

VOL. 3 NOV 2018

KENYA CHILDREN'S HOMES



Hands up for KCH!

In this edition, we would like to stop and take the time to appreciate all the support we receive from our staff, our local & international volunteers and, last but not least, you! Our children have smiles on their faces and laughter in their hearts because they have the support that many impoverished children around the world do not have access to. So we are taking this opportunity to say, thank you.

Your involvement with KCH, regardless of how big or small, enables us to help that extra child, provide emergency medical care for a sick baby or simply supply tuition fees to a struggling child. Put your hands in the air and celebrate with us!

As we come towards the end of 2018, KCH looks back on a successful year so far and looks to the future with confidence. We also had a very busy few months with many visitors and volunteers visiting us this summer. In total we had almost 30 volunteers just in July! They brought their enthusiasm, unique talents and most importantly their smiles. Bubbles, crafts and sports were the most popular group activities! A big thank you to Strathallan School, Fairview Primary School, Ben, Sophie, Mark, Bonte & Catherine for all their amazing help!



Keep in touch

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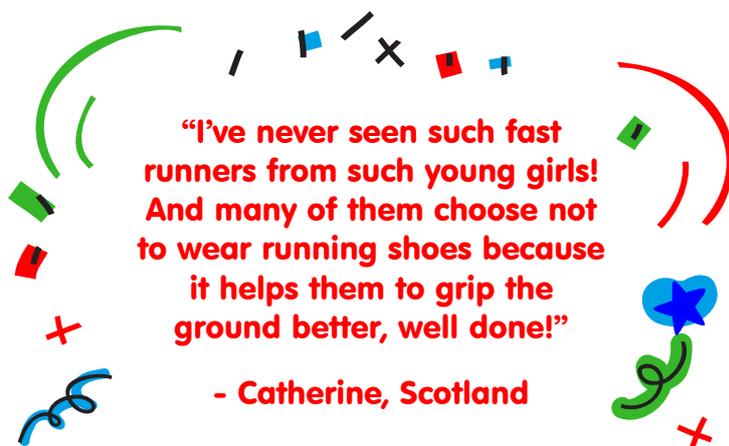


Suswa sports day

The sun shone down on Suswa as the girls took part in their annual sports day in early August. The girls were full of excitement throughout the day, which consisted of running races (100m, 200m, 400m), relays, egg and spoon race, tug of war and the teachers competition. The parents and guardians of the girls were invited along to watch and enjoy the atmosphere of the day. The overall winners of the sports day were Longonot House and they were thrilled with their medals and trophies. The international volunteers also had a great day getting involved with helping set up the races and cheering for the girls.

The Fairview group visit KCH

In July, a talented group of volunteers arrived in Kenya, ready for a busy two weeks. The group consisted of six teachers & teachers assistants and one former Jonathan Gloag Academy teacher. This group all work with special needs children and brought their valuable skills, never ending passion and, most importantly, a glowing feeling of positivity that was instantly transferred to every staff member and child in KCH & Suswa. The group worked with all the children in KCH but worked especially hard in our abandoned baby unit. The nursery was transformed overnight into an adventure playgroup including a baby sofa, a new toy shelf, a chill-out corner and a hand painted play table. The teachers made such an impression on all the children who were so grateful for their support throughout their stay in Kenya. Please come back soon!



Mashimoni Primary School

It is with a very heavy heart we have to announce the closure of Mashimoni Primary School. At the end of July, with little warning, the government bulldozed the majority of the school buildings to make way for a new road. Our school was one of eight to be demolished and 30,000 people lost their homes. Despite exhaustive efforts by our whole team to find alternative accommodation for Mashimoni, we have been unsuccessful. Everyone at KCH, the pupils and parents are all devastated by this loss as Mashimoni held a special place in our hearts. All the parents and guardians, however, understand this was a situation beyond our control. To try and ensure the continued education of Mashimoni’s highest achieving pupils, the top three pupils from classes 3-7 (30 in total) were transferred to Jonathan Gloag Academy and they are thriving. 10 orphaned girls were also transferred to Suswa and have settled in extremely well. A little silver lining at last! Our thanks go to all of you who have sponsored and supported children at Mashimoni over the past 12 years. Your support has helped to educate and develop thousands of children through their early years in what is one of Africa’s largest slums, where access to good education is critical.





Clubs Corner!



Over the past few months, we have had many exciting Saturday Clubs. With help from all volunteers, locally and internationally, we are able to do lots of creative activities with the kids. In September we organised a big painting day. The children's faces lit up as they arrived one by one for Saturday Clubs to see the activity room transformed into a mini art studio. The volunteers drew pictures for the children to colour. The requests included a castle in the clouds, a unicorn, desert flowers, and our favourite, a dinosaur elephant blowing fire from its trunk!

We thank the volunteers that helped us facilitate the day, but we also must thank the generous donors who provided the craft supplies for the children.

The children left with paint on their hands (and in some cases, everywhere else!) and huge smiles on their faces.

Suswa update

We are happy to announce the admission of 10 new girls into our Soila Maasai Girls Rescue Centre. It gives us great joy to be part of shaping the girl's futures and providing them the space to discover and explore their potential, free from the fear of FGM and/or early marriages. This brings our total number of girls living and studying at the Rescue Centre to 86. We welcome the new girls into our care!

Who names the babies?

Many visitors who come to KCH are interested in the life decisions we make for the abandoned babies who come to us. For example, who chooses their names? One of our social workers at KCH explains further, "Babies come to us when they are only a few days old and we may not know anything about their past. Therefore there are some decisions that we must make, like their names. The social worker assigned to their case has the opportunity to name the baby. Myself, I have named many babies over the years!" The youngest baby who came into our care this year was just two days old. Baby Gift is now healthy and growing quickly! Our social workers strive to place the babies with adopted families at an early age. The babies who are not adopted are transferred from the baby unit into the KCH houses when they can run and walk confidently. We will always make every effort to care for the children, physically and emotionally at KCH.





We're social! Are you?

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)

Volunteering at KCH

Are you, or someone you know, interested in volunteering with KCH? Cecile from Denmark expands upon her time in Kenya.

“Before volunteering with KCH I had a limited understanding of children’s homes and how they are run. From the most extreme situations, these children are growing into future leaders and I have been lucky enough to hold their hand and walk alongside them for a small part of their journey onto a better and brighter life. My advice for people thinking about volunteering? Do it! It’s a life-changing experience that you will never forget...”

Would you like to volunteer with us? Visit our website for more info www.kenyachildrenshomes.org.uk/volunteer

Written and photographed by Hannah Ryan, Kenya

Christmas appeal

The children, staff and volunteers are all looking forward to Christmas. Every year we like to give each child in our care a gift and we’d love your help this year.

A donation of just **£5** allows us to purchase something locally, contributing to the local economy while getting a gift the children will cherish.

You can donate in a number of ways.



£5 gift

Send a cheque (payable to Kenya Children’s Homes UK)

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Pay by card over the phone

Tel +44 (0)1738 633264

Make a donation online

www.justgiving.com/campaign/agiftforchristmas2018

