

CHILDAID

making a world fit for children

June 2004



SCOUTS ON PARADE

The scout troop at KwaNjenga and Our Lady of Nazareth Primary Schools in Mukuru, togged out in style last March when they received a new set of uniforms, donated by ChildAid.

About four or five years ago, when a team of ChildAid climbers visited Mukuru to meet the children, they brought with them a few odds and ends of scouts uniforms to help establish a small scouting troop. Each year since, when our climbers would visit, this small troop would form a Guard of Honour to greet the guests, dressed in their old uniforms. However, as the years progressed, the uniforms gradually became more ragged and worn.

However, in March of this year, the Mukuru Scouts were able to line out with pride before the Kenyan national flag, when they received a brand new set of uniforms, donated by ChildAid. In future, instead of hiding in the wings, these children from the slums will be able to march with honour and pride in National Parades, and take part in scouts competitions and jamborees.

After the excitement of parading for the first time in their new uniforms, the children changed back into their school uniforms, and neatly packed them away for another day.



The scout troop of KwaNjenga and Our Lady of Nazareth Schools in Mukuru slum, with teacher and Scout Leader, Martin Adera. The scouts proudly togged out in their new uniforms for the first time in March last for our photographer

Nairobi - Dublin Drugs Link

Two Kenyan Youth Workers extended their outreach programme from the slums of Nairobi to the streets of South West Dublin recently.

The two, Gabriel Okumo and Gilbert Munene, work as youth counsellors in their native Kenya with the MUSA and MAC programmes, which are part-funded by ChildAid. The projects are aimed at rehabilitating street children and disaffected youth from the slums, where alcohol, drugs, and child-prostitution are part of everyday life. The pair, working in addiction services under Dr Paddy Troy

GP, spent their time in Dublin shadowing workers at Cherry Orchard



Gabriel and Gilbert with friend and colleague, Larry Scully, on a boat trip around Dublin Bay.

hospital, and visiting drugs rehabilitation and youth centres throughout the city. VMM

(Volunteer Missionary Movement), facilitated the link between Dr Troy and the MUSA and MAC projects, where Gabriel and Gilbert work with Irish missionary, Sr Mary Killeen.

During their stay, they were invited to visit Dublin Port, where they enjoyed a boat trip around Dublin Bay, and were guests at a dinner held in their honour at the Dublin Port Authority HQ. Larry Scully, an employee at the port, had worked as a volunteer with Sr Mary Killeen in Nairobi, where he first met Gabriel.

To submit articles, photographs, or events for inclusion in the ChildAid Newsletter please contact Brian MacCormaic at: 086 2437043; 01 4521665; or e-mail: brianmaccormaic@eircom.net

Mayor of South Dublin and Director of IT Tallaght to lead Kilimanjaro Expedition

The Mayor of South County Dublin, Cllr Máire Ardagh, will join an expedition to Mt Kilimanjaro next July in aid of ChildAid.

A team of volunteers from South Dublin County Council and The Institute of Technology, Tallaght will travel to Tanzania in East Africa to climb to the summit of Mt Kilimanjaro – Africa's highest mountain at 5,895



The Mayor of South Dublin, Máire Ardagh, with her husband, Seán Ardagh TD, who will climb Kilimanjaro in July for ChildAid.

mtrs, in support of ChildAid.

The team, which will be led by the Mayor and the Director of IT Tallaght, Dr Columb Collins, will consist of IT students, and staff from both organisations. Cllr Ardagh's husband, Seán Ardagh TD will also join the expedition. It is hoped to raise upwards of €80,000 in sponsorship from the climb, which will help fund ChildAid's education and welfare programmes in East Africa.

During recent months, team members have been taking part in regular hillwalking outings to help acclimatise for the challenge ahead on the slopes of Kilimanjaro. The training programme will help to alleviate the threat of Altitude Sickness, an ever-present problem facing teams on Kilimanjaro.

Following the completion of the climb, the team will return to Kenya, to visit education and aid projects supported by



Members of the South Dublin expedition team in training for Kilimanjaro, pictured at the summit of Carrauntoohil: 'The Roof of Ireland', at a mere 1,038 mtrs, compared to 'The Roof of Africa' at 5,895 mtrs.

ChildAid in the slums of Nairobi. Given the warmth and friendliness of the people, and particularly the children, this promises to be the highlight of the entire trip.

ChildAid Volunteers to Construct Drugs Rehabilitation Centre in Nairobi

Plans are being prepared for a very special volunteer mission to Nairobi in 2005.

To cater for street-children from the slums, who otherwise could not afford the prohibitive costs of drug addiction treatment, a team of Irish volunteers will travel to the Kenyan Capital to construct a new purpose-built residential unit for drugs rehabilitation on the outskirts of the city. The Irish volunteers, working alongside young trainees from Kenya, will construct the building, thus giving the Kenyan trainees an opportunity to learn their trade working in a real work environment with qualified and experienced craftsmen.

At present, the only treatment centres in Kenya are far beyond the reach of people from the slums. On occasion, Sr Mary

Killeen has assisted young children to attend these centres. However, although the treatment has been very successful, only a very small select group can be catered for at any one time, due to the high costs of treatment. Hard drugs like cocaine and heroin are simply not available in the slums, so solvents, tablets, and home-brewed spirits are the principal form of addiction for children in the slums. But addiction and drug abuse are on the increase, which in turn has led to a growth in crimes such as muggings, car-jacking, petty-theft, and child prostitution.

