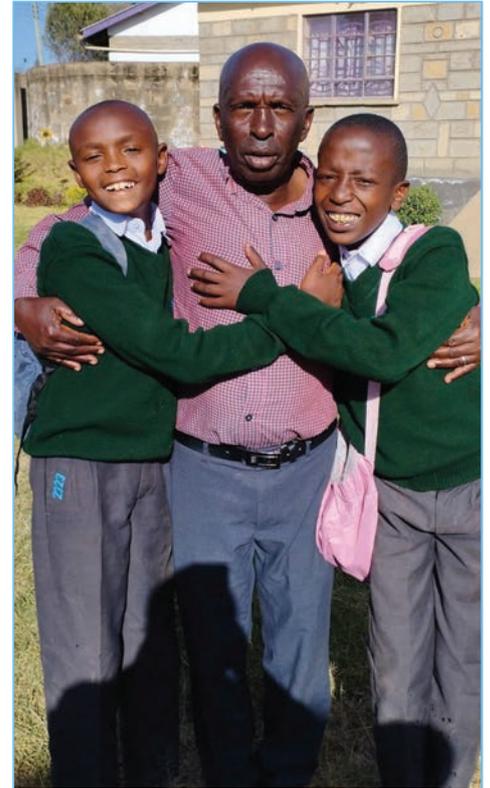
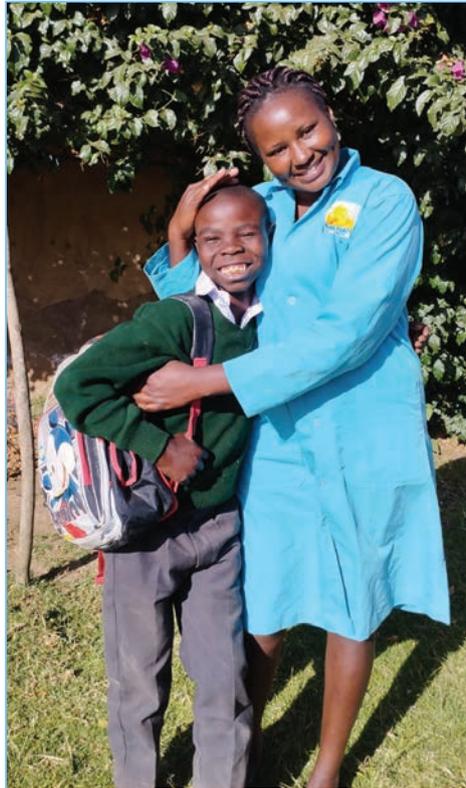


We love rescuing street boys!



In January, we gave 25 street boys places at the Sunshine Centre, bringing the total we care for to 142.

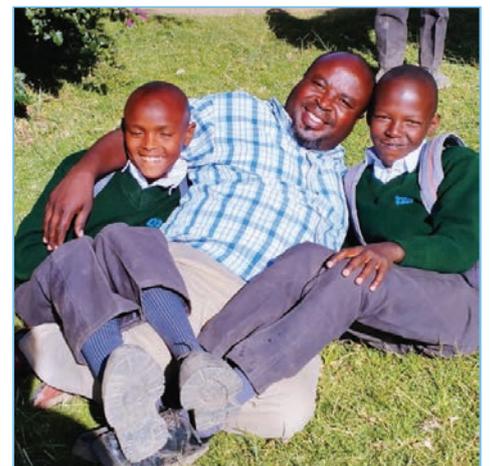
Over the past three years, Kenya's economy has taken a battering as the twin forces of Covid and inflation have made it difficult for poor families to earn enough to feed their families.

With families living on the margins of poverty, many boys leave home to try to survive on the streets.

But life on the streets is tough and dangerous. As well as having to cope with hunger and cold, the boys risk being bullied and intimidated by bigger street boys and harassed by the

police. These boys need rescuing! Our Social Worker Simon Kuria (pictured below) has spent time with the new boys, learning about the hardships they faced at home, and how they tried to survive on the streets.

Three of the new boys tell their life stories on the following page.



Street boys: this is my story...

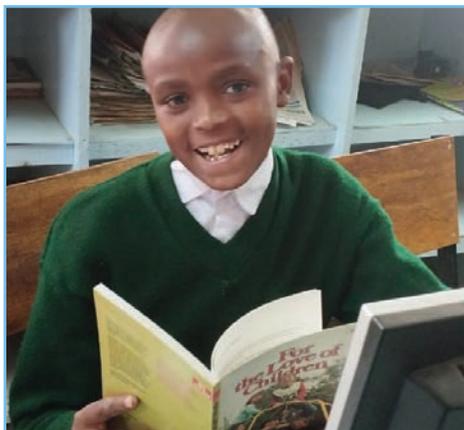
My name is Samuel Njihia, and I spent many months on the streets of Naivasha. I used to collect scrap metal to sell to dealers for a few coins, and I also begged shoppers to give me money and food.

