

Sunshine Boys ♥ climbing high



The UK visitors began the steep ascent of Mount Longonot at 7am, enjoying the peace and the beautiful views as they climbed higher.

However, it was not long before they heard the excited chatter and pounding footsteps of the Sunshine Boys behind them.

Full of energy and enthusiasm, the former street boys raced ahead, leaving the visitors to continue to the crater rim at a more measured pace!

Staff and students from Naivasha Polytechnic arrived in dribs and drabs, and after lots of photos, the older boys and fitter climbers set off to the summit and back – an

extra seven-kilometre circuit.

After celebrating the climb, it was time to make our way down to the entrance gate where the Sunshine Boys tucked into a well-earned picnic lunch.

Thank you to everyone who sponsored the climbers so generously!



Street boys: This is my story...

Footsteps trustees visit families to understand the hardship and family breakdown that drive boys to leave home and try to survive on the streets.

ABRAHAM CHEGE (age 14)



Abraham's mother Rose lives in a corrugated iron house several miles up a dusty track on the lower slopes of Mt Longonot. Her husband drank heavily and did not work, so Rose left him and moved to rented accommodation, taking Abraham and his three siblings with her.

But, only able to find occasional casual work, Rose fell into arrears with her rent, and she and the family were locked out of the house by the landlord, forcing them all onto the streets before moving to live in a house borrowed from her family, which is where we met her and Abraham.

Abraham described how he was hungry and out of school, so, at the age of 12, began leaving home to search for food and opportunities to earn money, staying away for up to three months at a time.

He would earn small amounts of money helping truck drivers change tyres, about 20 to 30 Kenyan Shillings (15 pence) a day, which he used to buy food.

Out of school and on the streets for a year, Abraham was found by senior staff member Mama Chege and offered a place at the Sunshine Centre in January 2025.

He has settled well at the Centre and likes having regular meals, a safe place to sleep, clothes and the opportunity to attend school where he is now in Grade 7. His favourite subject is maths, and he hopes to become a bank manager one day.



MANASSE KANYIRI (age 11)

After her son Manasse was born, Damaris gave birth to two other children who sadly died.

Following the bereavements, Damaris's husband deserted her, so she went back to her parents' home. But her brother said that she had only returned to claim an inheritance and kicked her out.

A single mother deserted by her husband and family, Damaris moved to Longonot Town to find work but struggled to provide for her family. A friend eventually allowed her to stay in a house without paying rent.

Manasse was old enough to attend school, but his mother could not afford food or school fees. Increasingly distressed by her difficulties, he decided to leave home at the age of nine in the hope of earning money to help her.

He spent around eight months living on the streets, sleeping under lorries and helping



truck drivers and mechanics with small tasks to earn a few shillings.

He also did farm work and delivered water for a local water seller. He lived and worked in a group of seven boys, who pooled their money to buy food and share meals.

Life on the streets exposed Manasse to considerable danger. On one occasion, a boy in the group narrowly avoided being hit by a lorry. He also described how older people sometimes caught and hurt him. He said that he bit them and then ran away! Although he knew that his mother was looking for him, he would run away when she came looking for him because he couldn't face going home.

Manasse has been at the Sunshine Centre since January 2025 and is now in Grade 6 at school. During school holidays, he helps his mother around the home and attends church with her.

Sunshine Centre: a haven for street boys...

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...!



Visitors to the Centre are always assured of a noisy and excited welcome from the Sunshine Boys.



Having been hungry on the streets, the boys appreciate the huge portions they receive at mealtimes - enough to share with a special visitor!



The boys are very happy to resume their education when they join the Sunshine Centre. To help them catch up, they receive extra tuition in the evenings and have access to the library and computer room, as well as as having time for fun and games.



After supper, the boys enjoy singing and acting out Bible stories. Here, David (Macharia) takes on nine-foot tall Goliath.

Sunshine Boys: Where are they now?



Gathu was one of the first young men to come to the Sunshine Centre when it opened on 2nd June 2004.

