

Samuel's dream safari



What looked like the end of Samuel's dream actually turned out to be the means of achieving it.

Samuel was a street boy who came to our Sunshine Centre in 2012. After school he studied tourism and travel management at university, but couldn't find work in his chosen field, so, instead, he opened a barber shop.

He freely admits he wasn't very good initially ("My first customers ran away because I did such a bad job on them"), but his skills improved and he developed a regular clientele.

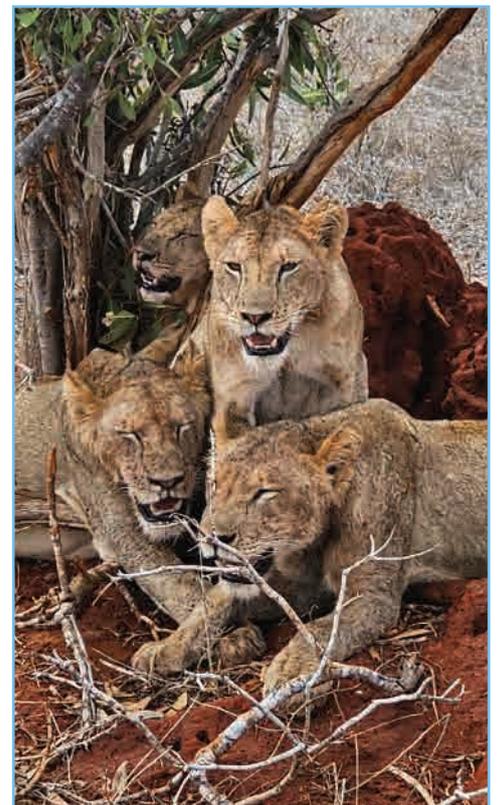
"One of my regular customers was a pastor," he told us. "One day he came in for a haircut, and while we were chatting, he mentioned a friend was looking for someone to run a new

tourism and safari company. I applied and got the job," he says, with a big smile.

The office of Explore Galore Tours and Safaris is in Voi, a short distance from Kenya's Tsavo National Park, one of Kenya's major wildlife reserves famous for its red elephants (they cover themselves in the red Tsavo soil to protect themselves against insects and sunburn).

As we were staying at nearby Ngutuni Lodge, we dropped in to meet Samuel at his office, then offered him the chance to be our tour guide in the park.

To our delight, we came across a pride of 12 lions resting in the shade after eating a buffalo for breakfast.



Street boys: Rescue...

Poverty, often accompanied by family breakdown, means families struggle to pay school fees. Hungry and no longer in school, boys drift onto the streets to try to survive. Without help, they have no hope for the future.



Rescue

Mama Chege spends time walking the streets, meeting and talking to street boys to find out why they have left home and school. She offers those in need an opportunity to come to our Sunshine Centre and resume their education. Eight boys accepted her offer and joined in January.



Street boys: This is my story...



Collins Kimtai (age 10)

My mum separated from my father and worked very hard doing casual work, but there was not enough food and no money for school fees. **When I was 9 years old, I ran away to the streets** - I collected scrap metal and sold it so I could buy something to eat. It was very difficult. The older boys bullied me. Many people were not kind. I was very sad. I was always dirty and I could not go to school. I felt alone and scared most of the time.

One day, I was found by Mama Chege. She offered me a place at Sunshine, and I agreed very fast because I wanted to be safe and go to school again. At Sunshine, I was given food and clean clothes. I have a bed to sleep in. I go to school every day. I also go to Sunday School and church. I am very happy now, and I feel safe, clean, and hopeful about my future.



Richwel Kagui (age 13)

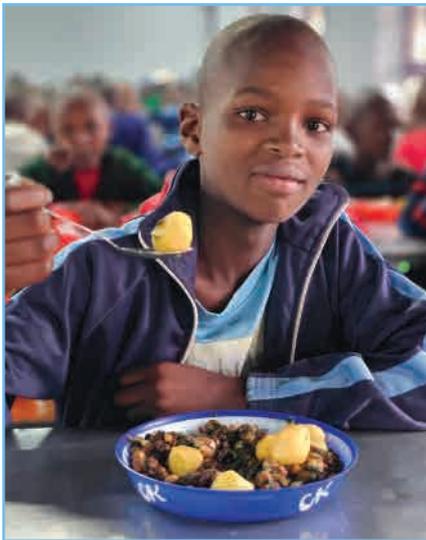
There was a lot of fighting at home so my mother decided to leave. She works very hard washing clothes for people, but many times, we did not have enough food, and she could not afford school fees.

