

VOL. 2 JUN 2018

KENYA CHILDREN'S HOMES



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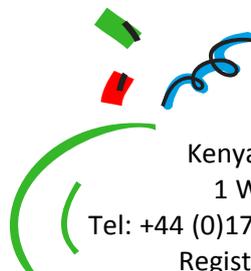
The rains down in Africa!

As many parts of the world are beginning to feel the warm breeze of Spring and have the company of the sun a little longer each day, Kenya is rejoicing in the cool puddles and fresh days of the rainy season. The long rainy season began mid-March and will continue until the end of May. Due to the rain, the grass is finally greener although the traffic is much, much busier!

The children at Kenya Children's Homes have not let the rain dampen their spirits. During the April camp, instead of complaining about the downpour on the sports day, the children laughed themselves silly participating in small games and competitions in the hall. The puddles have also sparked an interest with the babies in our abandoned baby unit. As much as we try, babies will always run directly into the biggest puddle without a single hesitation!

We have had many fantastic visitors over the past few months Strathallan High School from Scotland, Kenya Science Centre in conjunction with the Australian High Commission, returning and new volunteers to name just a few!

We hope you enjoy our latest edition of the KCH newsletter!



Keep in touch

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The Strathallan Superstars!

On the 24th March, the team from Strathallan touched down in Kenya after almost eight long months of delays. The disruption was caused by the two elections Kenya held last year. Finally, we were able to welcome the newcomers and catch up with the returning staff members. Strathallan has been volunteering at KCH each year for the past five years. Their busy schedule started each day with high energy activities at our primary school in Mashimoni, Kibera (as seen above). Some favourite activities included teaching the children the song "There Was a Crazy Moose", dancing to Ed Sheeran, making creative craft hats and reading "Oh The Places You'll Go!" by Dr Suess. After each morning of fun in Kibera they returned to KCH to help around the Home, do homework with the resident children and spend time with our babies at the abandoned baby unit.

The children really enjoyed having these special visitors and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts for all their help and support.

We all look forward to seeing Strathallan again soon.



Our new CEO

KCH is delighted to announce a very special change in management. Collins Owyera has been named as the new CEO of KCH.

Collins, or as the children like to call him 'Daddy Collins', has been a dedicated staff member at KCH for over eleven years. Prior to his time with us, he lived and studied in Scotland for seven years in the early 2000's. After meeting his future wife and mother of his two amazing children, Collins returned to his home country of Kenya.

"I felt the need to give back to society strongly based upon my own experience as an orphan and my love of children. How better could I achieve this than to work amongst the children of Kenya Children's Homes."

Collins began working with the children in our social work department and then took on a role as a House Father in 2007. From there he continued to work as a House Father and a teacher at Jonathan Gloag Academy. After ten years of teaching hundreds of students in IT and computer science, he was offered the position of Chief Administrator of KCH in early 2017.

Collins' warmth, experience and dedication to KCH and the children across all of our projects led him to a promotion to Chief Executive Officer early in 2018. Collins has overall responsibility for all projects falling under the KCH umbrella including the Children's Home, Jonathan Gloag Academy, Suswa Soila Rescue Centre, Mashimoni Primary School, the Outreach Programme and the Butterfly Support Programme.

Please join us in congratulating Collins on this wonderful achievement.



Mother's Day at KCH

Mother figures come in many forms for our children. They may be biological, they may not. They may be the auntie who has held your hand through life or the teacher who has guided you through tough times. This Mother's Day in Kenya we celebrated the lives of the women who are important to us - the House Mums, Aunties, Sponsors and Friends who, each in their own way, guide the children of KCH through life.

Science from Down Under!

On May 4th, Kenya Children's Homes and Jonathan Gloag Academy had a very special Friday. The Australian High Commission teamed up with the Kenya Science Centre to deliver an incredible science show for the older children. All the experiments were conducted under the supervision of Dr. Graham Walker, an Australian Scientist and leading Science Communicator. The show consisted of experiments demonstrating why water does not burn, what kinetic energy is and much, much more!

Volunteering Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering at KCH, please visit our website for more information.

Clubs Corner!

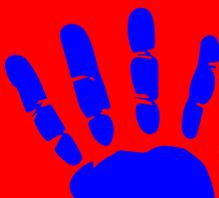
Here at KCH we run Saturday Clubs every Saturday morning. This month has been full of glitter, craft, more glitter, movies, scavenger hunts and (you guessed it) even more glitter! We have had great help from local volunteers who give up their Saturday mornings to help put a smile on the children's faces. One of the children's favourite Saturday Clubs was the scavenger hunt in mid March.

The children were in groups of four and had to find items of every colour of the rainbow (red, yellow, pink, green, purple, orange, blue), something that is used as a tool, a rock as big as your hand and something that you love. There were also riddles as bonus points. Only one team were able to answer all three riddles!! Can you solve them too?

- Q1.** What has a face and two hands but no arms or legs?
Q2. What gets wetter as it dries?
Q3. Everyone has it and no one can lose it, what is it?

Answers:

- Q1.** A clock
Q2. A towel
Q3. Your shadow





International Day of Happiness

On the 20th of March we celebrated International Day of Happiness. The programme manager commemorated this day by making a video dedicated to happiness starring the children of KCH. She asked the children to answer the question "What makes you happy?" There were some surprising answers including favourite foods, people and activities. The funniest answer was definitely Benson, age 12, who answered "What makes me happy is cleaning the windows because I get to splash the water!!!" You can view the whole video via our Facebook page under videos or via this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/kenyachildrenshomeskch/videos/906337976194274/>

Feel free to share it with your friends.



We're social!

Are you following us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram? Our teams update our pages regularly with news, images and stories.



[@kenyachildrenshomeskch](https://www.facebook.com/kenyachildrenshomeskch)



[@KenChildrenHome](https://twitter.com/KenChildrenHome)



[@KenyaChildrensHomes](https://www.instagram.com/KenyaChildrensHomes)

April Camp

Camps at KCH are the time for our family to get together! These camps consist of the residential children who live at the Home all year round and the teenagers supported by KCH who are studying at school / college / university or have now completed their studies. The camp was a great success! The children and teenagers were also lucky enough to visit the Kenyan Parliament. One teenager commented that "Parliament was very educational" and she hoped that "it would help her in her future studies."

Other activities included medical and education checks, movie night, mbozi choma (traditional Kenyan meal) and the all time favourite activity, the talent show.

We look forward to seeing everyone together again in August!

Talent at Camp

At the end of every camp, KCH showcases the extraordinary skills of the children in our talent competition. Each house performs a range of group and individual talents over the course of the day.

A highlight of this talent day was the group dances and the special talent category. House six won with a modern dance which was choreographed by Paul, one of our older children, who also remixed a combination of Kenyan and dance hall music. The special talent category was won by Alec in House one who handmade *and* played his very own banjo! The judges were very impressed.

A special mention must go to House four who won the group song competition. They performed a traditional tribal song featuring soprano, alto and baritone notes. The acoustics in the large hall at KCH helped their voices shine. Many gave them a standing ovation!

The winner of the entire talent show went to House six, with House seven narrowly missing out on first place. We congratulate each and every person who was brave enough to participate in front of their peers, visitors, staff and friends of KCH.

Your data

We have recently updated our privacy policy which affects how we handle your data. To find out about how this might affect you, please visit our website.

