

Racing towards a better future



The start of our Kenya Marafun was delayed by a herd of inquisitive buffalo that had drifted onto the course, so we had to wait while Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) rangers encouraged them to move elsewhere.

With the course clear, the 2026 Kenya Marafun was flagged off by the senior KWS officer, and the Sunshine Boys disappeared into the distance.

The former street boys were joined by students from Naivasha Technical Training Institute, staff, and visitors from the UK. In total, 234 took part - some running, some walking, and a few taking advantage of a lift in the support bus.

See page 4 for more photos of the fun.



Street boys: This is my story...

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.

Ezekiel Kiptoo (age 13) and Silvester Kiprop (age 12)



Brothers Ezekiel and Silvester come from a very vulnerable family headed by their eldest sister, Elizabeth Chepkemoi (21). Their father is absent, and their mother disappeared in 2024 and has not returned. Elizabeth now cares for her four other younger siblings and her own young son, struggling to provide for the family through occasional laundry work which pays £2 a day. They live together in a small mud house, and financial

hardship has severely affected all their education. Their sister Lucy (17), a capable student with strong grades, was out of school because of substantial fee arrears.

With little food at home and out of school, Ezekiel and Silvester explained that they joined a group of boys living on the streets around Lake Naivasha. For a year they survived by helping fishermen with their nets and sleeping rough.

In January 2026, both boys joined Sunshine. They love having regular meals, being back in school, playing football, and attending church. It was a very moving visit, with all the family becoming emotional as they recounted the severe challenges they face every day.

Fighting back tears, Elizabeth told us how grateful she was that her brothers are now safe, in school, and receiving the care they need.

Rodgers Kiprotich (age 16)

I come from a large family headed by my mother, Eunice Akwami, who supports us through casual work such as washing clothes and farm labour. Her work is irregular, and our family struggles to cover basic needs, including rent, food and school fees.

I dropped out of school in 2025 and spent time living near the lake with some other boys. Life there was very hard. We had little food, no schooling, nowhere comfortable to sleep, and I was often bullied by older boys. To survive, I helped the fishermen and collected scrap metal and plastic to sell. During this time, I also became involved in using bhang and smoking.

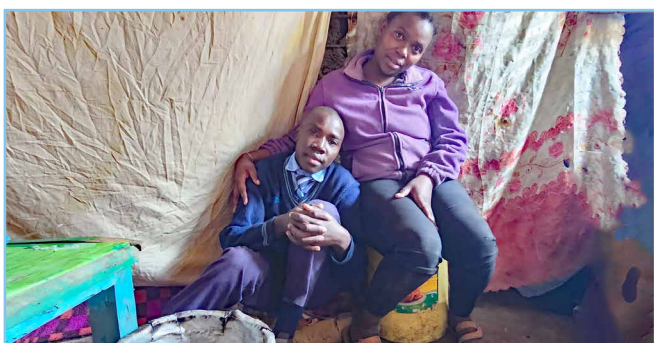
Since joining Sunshine in January 2026, life is much better. I am happy, I go to school regularly, and enjoy the stability and opportunities available to me.



My mother is grateful for the support I have received and says that when I return home during school holidays, my behaviour has greatly improved and I no longer spend time on the streets.

Mike Lembilis (age 15)

I come from a very poor family headed by my mother, Joyce Nashipai, who never had the opportunity to attend school after losing both her parents when she was young.



She survives through casual work, washing clothes and helping in people's homes whenever work is available. We live in a simple mud-and-stick house, and supporting four children is a constant struggle.

Because there was often no food at home and no money for school fees, I left home and joined a group of boys living around the fish market and streets of Naivasha. For about eighteen months, I survived alongside other street boys, facing daily uncertainty and hardship.

In 2026, I joined Sunshine, and since then, my life has changed. Although I missed a lot of schooling while on the streets, I am now in Grade 7 and working hard to catch up with the help of extra tuition, and I am currently number 32 out of 59 students in my class. At Sunshine, I enjoy the food, accommodation, school, church and Sunday School.

Street boys singing for their supper...

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. And lots of fun...!



It is always good to take visitors with us when we visit the Sunshine Centre. During our June visit, we were delighted to host Chris Sopp and his wife Mary.



Chris is a talented musician, and he arrived at the Centre armed with ukuleles, determined to teach the Sunshine Boys new skills.



The boys loved trying to play, strumming the instruments with enormous vigour and enthusiasm. The result? Well, a joyful (if not a particularly tuneful) noise...and lots of laughter.



