



Bringing hope to Africa's largest slum

Women For Women In Africa works with the women and children of Kibera, Africa's largest slum, by providing education and resources to enable them to live a life of dignity, happiness and hope for the future.

The Kitengela School

- An investment ensuring a future for the Children of Kibera

In 2014, we purchased 11 acres of land about one and a half hours from the centre of Nairobi.

We are in the legal process, with the support of Wanawake kwa Wanawake (Nairobi) of establishing an entity 'Women for Women in Kenya' that will be the umbrella for the school at Kitengela and the WkW Community Centre in Otiende.

The complex at Kitengela will when eventually completed, be an Orphanage, a Kindergarten, a Primary Day and Boarding School for girls and boys and a Secondary Day and Boarding School for Girls. It is anticipated that when completed it will have about 1200 students. It will have all the necessary amenities needed for such a school with boarding facilities as well as good playing fields and kitchen facilities.

It will be a boarding school for the boys and girls from Kibera to give them an excellent education in a safe and caring environment. It will mean that these children, presently scattered in 90 schools throughout Kenya, will be able to attend school as a community and also enjoy the friendship and companionship of the local children from the Kitengela area. Kitengela is the fastest growing area in Kenya and is home to five Universities.

The School will promote tolerance and unity and give young people with potential, the opportunity to achieve that potential and proceed to meaningful careers that demand academic competence. The School will instil traditional values, especially of



Entrance to our land at Kitengela

equality, justice and compassion and aims for social credibility in the community – through facilities and performance – to integrate and unify a people that have experienced tribal conflict and other discrimination.

We have received, from the architect, a draft plan for the entire complex. As we do not have the necessary money to complete the 'dream' school we will start with Primary from Grade 1 to Grade 4 with Boarding facilities. We are going to tender soon but anticipate phase one will probably cost in the order of AUD3m.

The land is fully paid by a generous donation from a Melbourne lady. The fence is also completed, again a

generous donation. The borehole is going in this week and we are hoping to have this donated. We have also been promised a very generous donation that will almost finance most of the first phase.

We aim to complete as much of 'Phase One' as soon as possible and it would also be wonderful to have the kindergarten functioning as we have a number of very small orphaned and 'at risk' Kibera boys and girls who need to be in a boarding facility.



Fastest Growing Town in Kenya - Kitengela

The Loreto Sisters of Kenya have agreed to administer the school once it is built and we would hope, with a bit of help from our friends, to open in January 2017.

If you would like to see the plans or contribute to this very important project please let us know. It's tax-deductible and major facilities donated will have naming rights. You can have your own piece of a wonderful school.

Kibera.... A place of despair and hope

- By Mandy Buckley

As we were driving to the WKW centre on the outskirts of Kibera I found myself wondering what I would find and how emotional it would be seeing the abject poverty that is Kibera. I kept thinking how lucky we are in Australia and how if every person in the world gave just \$1 poverty would be eradicated. How we have nothing to complain about, yet we all still do and how unfair it is that these people who are unlucky enough to be born here have nothing.

Michael and I were going to be spending 2 weeks working at the centre, trying to help in some small way ease the burden of these poor people. It was going to be our first visit to the new WKW centre and we were really looking forward to spending time with Marguerite, Leonida and all the staff at WKW.

When we turned into the street and saw our lovely new WKW centre we both thought wow...how good is this. What a lovely building, filled with light and happiness, a lovely safe haven for all those children and their families that WKW help in so many ways. It also struck me how awesome it was of Paul and Pam Vanderzalm, who through their immense generosity, enabled us to produce such a fantastic place to nurture these kids and provide comfort amidst such despair.

Once greetings were over it was time to meet all the informal kids, all looking bright and enthusiastic in their WKW school uniforms. They were very keen to hear all about Australia and watched a video on our wonderful country that we had bought over for them. They were amazed that we do not have large animals like lions, leopard, elephant etc. and wondered what on earth we do have!

Our 2 weeks in Nairobi were spent in a flurry of meetings, networking with all sorts of Kenyan dignitaries, even dinner with the High Commissioner of Australia in Kenya and his wife. All are very interested in the work WKW are doing and offering various degrees of help. Marguerite kept us very busy, her contacts over there are large and varied and she kindly included me in everything.