He dropped out of primary school in his fourth year, spending 8 years on the streets, as well as time in prison.

After joining the Sunshine Centre, we funded his carpentry course before helping set him up with a small shoeshine and repair kiosk. To protect him from the sun and rain, we gave him an umbrella.

It was a lovely surprise to bump into him during the recent trustees' visit. After Martin Print had posed for a photo with him (left) Gathu told us that he was still doing well, and the umbrella above him was the same one we had given him 20 years ago!

Former Sunshine Boy Peter Mbatia is now a taxi driver based in Mombasa. He transported us from the station to our friend's house, telling us that he hopes to get married next year.



From street boy to master chef

Our aim is to support former street boys at the Sunshine Centre until they reach independence. After leaving school, many choose to train in Hospitality - an expanding part of Kenya's economy that offers good employment prospects for skilled workers.



Among this colourful array of hospitality students are Peter Kariuki (second from right) and Gideon Juma (far right).

The two former street boys have recently started their second year at Mathenge Technical Training Institute, where they are learning the skills required to work in high-class hotels and restaurants that serve international clients.



Kennedy Mbogo serves tea to Austin (our amazing driver) and Simon (our wonderful Social Worker).

Kennedy has completed his training in Hospitality at Naivasha Technical Training Institute. He is now on his final attachment at the Lake Naivasha Crescent Camp and hoping to be fully employed soon.

Josphat: former street boy, now a fired-up chef



Josphat Karanja has made it all the way from the streets to employment.

Now a chef at the Lazarus Lodge hotel in Naivasha, he gave us a pyrotechnic display of his cooking skill!

"When I first went to polytechnic I chose a vehicle mechanics' course,



but I realised my real passion was cooking. I remembered how I used to enjoy helping Patrick, the cook at the Sunshine Centre, to prepare meals for the Sunshine Boys, so I changed to a Food and Beverage course.

After I finished at polytechnic, I started at the Lazarus



Lodge washing dishes. I gradually worked my way up by taking on more tasks, and now I am employed as a chef. Today I prepared 75 breakfasts, and last week I cooked lunches for 400 conference delegates."

Josphat was rescued from the streets in 2012 and came to the Sunshine Centre



when he was 13 years old. His mother was unable to provide for her three children, and Josphat was sent home from school for non-payment of fees.

He dropped out of school and went on to the streets where he joined a gang, but was rescued and joined our Sunshine Centre in 2012.

Celebrating 22 years of service

Since 2004, Charles and Mary Osaleh have been house parents to orphaned and abandoned children (30 children at one stage) in Mombasa, providing continuous love and care to disadvantaged children.



To celebrate Charles and Mary's many years of selfless service, we took them and the young people they look after for a meal at Paloma Gardens - an excellent restaurant near the children's home.

The young people, who shared platters of food, enjoyed themselves thoroughly. There wasn't a scrap of food left over, much to the annoyance of the five cats that prowled around under the table! Mary - always looking after the children's well-being - mentioned that their

mattresses were worn out, so we took her shopping for replacements.

Doreen (photo below) used to live at the children's home, and now works in Nairobi.



Elijah back from the brink

When we last met Elijah in February, he was in deep trouble. Addicted to drugs, he had been expelled from school and his brother Ben, who was trying to look after him was at his wits' end.

We made a deal with Elijah: If he got professional help for his drug problem and was clean in October we would help him move on in life. Ben's father-in-law

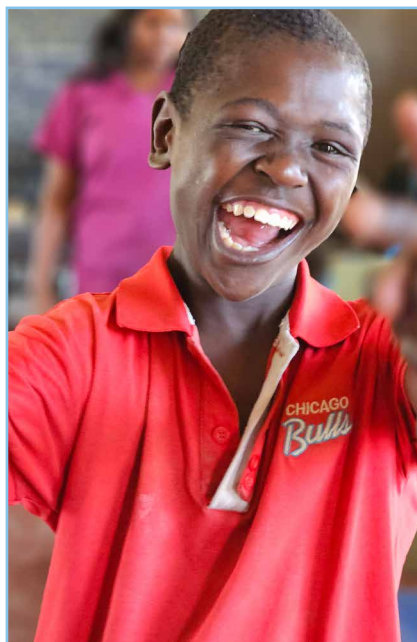
Desdarius offered support by giving Elijah voluntary work at his welding shop under close supervision.