The supper bell is a happy sound for a former street boy



The supper bell means more than mealtime to a boy who once scavenged for food on the streets - it is a reminder that he is safe, cared for, and no longer hungry.

It's a special treat for the boys when

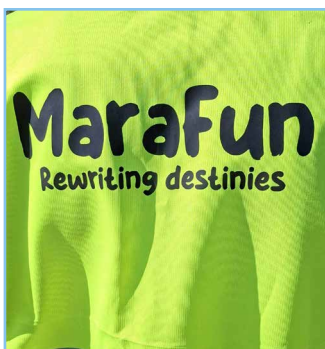
there are visitors such as Mary Sopp and Hazel Pidsley to serve plates piled high with nutritious food.

And, it was an even greater treat to enjoy the sweet, juicy watermelons the visitors brought for desert.



Marafun - lots of fun and some run...

This year's Marafun in Hell's Gate National Park, Kenya, was great fun, and thanks to many generous sponsors, raised valuable funds to continue to rewrite the destinies of disadvantaged young people in Kenya.



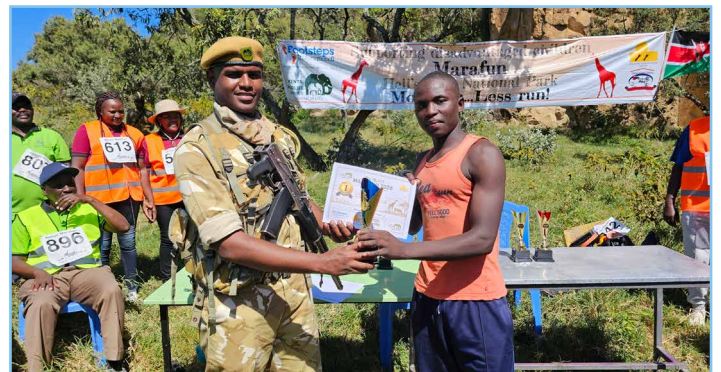
By aiming to start at 7 am, we avoided running and walking in the heat of the middle of the day.

The Marafun is a great opportunity to mingle, chat, run

(if you want to!), and enjoy the beautiful scenery of Hell's Gate National Park (we saw giraffes, zebras, gazelles, buffaloes, baboons and wart hogs alongside the road).



Once the trophies and certificates had been awarded to the fastest three finishers in the junior, young adult and senior groups, we headed for the warm waters of the

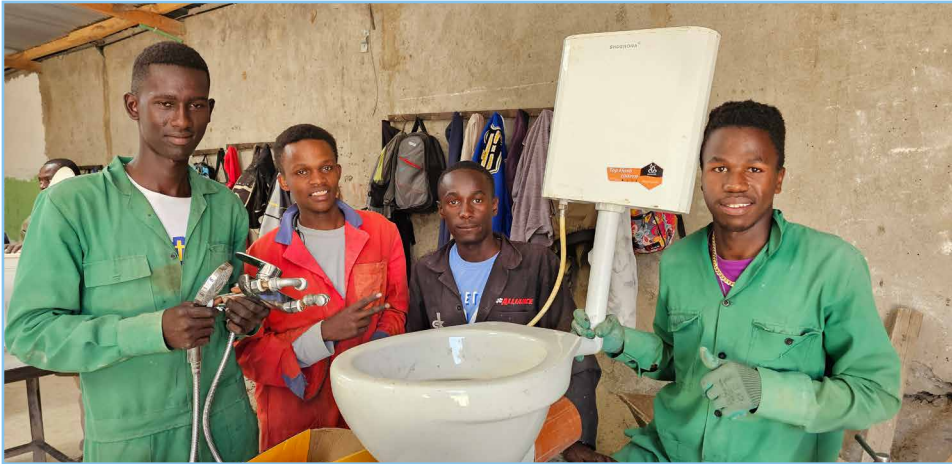


geothermal spa where the volcanically heated water soothed away the aches and pains - a great way to end a great event.



Street boys flushed with success

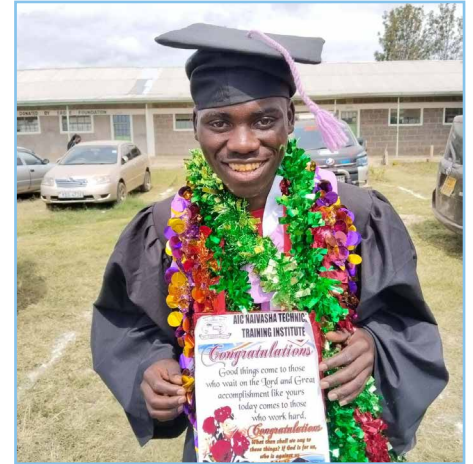
When a street boy joins our Sunshine Centre, our goal is to support him until he can live independently — a journey that requires many years of dedicated care.