I left home because my mother Margaret only earns a small amount. She works at a quarry where she crushes stones with a hammer. It is very hard work and she

only earns a few shillings a day which was not enough to feed me and my siblings properly.

While I was on the street in January, I met Mama Chege and she suggested I came to the Sunshine Centre so that I could be looked after.

I said yes, and after I had settled there for a few days I was allowed to go back to school. I am now in Grade 5. At Sunshine, I enjoy having a warm bed of my own.



I am Samuel Ngugi and I am the youngest of 8 children and we live in the Mithuuri informal settlement area of Naivasha town.

My mother washes clothes for other families when she can, and my father collects scrap metal to sell to dealers. They only earn a small amount so they always struggle to feed me and my brothers and sisters.

I went to beg on the streets, and one day as I was begging for food and money outside the supermarket in Naivasha, Mama Chege saw me and offered me a home at the Sunshine Centre. I was happy to accept.

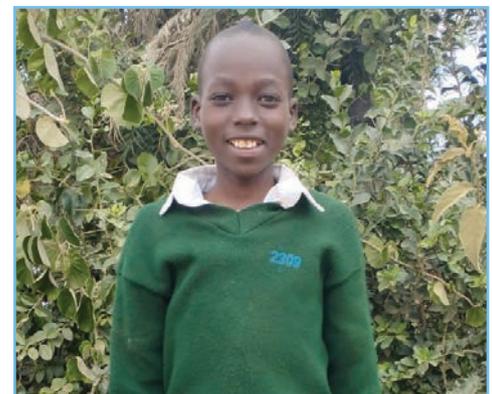
After I had settled at Sunshine, I started back at school - I am in Grade 6 at Karai Primary School. It takes me 20 minutes to walk to school from Sunshine.

I am Peter Ondari and I am 12 years old. I have a sister and brother and, like Samuel Ngugi I come from the Mithuuri area of Naivasha.

My mother is the family breadwinner, but she only earns a small amount each day from casual work, and some days she earns nothing. We would often wait at home all day with nothing to eat until our mother came home in the evening with a little unga (flour) after trying the whole day.

I was in and out of school, and eventually went to the streets. I used to hang around near the Naivasha market collecting fruit from the dustbins, and begging people to give me food.

In January, Mama Chege and Peter from the Sunshine Centre rescued me and brought me to the Centre to care for me and look after me. I am now back in school in Grade 6 - this is a photo of me in my new school uniform.



Mama Chege greets some of the new intake of street boys at the gates of the Sunshine Centre.

The wife of Director Simon Kinyanjui, she has been a vitally important staff member since 2004.

During her shopping trips into town, she does what other shoppers do not - she stops and talks to street boys to find out why they are begging on the streets. When possible, she offers them an opportunity to join the Sunshine Centre. For many street boys, their conversation with Mama Chege is a life-changing encounter.

Why street boys love Sunshine!

Boys on the streets eat badly. All the boys who come to the Sunshine Centre tell stories of how they had to scrounge for food in dustbins, and beg for money to feed themselves.

The Sunshine Centre cook Patrick aims to serve up delicious food to make the boys healthy and strong.

Each day, the boys are provided with mountains of beans, maize and ugali (boiled maize meal) which they love, supplemented with fresh vegetables grown on the Sunshine Centre farm.



Having spent nights sleeping on the streets, soaking wet when it rains, and shivering in the cold at night when temperatures drop as low as 9 degrees, the boys who come to the Sunshine Centre appreciate the warm, dry beds and mattresses that we provide in the dormitories.

Each boy has his own bed. There is always competition about who has the top bunk bed, although John Kariuki doesn't seem to mind too much that he has to sleep on the bottom one!

Boys on the streets wear badly fitting, worn out shoes if they have any at all.

At the Sunshine Centre, we make sure each boy has a new pair of proper, smart shoes to protect their feet from cuts and disease.

As he sets off to start a new term at secondary school, Peter Kariuki is very happy to receive his new pair from senior staff member Mama Chege.



One of the things street boys miss is going to school (one boy told us how he used to cry when friends passed him on their way to start lessons).

The 25 new Sunshine Boys have all been enrolled into the local government primary school to resume their interrupted studies.

To help them catch up we provide additional tutoring at the Sunshine Centre in the evenings and weekends. A good education helps the boys excel.

