



From dirty streets to beautiful national park



"I am very happy working here at Lake Nakuru Lodge - it is one of the best."

A smiling Samuel Kamau perches on the sign that welcomes visitors to Lake Nakuru Lodge - a favourite overnight stop for tourists who come to view the world-famous flamingos in one of Kenya's most beautiful national parks.

But Samuel is not a tourist. A former street boy from our Sunshine Centre, he is nearing the end of his degree course in Tourism and Travel Management and needs to complete an industrial attachment before he graduates.



Samuel was delighted when Joseph Muya, director of Lake Nakuru Lodge (and good friend of Footsteps) offered him a placement.

"It is fun working here," Samuel told us, "and also it is a conducive environment for me to learn. I am very grateful for the continuous support you have been showing me. Special thanks to Pastor (Simon KInyanjui - Sunshine Centre director) and Dad Simon (Kuria - Social Worker) for helping me find this place to work as an attachee. I will be forever in your debt."

Lydia keeps the farm watered



"I am very happy to leave her to work unsupervised," Lydia's boss informs us. His remarks are a great tribute to her skills as a plumber and enthusiasm for her work.

Lydia comes from a very disadvantaged family, and as part of a package of measures to help them, we are paying Lydia's fees as she trains in plumbing and masonry at Naivasha Technical Training Institute. As part of her course, she is undertaking an industrial attachment with Shalimar Fresh which grows flowers and vegetables for export to European supermarkets.

The farm uses a lot of water (and has a lot of plumbing), drawing water from Lake Naivasha and boreholes, and using reverse osmosis water purification, recycled water dams and drip irrigation. Lydia has taken on a big responsibility, but is hoping that a successful internship will lead to a permanent job when she completes her training course.

Sharing the love, sharing the load



Since 2004, house parents Mary (far left) and Charles (far right) have lovingly cared for orphaned and abandoned children at our Tumaini Children's Home. They make sure that the children help with the many chores around the Home.



Jonton (sweeping the dormitory floor) is artistic and draws fine pictures. He also enjoys playing basketball and football.

Derrick (wiping the dining table) is in grade six at primary school. A cheeky boy, he likes playing football and reading storybooks, but aspires to be a soldier or engineer when he finishes school.



Benard (washing up) enjoys making battery-powered toy cars and loves fixing electrical equipment. When he finishes school he hopes to become a mechanical engineer.

Sorting the stones out of maize before it is cooked is a team activity.

Juliet focused on her future



One of the older children we care for at the Tumaini Children's Home, Juliet likes playing basketball, chatting with friends and enjoys story telling with the other children we care for at the Home.

In April, she completed her Covid-interrupted high school education, and while deciding what to do next, worked as a volunteer at the Tumaini schools in

Mombasa. She has now settled on taking a course in Library and Information Studies which she hopes to start in January.

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Street boys acquire life skills at the Sunshine Centre



Former street boy Godwin Wakoko is happy to help in the small farm at the Sunshine Centre. The fresh vegetables are part of the nutritious meals he enjoys each day.



Julius Mwangi and John Macharia are also glad to lend a hand on the farm.



Samuel Njuguna helps chop firewood for the kitchen ovens (the Centre uses efficient, insulated log-burners for cooking) and Brian Kibe manages to look happy as he washes his clothes.

We care for over 130 former street boys through the Sunshine Centre. All the boys in the photos are sponsored by Footsteps supporters who receive termly progress reports and can exchange letters with 'their' boy.

[Find out more about sponsoring](#)

Toolkits - a gift to help street boys into work



Former street boys James Mwangi (left) and George Mathenge (right) were delighted to receive toolkits presented to them by Sunshine Centre director Simon Kinyanjui. James is training in plumbing and masonry, while George is nearing the end of his motor vehicle mechanics course.

The toolkits - a gift from Green Street Green Baptist Church - will help the young men to find paid employment when they complete their vocational training courses.

Mary and Carol aiming for success



Both Mary (left) and Carol (right) come from difficult home situations. Mary's family is very poor and struggled to pay for her education. Carol's father is confined to a wheelchair so life for him and his children is very tough.