We also met with 40 of our kids from Forest View Academy who had just arrived at the centre in the school bus ready to start the school holidays. For some



this was a joyous affair, knowing they were going home to Kibera to see their families; but for others it was a sombre affair as they knew the next few weeks were going to be tough without food, water, toilets and nowhere to play. Some even begged to be taken back to school so they did not have to endure this. It was heartbreaking.

For the most part though, a large number of these children will spend most of their school holidays at the centre, studying hard in an environment that is safe and secure. Not having family holidays or playing like Australian children would, but working to achieve their dreams, while the staff stretches their meagre resources to provide them with a meal or two.

One thing that struck me was how patient the African people are. Each morning we would arrive to find about 10 people waiting to see Jeremiah, Rose, Leonida or Ben, often waiting all morning before their turn to be seen. Some would not be there to see anyone in particular, they just wanted to talk and unload some of their burden on to someone else's shoulder. Their despair was palpable and often we spent the time talking to them and crying over their situation, wondering how on earth we can help. Wanting to make promises, but knowing they cannot be made as a broken promise will only cause more pain.

Michael and I met with our own sponsored kids (we have 6 and that will no doubt keep growing) and were really pleased to see how well they looked now that they are in school, properly fed, with clothes and the opportunity

to study. They are all studying hard and have very lofty goals, but who knows, perhaps they will achieve them.

The staff at WKW is doing an amazing job. I am in awe of them. To be at that coal face day after day, helping ease the misery of the people living in Kibera, all the while doing it with such happy faces and such dedication is nothing short of amazing. I had no idea how difficult a job it is, looking after all these children, interviewing the families, making sure they are all doing the right thing by their sponsors, all the while giving them a sense of dignity and self-worth. It made me truly aware that we are making a difference, that there is hope, that despite the living conditions of these people we can give some a better life. It may be just a pebble dropped in a large pond, but that ripple will affect many.

Our plans to build a school in Kitengela are ambitious, but I am sure from what I have already seen it is doable and will provide a secure education for so many of our kids. If it turns out anything like the WKW centre then it will be an outstanding success.

As we said our farewells to the children and staff I thought back on my initial thoughts about Kibera. Yes it is a dreadful place to live in, but these people are doing the best they can in very difficult circumstances. At all times looking for work to provide food and shelter for their families, doing it with a quiet dignity; while the umbrella that is WFWIA wraps them in a warm embrace of hope.

My experience with the Wanawake Kwa Wanawake

-By Charles Juma

What the Wanawake Kwa Wanawake is doing in Kibera is far better beyond what any organisation in Kibera that I have known is doing. Thanks to the Australian people who have been and are still sacrificing their resources to help the children in Kibera go to school and also in helping the women of Kibera.

The Wanawake Kwa Wanawake has enabled many children in Kibera to re-discover and achieve their lost dreams through education. We, the children of Kibera and beneficiaries of the WKW feel cared for and will always be happy to express our thanks and appreciation to the WKW and mostly to Director Sister Leonida and Marguerite, whom have worked tirelessly just like Frank Chappell did to support the women and children of Kibera.

There are so many children and women in the slums who pray for a chance like the one we have. Therefore



Charles Juma



Alumni Executive

we who are privileged to be sponsored by the WKW are ready to work hard and smart in our studies, achieve success and come back to serve the community. Thanks to those who succeeded and came back to serve the community just like Jeremiah and others. In WKW we are like a family where older ones help the young ones.

In the organisation, we the sponsored students, have a comfortable environment pleasant for studying during our school holidays. This is a really good place away from the noises and disturbances in the slums and it also eliminates the chances of us being involved in bad activities and crime which is always a common case for youths who are idle back in the slum.

We always pray to God to protect, help and guide those who sacrifice their time and resources for us. The Australian people, the WKW staff members and volunteers; we love you and always pray for you.

Thank you.

Women For Women In Africa Foundation

PO Box 2184
Wattletree Road PO
Victoria 3145

Marguerite Ryan

0438 747 101
marguerite@womenforwomenin africa.org.au



Please help bring hope to Kibera