Faithful care for orphaned children



It is rare to see Charles and Mary Osaleh on their own - usually they are surrounded by the children they look after at the Tumaini Children's Home near Mombasa

The photo (right) was taken as they relaxed for a few minutes after church.

The couple have been looking after orphaned and abandoned children at Tumaini for 20 years, patiently and faithfully caring for them as they grow up and eventually move on from the home.

They have cared for Ruth Mbinya (above left) since her mother died ten years ago, leaving no-one to look after her.

A quiet girl, she has recently started her final year in primary school where she is

doing well in science. Her favourite foods are pilau, chapattis and beans.

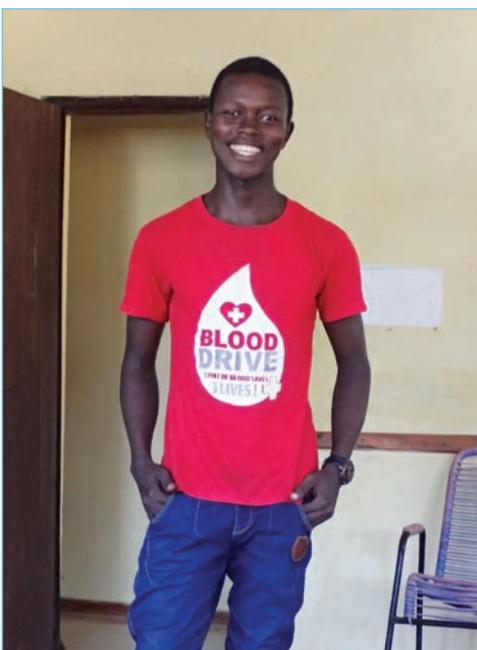
Derrick Otieno (above right) joined the Tumaini Children's Home when he was orphaned 5 years ago. A hardworking boy, he started in junior secondary school in January.

Out of school, he helps with chores such as cleaning the house and washing his clothes and school uniform and in his spare time, he enjoys football, swimming and reading storybooks.

Derrick told us, "I am working hard so that I can attain good grades and achieve my dream of becoming either a mechanical engineer or soldier - I will decide which to focus on nearer the time!"



Young men with ambition



James Mutiso (left) has now finished his high school education and has chosen to study Electrical Engineering. We will continue to support him when he starts his course in May.

After completing high school, David Muthama (right) has been working as a volunteer in the IT department at Tumaini Timbwani school.

He is keen to pursue a course in graphic design and computer science. His uncle, who works in Dubai, has offered to pay for David to travel there to start college. We will stay in touch with him as he sets off on his exciting international adventure.



Care in the Community



Being part of a family means having to help around the home, and the ten orphaned and abandoned children we support in the community around the Tumaini Children's Home all have to take their turn with household chores.



Purity Nyangweso's favourite subject at school is Home Science, so she is good at preparing maize (above left), while David and Chris (above right) make sure there are no tooth-breaking stones in the beans before they are cooked.



Many homes in Kenya have no piped water, so the water for washing and cleaning has to be collected in jerrycans. It's Joram's turn to collect the water today - he is a strong young man who has recently joined Junior Secondary school where he



enjoys technical subjects and IT.

In her final year in high school, Elnora Mwachofi enjoys cooking delicious chapattis for her family when she gets home.



Now the meal is over it's Norah and Purity's turn to do the washing up. Norah has just completed secondary school and is waiting to start a college course.



Jacob's final task of the day is to make sure that his shoes are cleaned ready for school tomorrow where his favourite subject is home science and he enjoys baking

New classrooms for slum school...



UK Rotary District 1120 provided a generous grant to turn one dilapidated classroom into two new ones at Church on the Rock School in the kwa Reuben slum in Nairobi.

Class 8 pupil Enock Omwenga wrote: "From each and every joyous heart in the school beginning with the administration to the entire students' body, we thank you greatly. We are expecting your visit so that you can see what your precious donation has done to our school."