I felt like I was becoming a burden at home, and I thought maybe I could find a way to survive on my own and even help a little. But life on the streets was very hard. Bigger boys would sometimes take the little money I had earned. I was often afraid. At night, I would sleep under market stalls. It was cold and uncomfortable, and I did not feel safe.

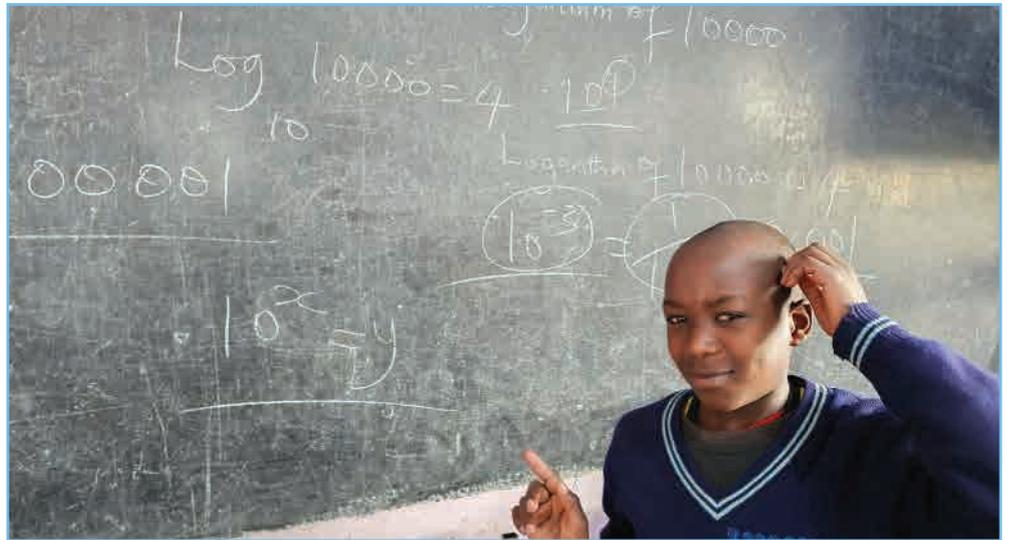
One day, Mama Chege approached me. She said I could have a safe place to stay at Sunshine and go back to school. I agreed to join. I am now in Grade 6. I also enjoy going to Sunday school and church.

Street boys: Rehabilitate...

Since 2004, our Sunshine Centre in Naivasha, Kenya, has been a safe haven for street boys. With the support of our dedicated staff, we offer what life on the streets cannot—safety, love, belonging, nourishing meals, warm beds, and the chance to re-start their education and build their futures.



When we ask a former street boy what they enjoy most about Sunshine, the most frequent answers are: lots of good food, and returning to school.



We grow fresh vegetables on the small farm at the Sunshine Centre, helping keep the boys healthy and strong.

The boys are enrolled at the local government school to re-start their interrupted education, where the curriculum sets a very high and challenging standard

Digital learning for former street boys and their fellow pupils

With the generous support of Bromley Borough Rotary Club, we were able to provide 23 laptops and 3 desktop computers to Karai Comprehensive school, opening up new learning opportunities for our Sunshine Boys and their fellow pupils from the surrounding community.



“You have opened a new world to our students,” head teacher Charles Ngigi enthused when we visited Karai Comprehensive School. His excitement was a result of a recent delivery of 23 laptops and 3 desk top computers provided with a grant from Bromley Borough Rotary Club.

Wifi routers have been installed to provide internet access and the classroom was full of students crowded round the

new computers, all of them enjoying and fully engaged in their assignments – from writing letters of thanks, to developing electric circuits on screen. They were loving it!

Charles told us that children are transferring from other schools because of this new facility, and he has now employed a new teacher to further develop this vital aspect of the school curriculum.

Street boys: Rehabilitate...

When a street boy joins our Sunshine Centre, our goal is to support him until he can live independently — a journey that requires many years of dedicated care.

