

December Edition 2012

# News Update



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## Welcome

Welcome to the second edition of Friends Vision news update. This year has proved to be a challenging one for all our Friends Vision team with limited staff and resources; however, it has brought us closer together and guided us on our way toward an exciting future. This edition updates our progress with our children's home, child sponsorship program, our annual Christmas appeal (we have our very own Santa Claus visiting the kids this year) and our new and exciting volunteer program. Enjoy the read and don't forget to keep spreading the word about our work and 'like' us on our [Facebook](#) page.

## Children's Home

We are proud to announce that we have the final plans for our individual children's homes, our community centre and an overall layout for our land. Designing the blueprints has been a difficult and detailed task; and additionally so, as our team members live all around the world. It proved to be challenging and required lengthy correspondence to be sure that everything was perfect. On our land, we have a vision to have up to six individual children's homes (each housing ten children), workshops, self-sustaining crops, animals, a soccer pitch and a community centre with training rooms such as a computer lab, a library, music / art room, offices and a volunteer wing. Designing our layout has been a huge task and very difficult to do while we all live around the world, but we accomplished this step and have our designs in with the council for approval. We are also in the process of obtaining quotes from different builders and contractors in the area so we can start planning for the next step forward. While we are awaiting our approval from Naivasha Council we will start cropping and planting fruit trees and a hedge for the fence in early 2013.

The vision for our land is a huge task for the years ahead of us so we are taking this journey one step at a time and with your continued support, we will reach our dream for the children of Kenya.



**Architectures view of our children's homes**



**Architectures view of our community centre**

## Fundraisers

We are still selling our beautiful People & Planet diaries and calendars for 2013. Each item has stunning and inspiring photos from people and places around the world. After our costs of purchasing them, the remaining 70% goes directly to Friends Vision to help us build our first children's home. Diaries are \$23 and calendars are \$25, both plus postage. For orders please email [jannah@friendsvision.org](mailto:jannah@friendsvision.org) - but hurry as there are not many left in stock!



In 2013, we will have fundraisers in Australia, USA and Canada to keep raising funds to start building our home so keep watch of our [Facebook page](#) to find out if there's one near you. If you would like to hold your own fundraiser, check out our [website](#) for ideas to inspire you. We are still a while off breaking ground on our land, so we welcome and appreciate all the support in raising these funds.

## Sponsorship Program

We had two boys join our children at the end of 2012 in school and currently have three new girls to begin first term in 2013 which brings our numbers up to 39 children in our sponsorship program. Our first two children sat for their KCEP exams in early December, a major exam in Kenya which determines what High School the child will be placed into. We are eagerly awaiting their results in early January to see where the next journey of their lives will take them. Some of the children enjoyed a field trip to Mombasa for their first time to see the ocean while others had mini safaris and saw giraffes, zebras, hippos, antelope and flamingos. At the end of November we helped celebrate one of our children's schools 10 year anniversary. The day was filled with performances, presentations, award ceremonies, traditional dances and local dances (lead by one of our boys Harrison). One of our youngest graduated from nursery class wearing his gown, and we all agreed it was the cutest thing we had ever seen!

Our children have made so much progress in 2012 and we are so proud to have given them this chance at school. We are always in search of more sponsors to help us bring education to children in need and to give them a chance in life. For more information child sponsorship visit [www.friendsvision.org](http://www.friendsvision.org)



## Child Profile

**Name:** Adinad Ali Mohammad

**Tribe:** Unknown

**Age:** 9 yrs

**Class:** Nursery

**Favourite subject:**

**Hobbies:** Dancing, dancing & dancing

**His sponsor:** Daniel Pirret of Australia



**Papa's story:** Papa is a little person. His mom was a prostitute and his dad was just one of the buyers. He was thrown in the trash as a baby and someone found him and gave him to the police. After court procedures he was transferred to Nairobi's Children's Home and then to Thika Children's Rescue Centre where he now resides. He had burns on his hands from abuse from his mother. He named himself after a famous Kenyan comedian 'Papa Shango' so everyone just calls him Papa. He is quite the character and has dance moves that put usher to shame. Papa continued to excel all year in 2012, even though he is much older than the rest of his class, he doesn't let this bother him. We were very proud to watch Papa graduate from nursery class this year. He was all dressed up in his graduation gown with the proudest smile on his face that never went away all day!