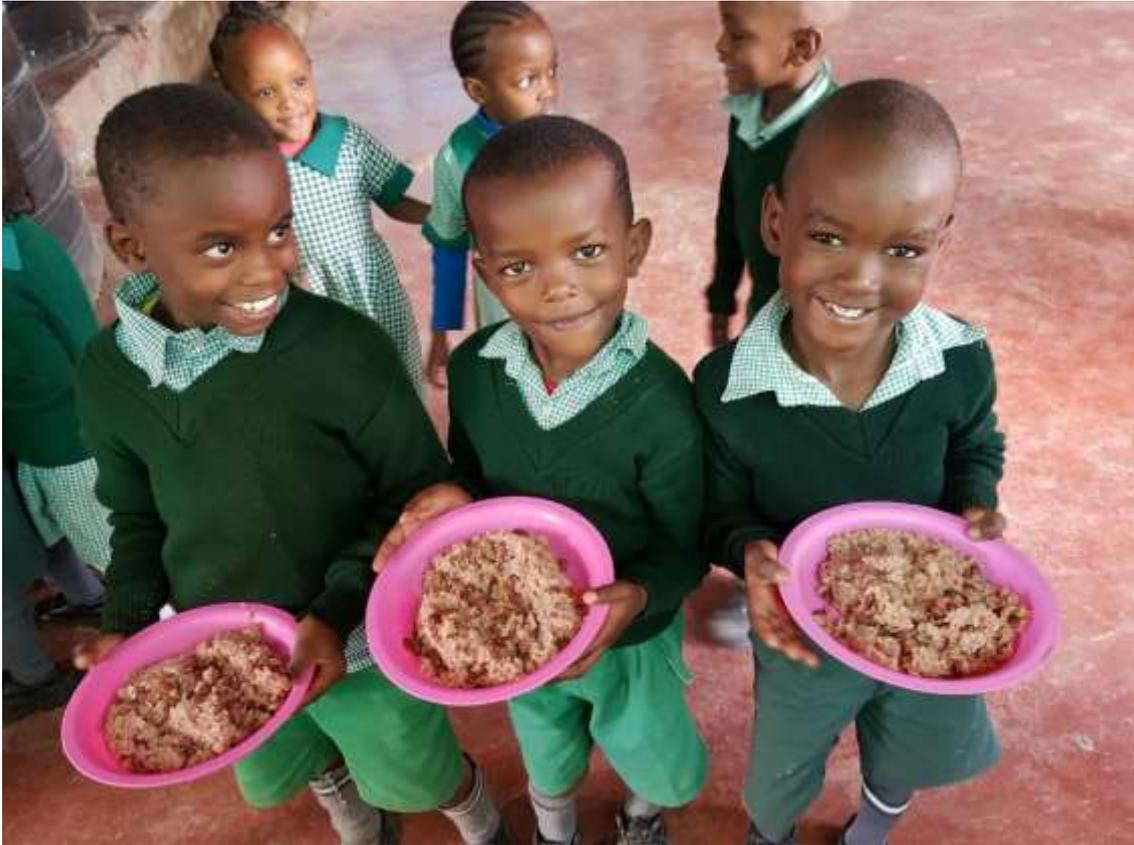
Thanks to support from generous donors, we have helped both girls. Mary is taking a course in Community and Social Development, part of which includes a three-month attachment at Kenya's National Council for Persons with Disabilities.

Carol has recently started a hair and beauty course which she is thoroughly enjoying. When she completes her course she will be able to earn a good living in the growing beauty market.

School meals ease pressure on tight budgets

To catch up time lost during the Covid closures, Kenyan schools are completing four terms this year.

This puts pressure on the students, staff, and parents who have to find extra cash to pay fees and school levies.



Church on the Rock School is in kwa Reuben, a deprived area close to Nairobi International airport.

Thanks to the help we have received from our generous donors, we have funded school meals for all the children at Church on the Rock School for all four terms, keeping the children healthy and focussed on learning.

MAD CHRISTMAS GIFTS



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Personal message from Martin and Mary

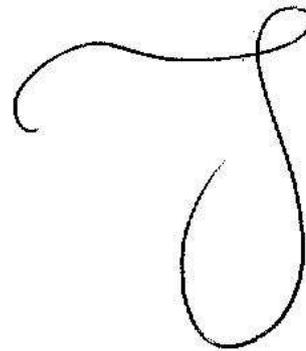


Mary had an MRI scan to get the all clear to travel to Kenya, but, sadly, it revealed that an area of cancer has started to re-emerge (although the chemotherapy is working well in other areas).

The consultant recommended she start a 3-week radiotherapy course immediately, and so we have deferred our planned visit to another day.

However, our trustees Barrie Francis and Wendy McMahon have travelled and will bring back first-hand news from our Footsteps projects.

Thank you for all your support, your prayers, your help and friendship!



Martin and Mary Print
Co-founders, Footsteps International

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