in a heartfelt way. It was an experience which will never be forgotten.

The highlight for all 3 homes was a picnic and fun day. We chose a location within walking distance suitable for all ages. The children squealed with delight as they climbed over rocks and up trees. With immense pride and great delight they taught us how to dig for honey from behind a rock and find pockets of salt in their soil. They picked edible leaves and kernels from the trees to eat. They certainly know how to source their own food from nature. God provides...

Observing the children enjoying their environment reiterated the amazing world that God has created for each one of us to enjoy.

The staff and children enjoyed participating in skipping, tug of war, the hockey pokey and "Duck, Duck, Goose". At the end of the day, walking home holding the hands of tired, happy children, sucking lollipops, made us realise how the simple, free things in life can bring so much joy. Each child just needs our time and love. They are so keen to

please and constantly seek approval. They just want to be accepted, so we hugged them all and held their hands regardless of age. We hope they will carry in their wee hearts the message that they are loved throughout their lives.

During one of the lessons we were teaching relaxation techniques, and felt overjoyed when many of the children used the memory of the picnic to create a safe, happy memory they can easily return to anytime just by closing their eyes, when they need to stabilise overwhelming negative emotions. Our aim was to create happy memories and teach them techniques which will positively impact their lives. To God be the glory, great things he has done.

We were privileged to witness 19 year old Saitoti being returned to his family after a tenure of 8 years. Watching the warm welcome from his elderly grandmother and extended family into a small stone home was a deeply emotional experience. This was a well balanced young man with a bright future ahead of him.

We also met Helen, a beautiful ex Kindfund child. She is now 24 years old and training to be a teacher in Nairobi. She had come back to Ngaramara to offer her services for a couple of weeks during the school holidays. Her visit was God sent as Esther and Martin badly needed some time off to rest. Her message to the girls was inspirational as she had already walked their walk, resisted the usual teenage temptation to rebel by using the Holy Spirit as her compass.

Both children were a testimony of the entirety of the work and dedication of Kindfund and the evidence of the hand of God in everything they do.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for all your generous financial support and prayers. Without you all neither of us would have been able to make the trip and deliver our programme. We were sustained by good health and it was evident during challenging moments, that we were being carried through by your prayers. Thank you. God Bless.

Hazel and Sally

Gillian's Report

What's the first thing you think about when you see the latest edition of Kindfund's prayer letter? Maybe all the cute wee photos of the children, from the babies to the teenagers. Maybe the sad stories of what the children have had to deal with in their young lives that have led to them coming to live with us. Maybe, like in the last issue, the security problems we face at times. All these answers are a picture of life in Kindfund but it is only part of the story. The less glamorous, but very necessary, side of the work is what I have spent the last few months "struggling" with. That dreaded word - "administration".

While there is the normal, ongoing work needed to run Kindfund all year round, both in Kenya and in Northern Ireland, we have had additional work to do with the KRA (Kenya Revenue Authority). This has been time consuming and if there was the equivalent of air miles for road travel I would well on my way!! In my last two weeks before travelling back to Northern Ireland in early November I had been on the road 44 hours. Nearly two full days out of 14 sitting in a car!! This included trips to Nairobi and Meru to various government offices. Also, Wamba and Ndirik with the monthly food delivery. I will admit to being close to exhaustion near the end and am so thankful to everyone who prayed for the work and the strength for me to keep going. It was at these times that I am reminded that mission can be hard, and this is a part of the story that is not often told. But I feel it's only right to give God the glory in this as well as in all the feel-good stories. He has been faithful in it all; we are making progress and continue to pray as we wait on the official response. God has also showered me with blessings along the way. Particularly on my bad days, when returning from yet another long day of travel, after meeting with various government officials, I have returned home to the children to be welcomed by them running to me from all directions, jumping into my tired arms and hugging me 3 or 4 at a time. Exhausted or not, that is a blessing



like no other. They are why we at Kindfund are there.