When we met Elijah in October, he was off drugs, had a big smile, and was keen to learn to drive. We agreed we would help pay for his driving lessons - the first step towards earning a living as a minibus or tuk-tuk driver.



Overcoming Disability

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 Pangani School in Nakuru to check on their welfare.



The photos speak better than words can! Havila (left), who has cerebral palsy rushed up to greet us when we arrived, with an enormous smile on his face, which stayed in place the whole time we were there.

Levis (right), who has autism, flung himself at Irene, our disability care worker, and greeted her with a huge hug.

The new head teacher Milcah Kangogo allowed us to tour the classrooms to meet all of the children we support, although three had returned home because they had chicken pox.

Havila chatted happily with our UK visitor Caroline Williams (herself a fluent Swahili speaker), and the staff told us that Levis is more mobile and stable, clapping, playing peekaboo and trying to speak.



Home visits

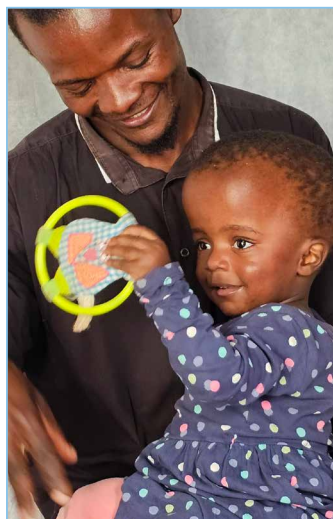
Angel and Peter

We met Peter at home in Karagita where he told us that he has cared for his three-year-old daughter Angel alone since her mother left when Angel was just a month old. Born with hydrocephalus, Angel underwent surgery to fit a shunt, but was left disabled.

Despite the challenges, Peter remains committed to giving her the best possible care.

Angel is making encouraging progress. She has grown stronger and can now walk a few steps, although she remains unsteady. Peter takes her to Kijabe Hospital twice a month for shunt reviews and nutritional advice, and to the CURE therapy unit for three hours of therapy at each visit.

Peter lives with Angel in a modest two-room house in Karagita. He earns a living



through casual work, typically three days a week.

Angel attends day-care, where she is happy, interacts with other children and continues to develop. This allows her father time to seek work. With the help of a generous donor, we provide nutritional supplements for Angel, and we plan to support her when she moves to school next term.

Jemmimah and Beatrice

Beatrice is a devoted mother who provides round-the-clock care for her 18-year-old daughter, Jemmimah, who has significant disabilities.

As we sat in her home, Beatrice explained that she manages all Jemmimah's personal care, lifting and moving her and carrying out home therapy, including positioning, massage and passive movements. The new wheelchair we funded recently has made moving Jemmimah easier.

Earlier this year, we arranged a place for Jemmimah at Pangani School, alongside Salome, another disabled girl whom Beatrice had also been caring for. While Salome settled well, Jemmimah was deeply unhappy and returned home. She misses Salome greatly.



Beatrice earns what she can through casual farm work and is passionate about improving the lives of children with disabilities. She hopes that a proposed local centre will eventually provide day care or residential facilities for a small number of children. In the meantime, she continues to care for Jemmimah at home, despite the challenges.

Inspiring schools...

Footsteps has been supporting schools in Nairobi's slums for 21 years, funding free school meals, helping build classrooms, providing books and (with Rotary Club help) installing solar power.



It is always a pleasure to visit Church on the Rock School which is located in the kwa Reuben slum area close to Nairobi airport.

As usual, all the children assembled and the highly energetic teacher Gabriel led them in joyful and wholehearted singing - it was



wonderful to see children from such a deprived area enjoying praising God!