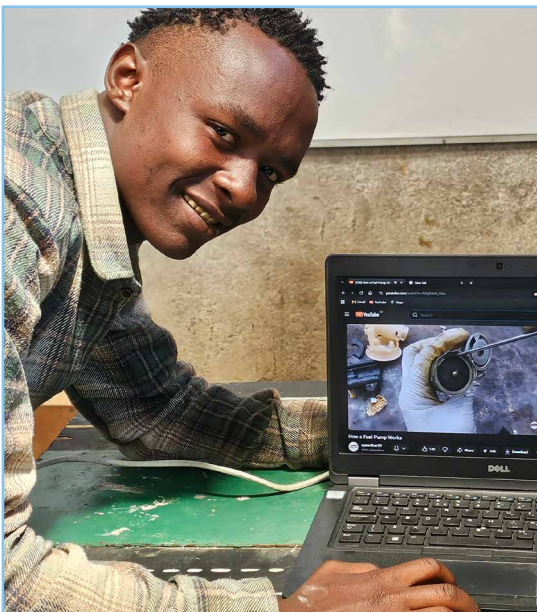
During our visit to Naivasha Technical Training Institute, former street boy Kelvin Kamau (on the right in the photo above) demonstrated how quickly he can install a flush toilet, a skill he has acquired during his

two-year plumbing and masonry course.

Godwin Wakoko - also a former street boy - was delighted his hard work had led him to graduate as a qualified Motor Vehicle Mechanic (above right).



Nearing completion of their courses, we provided both young men with toolkits to help them earn a living in their field of expertise, completing their transition from street boys to becoming independent members of their communities.



Samuel Njuguna showed us how he uses on-line videos to help him train as a motor vehicle mechanic, while Charles Kariuki demonstrated his

tailoring skills on a new industrial-grade sewing machine - one of ten funded recently by a generous donor.



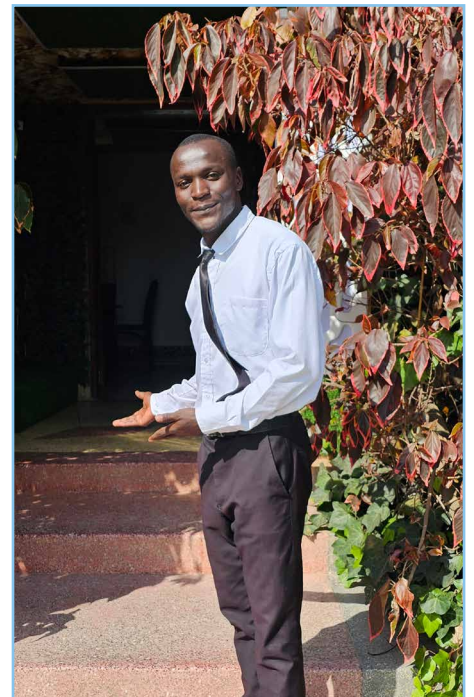
Benson - a destiny rewritten

Former Sunshine Boy Benson Thotho visited the Sunshine Centre to greet the boys and staff. "I used to be a street boy," he told the boys, to their obvious amazement, before giving them an inspiring talk, urging them to focus on their studies and to work smart.

Benson explained that he is now teaching Agriculture, English, and Mathematics to several year groups at a nearby school. He is doing well - renting a house, managing independently, and attending a local church.

From street boy to aspiring hotel manager

Peter Mutegi had a very difficult life at home, and went to the streets when he was 7 years old. He came to our Sunshine Centre in 2012 and we have supported him ever since. Today he is studying for a degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management at Meru University.



Peter greeted us with a huge smile and immediately brought drinks to a comfortable table in the grounds of the King Shade Lounge - a small hotel where he is gaining practical experience as part of his Hospitality Management and Tourism degree.

Peter told us that he had secured the placement himself, and that, alongside his university studies he works on construction sites during the holidays to support both himself and his family.

The hotel owner spoke highly of his professionalism, attitude and work

ethic, and we felt extremely proud of this smart, confident young man.

Peter was enormously thankful for all the support he has received over many years, and thanked God for the opportunities he has been given.

Smiling again...