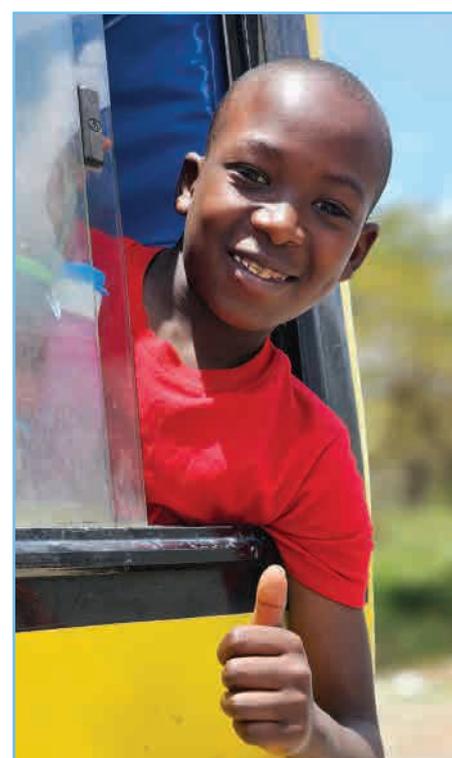
Ali (photo right) loves life at the Sunshine Centre where, as well as enjoying good food, shelter and education, he revels in experiences that were beyond his reach when he lived on the streets.

A highlight of our recent visit was the opportunity to swim in the pool at the Lake Naivasha Crescent Camp hotel.

After a photo at the gate, we were flagged off for the 4 mile walk from the Sunshine Centre to the hotel, where the boys splashed and swam for an hour before enjoying a delicious picnic lunch.



Powered by Possibility: Sunshine boys' educational visit to Olkaria geothermal power station



Over 40% of Kenya's electricity needs are produced at Olkaria, a short distance from our Sunshine Centre.

As part of our visit, we organised a tour of the power plant, where the boys (and staff) learned how clean energy was produced from turbines

run from water heated deep within the earth's crust.

The boys gained a real insight into geothermal energy production, asking very good questions, including what qualifications they would need to work in such a facility.

Street boys: Reintegrate...

Former street boy guides former street boys



Kelvin Karanja, Benson Muya, Simon Maina, and Eddy Muiruri have recently joined Naivasha Day Secondary School. They told us they have settled in well, and were very positive about how classes were going. Kelvin is playing rugby for the school, and Simon is enjoying table



tennis. As part of the reintegration process, they go back to their homes in the evenings and during school holidays.

Keeping a watchful eye on the boys is Joseph Kiiru, who is himself a former Sunshine Boy and is working at the school as a science laboratory technician.

Equipped for life's next step



For a young person anywhere in the world, it is a big step from full time education or training into the world of work.

To help bridge the gap, we offer starter toolkits to our former street boys as they approach the end of their vocational training courses. So, whether they are employed by others, or decide to start their own business, they are well placed to earn a living and become fully reintegrated into society.

Fred Mwangi (left) has trained in electrical installation and will easily find work in Kenya's booming construction industry. Charles Kariuki (right) now has a sewing machine for when he completes his tailoring course later this year.



Kelvin - a life transformed

Once a street boy, then a Sunshine Boy who kept running away, Kelvin Kiplangat is a transformed man.

Kelvin came to our Sunshine Centre in 2007, and we supported him through school and then to bible college. After a spell as a youth pastor, Kelvin has recently been appointed pastor of Zion Fellowship, and during our recent visit, took time out from his church responsibilities to connect with us and the current Sunshine Boys when they swam in the hotel pool.

From street boy to aspiring professor

Moses Wambua went to the streets when he was just 5 years old, spending 5 years in danger and out of school before joining our Sunshine Centre in 2013. We have supported him ever since. Today he is studying English Literature at university, which is where we visited him. This is his letter of thanks (published with his consent).

I greet you with a heart that is both tender and profoundly grateful. Ever since your visit, my mind has been full of memories, reflections, and emotions that are difficult to compress into mere sentences. Seeing you again — not through reports, not through messages, but in person — felt like watching the roots of my life step forward and smile at the tree they helped grow.

From my childhood days at Sunshine Home, you have been my guardians of hope and the steadfast pillars upon which my life has been built. You have been the quiet architects of my future. Within those walls, where many of us arrived with uncertainty, you planted seeds of hope, discipline, and possibility. I grew up there not simply as a beneficiary of support, but as a child nurtured by compassion. The bed I slept on, the meals I ate, the books I carried to school — all bore the silent signature of your kindness.

