

February Edition 2012

News Update



In This Issue

Children's Home	2
Fundraisers	2
Sponsorship Program	2
Child Profile	3
Volunteer Program	4
General Information	4

Welcome

Welcome to the first of our quarterly updates for 2012. It's the start of an exciting year for Friends Vision and I am thrilled to be sharing with you all our news so far. I want to thank you, our kind supporter, for playing such an important role in the lives of lost, abandoned and orphaned children in Kenya. Everything we do is made possible by your support.

Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to anyone that might be interested in our story and don't forget to follow our Facebook page www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-Vision to stay up-to-date with all our news and events.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

Jannah

Children's Home

Our home design proposal is currently with the local council in Naivasha. We're patiently awaiting their approval that it meets all the standards needed to be registered as a Children's Home. Things tend to move slowly over there, so we are again having to wait for their okay before we can move forward to the next steps. But as soon as we receive Council approval, we'll be able to approach local builders for finalised quotes and really get the ball rolling.

We are also designing a community centre which will provide a temporary home for the kids, while we build the individual homes. This will allow us to bring all our children from the rescue centres into our care sooner, to begin their new lives with us. After the children's home is complete, the centre will then be used for community and training.

We will be giving everyone plenty of notice before we start the build as many have expressed an interest in coming over to help out during that time. We fully encourage this and will be launching a full program for any volunteers wanting to do this when everything is in place. If you'd like to learn more about the proposed home plans, they are available on our website: www.friendsvision.org.

Fundraising

Thanks to the support of wonderful people like you, we raised AU\$6000 in 2011. This year, we urgently need to raise at least AU\$7000 to support our building plans for 2012. Throughout the year, there will be many fundraisers held in Australia, Canada and the US so keep your eye on our website and Facebook page for details. I ask that you please support those fundraisers in any way you can, to help keep us on track to accomplish our goals and ensure our children are in their new home by Christmas.

In the meantime, you can send a gift immediately through www.givenow.com.au/friendsvisionappeal. Any donation you can spare will be gratefully received.

You can also get involved by holding a fundraiser yourself or by donating clothes, medical supplies, books or money. Little gestures really do go a long way.

Check out Friends Vision's website www.friendsvision.org for more information or contact Jannah on jannah@friendsvision.org.

Sponsorship Program



This year our children will sit for their national exams (KCEP) which will determine the High School they will be accepted into for 2013. Then each year following we will have kids joining High School and starting their next big adventure in life. We are very excited as the children are growing up and, with your support, they are being given every chance to perform their best at school to get into a good High School.

We have had three more children joining our sponsorship program and heading to Lizar Junior School in Naivasha. It is always a thrill to see the kids' faces when they first go off to school. They can't contain their happiness. Here is one from of our children on his first day at school in 2011.

For just \$40 per month you can do the same for another child and give them the opportunity to gain an education and a chance in life. We are always in search for more sponsors, so check out our website to see how you can help.

Child Profile

Name: Harrison Ndegwa

Tribe: Kikuyu

Age: 15

Class: 7

Favourite subject: Maths

Hobbies: Playing football and dancing, dancing, dancing

His sponsor: Nathan Jones of Australia



Harrison's story:

Harrison started with our sponsorship program in April 2010. He is the oldest of seven children who grew up in desperate and depriving conditions. He and his oldest sister (11 years old) were left to look after their siblings, as their mother refused to care for them and was never home. They had little to no food, no education and lived in a crumbling mud hut. Neighbours of the children finally told local Children Officers about their horrific living situation and they were transported to local Children's Rescue Centre. Harrison cried for a long time when he was told he was getting sponsored for schooling. It is truly the most amazing thing that has happened in his life. He said he will try so hard so that one day he will be able to send his brothers and sisters to school as well. Friends Vision is committed to gaining sponsorship for his whole family and to bring them into our Children's Home when it is built, to give them what every child deserves, a happy and loving life.

For more information on sponsorship visit our website or email sponsorship@friendsvision.org

Volunteer Program

We are spreading the word about our grassroots volunteer program in Kenya. We work closely with local organisations in Naivasha, Thika and Machakos in order to give you real experiences of life in Kenya and to give a helping hand to those in need. If you have ever wanted to volunteer in a developing country, our program is up and running and is waiting for you! Whether it's lending your skills for teaching, nursing, construction or simply helping out with the children, each volunteer makes a difference.



Read our past volunteer testimonials on our website, or email volunteer@friendsvision.org to begin your experience of a life time.

General Information

Housekeeping

We held our first AGM in January this year and welcomed new members to our Committee and Board. We would first like to welcome Amy Weiner in her new role as Assistant Director and our new Australian Committee Members, Sue Currie, Sarah Drum and Sarah Ash. We have also registered ourselves in Kenya as a community organisation and are expanding our Kenyan base to help us with more knowledge and helping hands on the ground. We very gratefully welcome all our new members to the Friends Vision team.

We are very busy in upgrading our website with lots of new features (some still in the making) with lots of new ways you can get involved and help out with our programs. We will be launching a new community development program within the coming months which will allow us to expand and start new projects whilst sustaining our current programs as well. We will be housing and supporting some older boys who have now left the rescue centres and are now out trying to find work and make a living. We'll also be reaching out to the local community to find the boys work and to give them the training they will require to begin their lives outside of the centres. This program along with others we will be starting this year will need constant sources of funding to help us, so in the coming months we will be looking for people to join up in monthly memberships with Friends Vision so we can give the support these children need.

Farewell to a friend

Friends Vision would like to express its sympathy to the family and friends of our late friend Ruth Njenga. She had worked with our children for the last couple of years and was a very much loved by them. Her sudden passing is a great shock to everyone, she will be sorely missed. We are sending our thoughts out to you all at Thika. May she RIP.



Kenyan Christmas 2011

Last year two of our Board members Jannah Currie and Cheryl Buynak were able to travel to Kenya to help put on Christmas parties for over 200 children in rescue centres around Kenya on the 23rd and 25th of December. We raised over \$2000 in the first of our annual Christmas appeals and had an absolute ball celebrating with children in need. We visited the girls' centre on the 23rd December and they were overjoyed with their brand new sound system, a small feast and a program full of games and entertainment provided by Friends Vision members. A big thanks to Babu for the program you ran on the day. We celebrated Christmas Day at the boys' home, who welcomed 86 pairs of new shoes, another feast and local DJs and musicians put on a great show for the kids. The festivities ran into the late evening and were thoroughly enjoyed by all!!

We would like to extend our gratitude to Jonathan Zuchowski for his generous donation, Brit Garcia for asking her friends to donate to Friends Vision for her birthday, Tracy and Paul Herring and to our anonymous donor who gave us \$600, and everyone else who donated over this time. It truly was an inspiring time for all of us and we are looking forward to doing this again this year.

The following page has a couple of photos from the parties, but you can check out more photos on our [Facebook page](#). Thank you all for your donations. We couldn't have done it without you.



Friends Vision would like to thank all of our supports and members.

This was the first edition of our 2012 newsletters, written by Director Jannah Currie.

For more information on Friends Vision please go to www.friendsvision.org