The Grade 8 pupils then performed a specially composed song, acknowledging the support of Footsteps over the years.

At lunchtime, the children lined up for



a plate of githeri (a nutritious mixture of beans and maize) which keeps each student happy, healthy and full!

Before we left, school founders Bernard and Ruth Ndeti tried their hand with a ukulele we had brought for the children who now learn music as part of the curriculum.

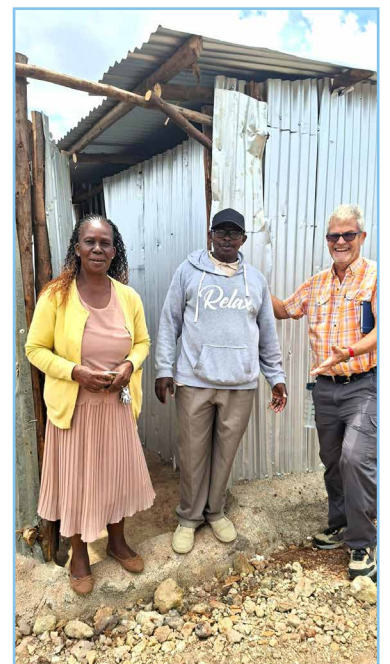
Slum clearance forces school move



Twenty-three years ago, Peter and Lucy Katei founded the Imani School in the Kibera slum in Nairobi. It is located on the site of their former home, and over the years, Lucy has provided early childhood education to hundreds of children from the surrounding community, while Footsteps has supported the school by funding free school lunches since 2012.

Earlier this year, Lucy was given notice that the slum is to be cleared for a new housing development, and they had to move by the end of 2026.

Driven by a passion to continue to educate 'her' children, Lucy located a nearby plot outside the development area, and, with help from Footsteps, has built a new school (photo right). When we visited, Lucy told us that the toilets still need to be installed and connected to the sewerage system, but Lucy is planning to open the new school at the start of next term.



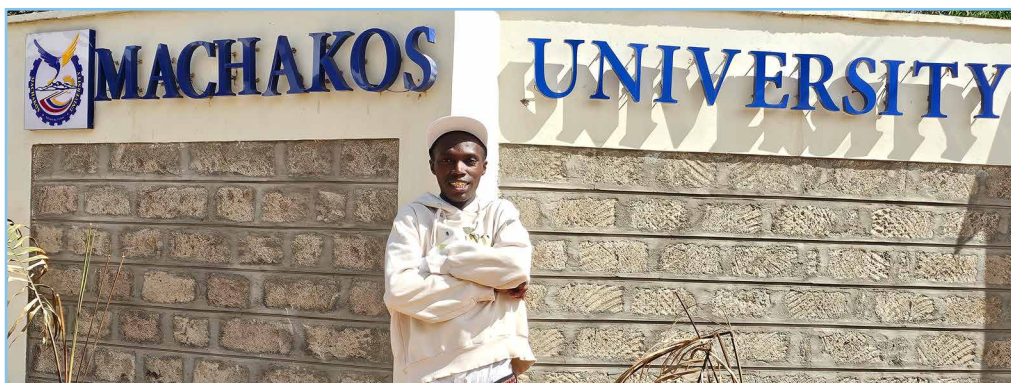
Recipe for Success



During their visit to the Naivasha Technical Training Institute, Footsteps trustees were treated to a superb lunch cooked and served by the Food and Beverage

trainees, before touring the tailoring department where trainees were learning on the 10 new industrial sewing machines funded by a generous donor.

University challenge



Vincent Mwangi poses proudly at the gate of Machakos University. A former street boy, he has just started his second year of a Mathematics degree course.

As he showed us round, he told us that

the lecturers were on strike, but he is determined to complete his 4-year course successfully and believes he will find employment in teaching, working as a financial analyst or in banking when he graduates.

And now, relax...!



Left to right: Louise Grayson, Caroline Williams, Wendy Print and Martin Print enjoying some relaxation in Kenya's beautiful Nakuru National Park to round off a hectic visit.

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 October 2026.

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