Through our Sunshine Disability Programme we are paying for 10 children living with disabilities to attend special schools, transforming the lives of both the children and their carers. We visited Daughters of Charity Special School in Limuru to meet Abriella, the staff who care for her, and her mother Anne.

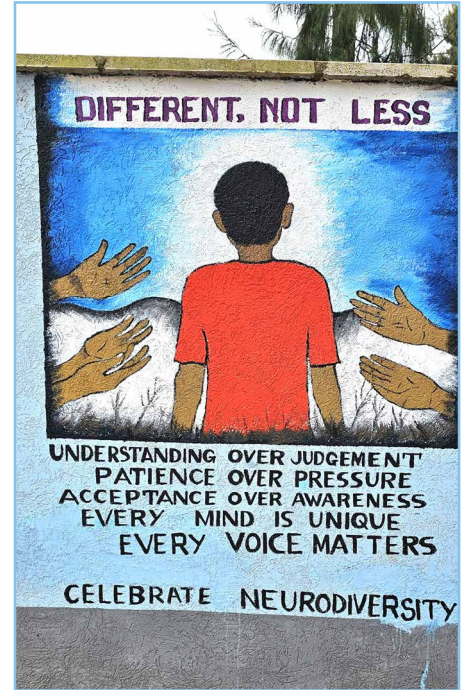


Abriella's face lit up immediately we walked into her classroom, accompanied by her mother Anne.

As Abriella interacted happily with us and her mother, the staff told us how she is an active participant in class, and particularly enjoys music.

She has cerebral palsy, but is clearly making good progress in class, and developing physically through the physiotherapy she is receiving, though a new wheelchair would really help her.

Anne carries the primary responsibility of supporting her family financially, doing casual work to provide for them. Despite these challenges, she volunteers at the school whenever she has spare time. A staff member commented that over recent months, "Anne has got her smile back."



Benefitting from Sunshine UV

Our Sunshine Ultra-Vulnerable (UV) Programme supports vulnerable children and young adults through education and skills development. We visited some of the beneficiaries to see how they are progressing.



Purity met us, looking rather bleary-eyed at the door of the East Valley Nursing Home and Hospital. She had just completed the night shift, but had stayed to show us where she worked, and to thank us for sponsoring her caregiving course.

She asked for help because she spent much of her day as an unqualified care-giver for her disabled father, supporting her mother who does casual work to make ends meet.

She is working at the hospital to gain practical experience as part of her college course (she studies in the evenings so she can care for her father during the day, using her newly acquired skills). She is doing well, and her boss said he would offer her a job when she qualifies.



Peter and Joy come from a large, single-parent family. With his mother struggling to feed the family, Peter went to the streets and was admitted to the Sunshine Centre before deciding he wanted to return home.

Following up on his welfare, our team realised that he and his sister Joy were under-nourished, and not in school as their mother Mary is unwell and only earns a small amount as a casual worker.

To help the family, we pay for Peter and Joy to attend Mununga Comprehensive School. We travelled there to meet them, and were delighted to find they had settled back in school, their teacher reporting that they were both making good progress, with room for improvement!

Determined to succeed



When a fire broke out at his school, Sunshine Boy Julius rushed for a fire extinguisher, but broke his leg in a collision with another boy who was also armed with an extinguisher.

He's now recovering at home, determined to be well

enough to resume school as soon as possible.

Solomon Wafula (above) told us that, although classes at his school officially finish at 5:30 pm, he stays on at school until 8 pm to do his homework as he can't work at home.

Being in school is good



For poor parents, the cost of sending their children to school is an insurmountable obstacle, which is why our Sunshine UV programme is so important.

Wendy was delighted to catch up with Paul, Zipporah, Leah and Mary at their school. The siblings come from a very

poor family that includes a severely disabled girl, and are delighted to be in school.

Lucy, the sister of Sunshine Boys Ezekiel and Silvester (see page 2) was in tears as she returned to school, her fee arrears paid.

Growing children in Nairobi slum school




The children at Church on the Rock School in the kwa Reuben slum area of Nairobi have tried their hand at growing vegetables - with considerable success.


Purity Mutua and Vincent Mburu proudly showed us the kale, growing tall and green


in raised beds in the school compound.


As well as teaching the students about agriculture, the vegetables are added to the school meals that Footsteps funds for the 252 students who attend the school, helping them grow strong and healthy.


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 290 children in Nairobi's slums

 Helps train 550 young people in vocational skills

 Supports 44 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 Martin and Wendy Print in June 2026.

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