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain

1 Cor 15 v58

Or to express it another way, The Message puts the second half of the verse like this:

"...Throw yourselves into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for him is a waste of time or effort." This is an encouragement when we feel bogged down in "stuff" that we may see as nothing to do with what we were called to do, nothing to do with the children we are there to help. We cannot do one without the other, and nothing we do for the Lord is a waste of time. As Romans 8 v28 reminds us, "...we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

As I write, thinking back over the last few months in Kenya, missing my children and the daily hugs and kisses, I thank God for giving me the

strength, the insight and preparing the way in all the administrative challenges that arose, and give Him the glory for guiding me through it all. And as we continue to follow up on it all while back in Northern Ireland, can I ask you to continue with me in prayer for the ongoing challenges as we wait on the official response from government. Also, prayer for the children and staff, the challenges and decisions they will have to make in everyday life, and that through it all, at the center of everything they continue to grow in Christ and put Him first.

Gillian

Sylvia and Kiende, Managers Wamba Home



Returning to Kenya

Psalm 139 v 14 "I praise you for I'm fearfully and wonderfully made."

Returning to reconnect with the children of Kindfund was an emotional journey for me. They had stolen my heart when I had answered God's call to serve in a team in 2015 and although I have kept them in my thoughts and prayers, being back amongst these precious children enriched me spiritually as they did three years ago. The warmth of the welcome from everyone at the Kindfund home and the way I was remembered, humbled me. They made Hazel and me feel so much at home, so much so that we found ourselves hosting guests three days after arriving in Ngaremar.

Hazel, my companion, my friend and councillor was amazing, with the help and support of Jonathan, our coordinator. We made up a good team that gelled well together. I had been seeking God's guidance on what he wanted us to share with the children during this period of outreach and felt drawn to sharing about creation and teaching the songs, "If I were a butterfly" and "He made the stars to shine". I was offered C.E.F. material to take to Kenya with great visual material of the story of creation, which was great for teaching young children.

Hazel planned to use her resources from her counsellor work to deliver a programme in enabling the children to manage difficult emotions. As always God provides, as was evident when Jonathan presented us with a booklet from "Fields of Life" called "Living Well" which he had planned to use. The material was perfect and contained all that we needed to share with the children. God goes ahead and plans out steps and throughout our trip we were very aware of God's guidance in everything, as we were being carried by the prayers of many faithful friends and as we handed each day over to God. We never ceased to be amazed each day as God brought to mind our praise, our memory verses, our activities, and how well they had woven together to deliver our themes: "We are all special" and "To God be the glory, great things He has done."

Sally



A Friend in need

Kindfund Hope our mother
Ready to fulfil our needs
Relocate our lost lives
We appreciate your golden things
Kindfund Hope: A wonderful partner

Clean water was a nightmare
Today we drink, cook and wash
We constantly were victims of water-borne diseases
You connected tap water, and bought BIG water tanks
Kindfund Hope: Wonderful partner

We now walk happy
Inspired physically, socially and intellectually
With our new beautiful uniforms, we sing and dance
A gorgeous school gate really, we are safe
Kindfund Hope: Wonderful partner.

With friends in Ireland, our dream shall come true
Your sponsorship to all needy children, regardless of race or creed
We cheer and cherish you
Kindfund Hope: Wonderful partner.

Kind fund Hope our hero and, a solution to our problems
You give us hope when we are hopeless
Our dream shall come true!
We believe so!
Kindfund Hope: Wonderful partner.

Shalline Kegode

Let us not become weary in doing good ... we will reap a harvest if we do not give up...



At a time when education is making the news in the United Kingdom and Ireland due to issues such as budget cuts, it is worthwhile to take some time and turn our focus to North Kenya and have a look at what is going on at Kindfund Hope Primary School.

It has been an exciting year for Kindfund Hope Primary. The school now operates over three sites (Wamba, Ngaramara and Ndirik) with over 70 pupils across the three sites. A team of eight primary school teachers, led by the headteacher Shalline Kegode, have worked hard to provide a broad curriculum that both challenges and equips our children. The UK and Kenya Kindfund committees ably guide and support the staff, whilst an education sub-committee of four teachers in Northern Ireland – all who have visited Kindfund in the past – has been formed to provide further support.