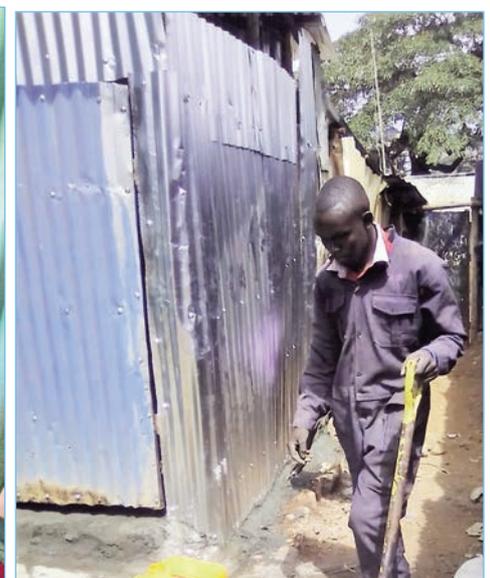
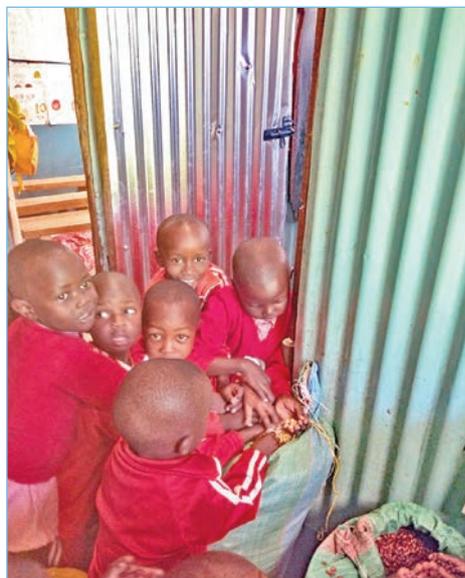


...and a new kitchen too

The children at the Imani pre-school in Nairobi's Kibera slum gather excitedly around the latest delivery of beans and maize - they know they will be able to enjoy free lunches at school this term.

The lunches used to be cooked over a charcoal stove inside the school, but the smoke was a health hazard, so the meals are now prepared in the newly built outside kitchen (in the photo far right, the builder is giving the kitchen its finishing touches).

We are very grateful to our friends at Green St Green Baptist Church who funded the new kitchen, as well as the beans and maize for this term's lunches.



Skills provide earning potential



New trainees Raphael Kariuki, Samuel Ngundo, John Nguji, Kelvin Nganga and James Koech with Simon Kinyanjui (NTTI director).

The five young men in overalls are all former street boys from our Sunshine Centre. Having recently finished school, they chose to train in plumbing and masonry at the Naivasha Technical Training Institute (NTTI).

Why did the five choose this course? A big motivation was seeing Patrick Nguaye (below left) and Joel Kimani (below right), two older former Sunshine Centre boys

helping build a new workshop at NTTI and, in the process, earning good wages.

Patrick and Joel, who both trained at NTTI, are proof that young men with vocational skills can make a good livelihood.

The new Food and Beverage workshop was generously funded by Eagle Foundation, and when complete, will provide a modern facility for young people

who want to work in Kenya's hospitality industry.

Footsteps supports NTTI to help keep course fees low, enabling trainees from poor families to access courses they might otherwise be unable to afford.

Last year over 400 young people took training courses at NTTI, helping them to acquire the skills to make a living.



Time to soak up some sunshine!



We have cared for former street boy Peter Mutegi at the Sunshine Centre for many years. A bright boy with a cheeky sense of humour, Peter has done well,



and last year was made a prefect at Nyahururu Boys High School.

He impressed the school so much with his performance



that he was rewarded with a trip to enjoy himself on the beach at Mombasa (the first time he had seen the sea).

Footsteps International in Kenya



Transforms the lives of 142 former street boys at the Sunshine Centre



Cares for 23 orphaned and abandoned children at the Tumaini Centre, Mombasa



Strengthens education of 380 children in Nairobi's slums



Helps train 500 young people in life-skills

Emma's graduation milestone



After leaving school, Emma's family struggled to pay for her higher education. We have been able to sponsor her to take a course in Medical Records and IT at Kenya Medical Technical College.

She graduated recently and is now pressing on to the higher diploma level which will give her the best opportunity of finding work at a good when she completes.



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 seven trustees, all unpaid volunteers, committed to putting their Christian faith into action.

They are: Martin and Mary Print, Barbara Huntley, Barrie Francis, Paul Robinson, Wendy McMahon and Ben Gardner.

Virtual Kenya Marafun 17 June



Anyone - Anywhere - Anyway



www.justgiving.com/campaign/virtual-kenya-marafun-2023

On 17th June, our former street boys will be running round a course near the Sunshine Centre and would love to know you were taking part too.

You can run, walk, swim or cycle any distance you choose, anywhere you

want, and at whatever speed you are comfortable with.

Will you join us? Last year 540 people in 5 countries took part in the Virtual Kenya Marafun. This year we are aiming for more participants (and more countries).

Please send us a photo of your Marafun to share with the Sunshine Boys, and raise some sponsorship.

The QR code and URL above lead to the Virtual Kenya Marafun fundraising page.

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