I still remember evenings at Sunshine — training football with father Dorm, attending Sunday school with Mama Chege who taught us bible verses and after supper worshipping and praying together, sometimes reading novels from the Sunshine library, sometimes simply dreaming about a future I could not yet clearly see. In those moments, I did not fully understand how that future would unfold, but I now realize that while I was dreaming, you were building the foundation beneath those dreams.

You walked with me through primary school. You sustained me through secondary school. And now, as I journey through university, you continue to carry me with the same unwavering faith. There has never been a season in my life when your generosity was absent. Even my basic needs — the simple dignities that many take for granted — were secured because you chose to care.

When you visited me at Taita Taveta University, it was not just a surprise; it was a sacred moment. To sit with you, to speak face to face, to share laughter and stories of university life — it felt like a reunion between gratitude and grace. Your joy when you learned that I am studying English and Literature touched me deeply.

To see you delighted that I read novels passionately and immerse myself in poetry affirmed that you do not only care about my education, but about the person I am becoming.

Literature has taught me that every life is a story. When I reflect on mine, I know that you are among its most powerful authors. Through the pages of my journey from a child in Sunshine Rehabilitation Centre to a university student pursuing a Bachelor of Education (Arts) in English Literature — your love has been the steady ink that never fades.

In my studies, I have encountered the profound genius of William Shakespeare. In *Macbeth*, I have seen how unchecked ambition can destroy a noble soul; in *Hamlet*, I have wrestled with the weight of conscience and the paralysis of thought; and in *The Tempest*, I have witnessed the redemptive beauty of forgiveness. Beyond Shakespeare, I have journeyed through the moral courage portrayed in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, reflected on the haunting warnings of George Orwell's *1984*, and embraced the powerful African voice of Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*. These works have shown me that literature is intense because it confronts truth, exposes injustice, and reveals the depths of the human spirit. Through them, I am not only becoming a student of texts, but a student of humanity.

There is a verse in Scripture that often comes to mind when I think of you: "I thank my God every time I remember you." (Philippians 1:3)

And truly, every remembrance of you is wrapped in gratitude. If my life were a novel, your kindness would be its turning point — the chapter where darkness met light, where uncertainty found direction. You did not merely fund an education; you rewrote a destiny. Like poetry that lingers long after it is read, your generosity echoes through



every achievement I attain and every dream I dare to pursue.

Please know that your investment is alive. It breathes in my ambition. It speaks in my academic diligence. It shines in my determination to succeed not only for myself, but for every child who still sleeps under the roof that once sheltered me.

One day, I hope to stand before you not just as the child you supported, but as a professor, a mentor, and a bearer of the same light you placed in my hands. Your compassion will not end with me — it will multiply through me.

Thank you for raising me with generosity. Thank you for believing in my future. Thank you for visiting and reminding me that I am never alone in this journey. With enduring gratitude, deep respect, and heartfelt affection.

MOSES WAMBUA

Sunshine Boys Reunited



Moses Wambua and Samuel Kamau (story on page 1) were unaware they were both in the same town (Voi). The delight on their faces when we arranged for them to meet is obvious!

Haller Park treat for growing family

Our family of orphaned and abandoned young people is growing up, so the days when an outing to the beach was a treat are long gone. Instead, we took the 'TKs' (Tumaini Kids) to Haller Park where an old quarry in Mombasa has been turned into a tree-shaded haven for wildlife and for visitors to enjoy.



We enjoyed a well-organised day trip to Haller Park with the TKs and house parents Charles and Mary, and a surprise visit from Emily and her children. Emily - one of the first TKs and now a paediatric nurse - remembered we had taken her to the park 20 years ago!

It was a hot day but the trees were just beautiful, offering welcome shade, helping us to enjoy the park and all the

animals - Owen the hippo, feeding the giraffes, which was great fun, seeing the snakes and crocodiles and the giant tortoises. The monkeys were certainly cheeky - we had to hold onto our picnic lunch so that they didn't steal it!

As we headed home, David, Jackline, Mary, Charles, and former TK Emily all expressed their thanks for the support we have given them over many years.

Helping the child helps the carer

Through our Sunshine Disability Programme we have paid for 8 children living with disabilities to attend Pangani Special School, Nakuru, transforming the lives of both the children and their carers. We visited the school to meet the children and staff who care for them.



Levis is non-verbal and has autism, but greeted us warmly, enjoying Wendy's hugs. He is now much more open with us as he has gained confidence in himself and in who we are.