Some of the highlights from the past year include:

- Seeing our children benefit from learning in smaller classes. Before Kindfund Hope Primary School was formed, our children were

in government schools and many were getting 'lost' in class sizes as large as 100 children! At Kindfund Hope Primary we are blessed to have approximately one teacher for every 14 children.

- Links with schools in Northern Ireland and the excellent learning opportunities that these links provide for both sets of pupils.
- Visitors from the UK and abroad who took part in school life and inspired not only our pupils, but our teaching staff as well.
- Resources (such as old or unwanted storybooks) that people from the UK and Ireland have kindly donated. These have been such a blessing and are being used to teach our children how to read.
- The construction of new classrooms in Wamba – now decorated with colourful wall displays of pupils' work!
- The introduction of computer and tablet technology to ensure that our children are truly equipped to learn and work in the 21st century.
- Extra-curricular activities which instill curiosity and a love for learning - e.g. sports days, school clubs such as a gardening club and also recent school trips.

"Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that a son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine, that a child of a farm worker can become the president of a great nation." Nelson Mandela



Pupils in Kenya are currently enjoying their long 'summer' holidays and, following this two months break, they will start their new academic year at the beginning of January. There is already so much to look forward to in this new academic year.

At the start of the new Academic Year

- We are blessed to have obtained support from the British Council to pair up with Dunclug Primary School in Ballymena as part of the 'Connecting Classrooms' programme. As part of this programme pupils and staff from both schools will work together on a series of lessons focusing on the purpose and value of education.
- There is also the continued strong partnership with Kesh Primary School - particularly following the very successful 'Life of a Kesh PS Jumper' competition which their pupils participated in. Have a look at one of the brilliant examples in this prayer letter! It is through events such as this that we together as a Kindfund family can persevere in the work that God has given us.
- We are also pleased that Fields of Life will invite our Headmistress to their Principals conference in Uganda early in the new year

Alastair

Kindfund

Be kind to one another Eph 4:32

How to Help: Pray, Sponsor, Share...

For more information visit our website www.kindfund.com

To arrange for a speaker or to discuss your interest please contact one of the following:

Ken & Pamela Dobbin
Kesh, Co. Fermanagh.
Tel: 028 6863 2459; 078 0289 4380 (m)
+254 723 944 534 (Kenya)

Maurice Lee, Kesh.
Tel: 07843 805233 (m)

Jonathan & Keira Dobbin
Katesbridge, Co Down.
Tel: 077 3817 8250 (m)

Daphne Lucas/Catherine McCutcheon
Antrim/Templepatrick.
Tel: 028 9082 5737

Ros Bell
Lisburn. Tel: 078 7955 2091 (m)

John Steen
Lisburn. Tel: 078 3325 3489 (m)

Sally Thompson
Magheramason. Tel: 028 7184 1730

Andrew Black, Armagh
Tel: 077 4640 9064 (m)

Gary Moore, Blairgowrie, Scotland.
Tel: 077 7168 2842 (m)

Georgia Miller, Wiltshire.
Tel: 074 6925 0326 (m)

Netherlands (ANBI foundation)
Gerda Schaaphuizen
Tel: 00316 1003 7868

USA support (Tax Deductable)
www.worldoutreach.org/donations
type Kindfund
Tel: (770)-424-1545

Designed & Printed by Ecclesville Printing Services Ltd | 028 8284 0048 | www.epsnl.com

The Life of a Kesh PS Jumper

NAME: Megan Campbell CLASS: year 7

I love my life in Kesh.

HELP OTHERS IN NEED!

I'm a Kesh Primary School jumper and I live in Northern Ireland. It all started in a factory. I was made and packaged up. It was hard to breathe in the bag but I was told by some other jumpers that I'd get out soon enough and they were right. I was bought by a year 2's mum and brought back to their house. There a little girl opened up the packet and took me out. She tried me on and I fitted her! I was happy someone owned me.