If you want to make a difference in the life of a child in need, visit our [website](#) or email [sponsorship@friendsvision.org](mailto:sponsorship@friendsvision.org) to give a child an education and a chance in life.

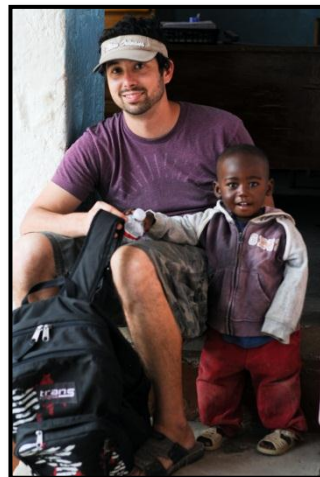
## Christmas Appeal

Our annual Christmas appeal is here again. Last year, over \$2000 was raised to put on Christmas parties and buy food and present for over 200 children in rescue centres around Kenya. We all had such an amazing time and helped give Christmas to those who would not have had the chance to celebrate otherwise. We are currently raising funds to do it again for 2012 and have an appeal page up and running on our website. So if you have a little to spare over this festive season and would like to help us bring Christmas to children in need, please visit our [website](#) to make a donation.



## Volunteer Program

Our volunteer program is rapidly expanding with new and exciting ventures and opportunities. We run a grassroots program for both International and National volunteers wanting to lend a helping hand to those in need while having the experience of a lifetime. Friends Vision works with local organisations in order to give you real experiences of life in Kenya in all sorts of fields such as teaching, nursing, construction, farming or simply helping out in children's orphanages. By sharing your skills and compassion, each volunteer personally makes a difference to the people and children of Kenya. Our last group of American volunteers had such an amazing time, visiting all the centres we work with and documenting the entire trip. We will upload it to our Facebook page as soon as it is ready so you can become inspired to take that step and join us in Kenya, it is truly life changing!



So what are you waiting for? Visit our [website](#) for more information on volunteering or email us at [volunteer@friendsvision.org](mailto:volunteer@friendsvision.org) to begin your experience of a life time!

## General news

We are very excited as our Director, Jannah Currie, has given up the next year of her life to volunteer her time getting Friends Vision up and running on the ground in Kenya. Over the next year she will be training and expanding our Kenyan team, growing existing programs, meeting with council, builders, architects and contractors to begin our build and finding new ways to allow us to be as sustainable as possible. This will be a massive help to lay the ground work for Friends Vision and continue to grow and expand towards our dreams.



With the amazing ongoing personal and financial sacrifices our team continues to make for Friends Vision, we have been lucky enough to purchase our very own car! Many thanks for the massive donation from Brian Weiner and Jannah Currie for giving us the funds to purchase a Toyota Noah. Our life in Kenya has become 100 % easier to complete the logistical tasks that our work involves and has already saved us from many delays with the recent matatu (local public transport) strikes.



We were very sad to say goodbye to one of the children who lived at a rescue centre we work closely with in Kenya. Cylus Boss was just 16 years old when he passed away from HIV/AIDS complications. He suffered greatly during the last weeks of his life and it was a very hard time for everyone at the centre. We hope you are resting in peace now Boss. Know that you are sorely missed.

We would like to thank everyone who continues to support us on the long journey we have embarked upon to give those less fortunate a chance for a brighter future. Don't forget to join us on [Facebook](#) to get more regular updates by 'liking' our page.

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

This edition of our newsletter was written by Director Jannah Currie.

For more information on Friends Vision please go to [www.friendsvision.org](http://www.friendsvision.org)  
or send inquires to [admin@friendsvision.org](mailto:admin@friendsvision.org)