His mother, Eunice (who we met a few days earlier), confirmed that his behaviour at home has improved significantly. We relayed that feedback to his teachers, who were happy to hear



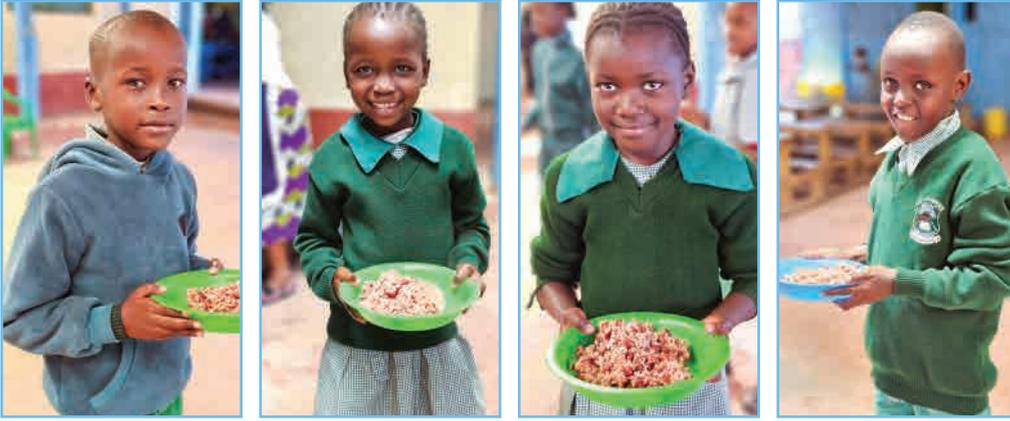
of the difference they are making to Levis' life.

Havila (above) welcomed us enthusiastically, despite not having met us before. He has cerebral palsy, and is well settled at school, participating in class activities as much as he is able. His mother Hamlet is delighted with how he is doing.



David (with our disability worker Irene and project director Rev Simon) is loving being at school. He has cerebral palsy but is walking independently, and was able to climb a step unaided as he came forward to greet us. Though non-verbal, he was very happy in our company. We met his mother Peris a few days earlier - she is delighted to see how David is engaging and learning at school.

Fed up and happy!

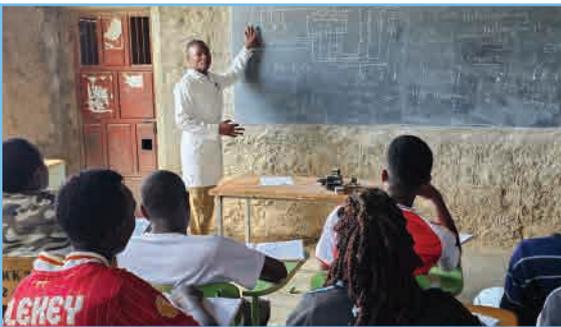


We have been providing school lunches for the children at the Church on the Rock School, Nairobi for over 20 years.

During our recent visit we were delighted to meet a student's mother who told us that she had enjoyed the free school meals we

funded when she herself was a pupil at the school that she graduated from in 2009.

From dishwasher to head of department



Robert Masinde used to wash dishes at the hotel we stay in. We sponsored him to take an electrical course at Naivasha Technical Training Institute, and today he is a trainer and head of the department at the Institute.

His enthusiastic teaching has led to a growth in the number of trainees taking the course.

Elizabeth stays focused on her future



We are supporting Elizabeth Ketsula as she studies for a Medical Laboratory Science degree at the Technical University of Mombasa.

A lecturers' strike last term interrupted her studies, but when we met her, she told us that she had worked hard, completed her exams,

and will shortly embark on a research project into throat infections linked to micro-organisms on toothbrushes.

Footsteps International in Kenya

 *Transforms the lives of 151 former street boys at the Sunshine Centre, Naivasha*

 *Supports 23 orphaned and abandoned children in Mombasa*

 *Strengthens education of 280 children in Nairobi's slums*

 *Helps train 550 young people in vocational skills*

 *Supports 43 ultra vulnerable people in Naivasha*

We are delighted to receive single and regular donations in support of our work.

We work with trusted partners to ensure that donations actually get where they are needed.

We do not discriminate against any needy person on the grounds of their religion, tribe or nationality.

Footsteps is managed by trustees who are all unpaid volunteers, committed to putting their Christian faith into action.

This newsletter was compiled following the visit to our projects by trustees Barrie Francis and Martin and Wendy Print in February 2026.

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