The first day at school! It was amazing so many children and they were all wearing the same jumper, the same as me! Later on I found out that my owner's name was Phoebe. At lunchtime Phoebe ate yogurt and 5. schpaggers, but she spilled the yogurt all over me! I don't like that. Some other day I was out. Phoebe did a lovely picture but she was very messy and spilled paint on me! I hated that too.

Another day it was really hot. I thought the sun was going to take me away and put me in a basket on the street but I got I was thrown on the ground and then someone on the street picked me up. I was put into a bag and then I was taken to school. I was put into a bag and then I was taken to school. I was put into a bag and then I was taken to school.



Kindfund

Be kind to one another Eph 4:32

Editorial

'Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be.' Jn 12:26

As I write Pamela has arrived in Kenya but not yet Kindfund where she will arrive on Wed 12th Dec. Again, I am deskbound recovering from a minor operation with the hope of joining her in late January. I think that is my MOT complete for a while and thank you for your prayers.

Throughout this year Gillian has been gradually taking on more of the administration as we work together to ensure Kindfund is Government compliant in three main areas – Tax, Child legislation and Education. In her report she gives you a flavour of life in the front line dealing with the tax authorities. I think you have to live it to understand it.

Kindfund has been greatly blessed this year with several visitors from the fields of education and health and November was another such time. Read short reports from Sally and Hazel and a slightly longer reflection on their visit.

Hope Primary now two years old continues to strengthen and we have an exciting development with the British Council to look forward to in 2019. Read the report by Alastair who oversees the school from our main UK Board. Following on from the visit by Andrew from Kesh Primary in July we ran a short competition for the Kesh children in November and have published one entry.

Finally, the headmistress of Hope has been inspired to write a short poem which we have included.

If you find yourself without a gift for someone at Christmas don't forget our Gift Cards details on website at How to Help

Thank you for your prayers as we manage this time of change with the staff and children.

Make it a priority to find time in His presence this Christmas season

Ken

Prayer Letter December 2018

Working and Witnessing among the pastoralist Turkana, Samburu and Rendille since 2004

Hazel at Ngaramara



Wow!! Wow!! Wow!! Sums up my feelings and thoughts of Kindfund. I had no idea what an amazing, life-changing experience the trip to Kenya would be.

One evening in August the phone rang. I was going through a very difficult and challenging period in my personal life and was feeling very low. I was in bed, praying desperately for guidance and new direction in my life. Staring at the phone I reluctantly answered.

Sally Thompson, my cousin David's wife, was calling to ask if I would accompany her and Jonny to Kenya. Sally had no idea what was happening in my life. She had just been thinking of me. God had answered my prayers!! Sally and David had been to Kindfund in 2015 and had shared many of their adventures with me.

I am a counsellor and work with children and adults who have experienced trauma in their lives. I was overjoyed and felt privileged to be given the opportunity to share my knowledge and skills with the children and staff of Kindfund.

Setting off with Jonny and Sally, I wondered with trepidation and excitement what the trip would entail.

Nothing could have prepared me for God's blessing in what lay ahead.

I discovered the children who have nothing have everything!! In our society, people are excessively concerned with material possessions. I expected to feel sad when I saw the poverty and imagined I would have an overwhelming urge to rescue the children and bring them home. How wrong was I! The sound of laughter, combined with demonstrations of love and kindness is inspirational, and fills every corner of all 3 Kindfund homes. I was deeply and spiritually touched by their faith and love of the Lord, which shines through every word and action.

The gifts and talents of Sally and Jonny were a real blessing. We made a great team and worked tirelessly, with lots of laughter thrown in, to deliver a very effective programme to the children and staff.

I have fallen in love with the children in Kindfund and the rugged beauty of Kenya. God willing, it is my prayer that I will be able to return to Kindfund in the future to continue working with these beautiful children.

Hazel