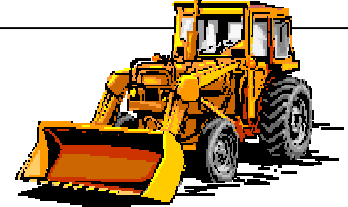
Now, with this new facility, aimed directly at the most vulnerable children in society, the problem of drug abuse in the slums can

finally be tackled head-on. The children will be removed from the environment of the slums where the drugs are freely available. They will be reintroduced to education, and will be taught skills and crafts, which will restore their dignity, and will provide them with the means of a secure livelihood once their treatment has been completed.

If you have experience in any of the building trades, and would like to spend two to four weeks (or more), working on this worthwhile project in 2005, please contact:

Richard Shanahan at: 087 6663354; or Brian MacCormaic at: 086 2437043; or check our website at:

www.childaid.ie



HOSPICE UGANDA

Hospice Uganda provides palliative care for terminally ill patients in a number of centres throughout Uganda.

While most of the sufferers are adults, an increasing number of children are presenting for care. To help cater for this increase, ChildAid has donated €3,000 to the Hospice to help provide specialist care for these children, and to provide facilities for the children of adult patients.

In March, during a visit to Hospice to present the cheque, we visited a number of patients in their homes. One child, Nicholas, has



suffered from cancer since birth. Although the cancer had progressively worsened, Nicholas always held out the dream that one day he would be able to provide a proper house for his mother. During a visit of Uganda's President Museveni to the district, Nicholas painted a picture of the event. He posted the picture to the President, along with a very moving letter explaining his illness and

his dream. On the day we arrived at his home, Nicholas had just received the President's reply, graciously offering to provide the land and house for Nicholas and his family. The joy and relief on the face of this small suffering boy brought tears to everybody present.

By this stage, Nicholas' disease had permeated his whole body. His lower jaw had been completely eaten away by the cancer, and he found great difficulty eating or drinking. Two days after we left, comforted by the care and medication provided by Hospice, and happy in the knowledge that his mother would be secure into her senior years, Nicholas passed away peacefully. May God finally grant Nicholas the peace and joy he so richly deserves?

“Circles and Cycles”

By Paul Murray, VMM Volunteer

LungaLunga, with a population of well over ¼ million people, is a slum village, which has developed on a narrow strip of land approx ¼ km wide by approx 7 km long, in the heart of the Industrial Area of Nairobi.

As elsewhere in the slums, whole families live in tiny makeshift shacks in LungaLunga. There is no proper sewage or drainage system, and the water supply is totally unreliable.

The few communal toilets, shared by the whole community, are simply small rough cubicles dropping straight into the river.

So who would choose to live there?

Yet, this is a community with schools, churches, and small businesses. And, to the people of LungaLunga, this is home, and they choose to live there.

However, one thing is certain, it is not “sustainable”.

Mukuru Skills Training Centre is a new project in Lunga Lunga, funded by **ChildAid**. As well as offering some practical training in skills like hairdressing and crafts, the project actively promotes waste management,



Schoolchildren are taught the importance of their environment. However, in the slum villages, they see very little practical example in action.

recycling, and organic gardening, which might offer a few ideas and solutions to the people of Lunga Lunga.

Not just in Kenya or Africa, but globally, people tend to live their lives in straight lines and do not (or will not) see the circles and cycles which are in nature and which are necessary for sustainable living.

At Mukuru Skills Training Centre, we will

try to demonstrate these cycles in action, and connect this to daily life in simple ways, encouraging people to see the importance of protecting and sustaining their environment.

Composting toilets are one such demonstration. And, assisted by funds from **ChildAid**, we have installed two toilet units at the Centre. When composted correctly, raw sewage can be returned to the soil to complete the circle, and thus the Cycle of Life begins again.

In most places ‘garbage’ is a problem. In Kenya, it is more of a visible problem with heaps of rubbish piled everywhere, causing disease and death!

We plan to develop a recycling facility at Mukuru Skills Training Centre, separating and recycling at least some ‘waste products’, like plastics, paper, glass, metal etc. We will look for creative ways to demonstrate recycling where possible, thus creating a cleaner environment, and providing local employment.

So ‘Circles & Cycles’ or straight lines?

It is important that we all look for cycles in life, completing as many circles as possible, to live in harmony with our environment and with each other.

NAIROBI STREET CHILDREN’S RESCUE CENTRE

ChildAid has co-funded a Children’s Rescue Centre in Nairobi, in partnership with GOAL. The Centre, which caters for children vulnerable to abuse, creates a safe and secure environment, away from the source of their abuse. In the Centre they receive medical and psychological support, and are placed in a secure, family situation, possibly for the first time in their lives.

Since its foundation, ChildAid has worked closely with those caring for children. It was during a visit to some other ChildAid



Dermot Higgins hands over the keys for the ‘Rescue Vehicle’

sponsored projects in Nairobi, that volunteers were first introduced to the Rescue Centre.

In thanking ChildAid for their commitment to the

Rescue Centre, John O’Shea of GOAL, said that he was delighted that support was coming from people who had seen at first hand the abuse and conditions some of these children have had to endure in their young lives.

ChildAid also donated a vehicle to the Rescue Centre, which is used to bring children out of the slums and up-country to secure family homes.



ChildAid’s Pat Harte (2nd left), and Dermot Higgins (rt), presenting the contribution to John and Lisa O’Shea of GOAL

Expeditions 2005

Kilimanjaro 2005

Climb 1: 28 February – 12 March 2005

Climb 2: 29 May – 10 June 2005

Mount Everest - Base Camp

16 October – 15 November 2004

Further Expeditions may be arranged from time to time.

Details will be posted on our WebSite at: www.childaid.ie

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Congratulations to the June 2004 Team on the success of their Expedition



Members of the June 2004 Expedition with team leaders, Graham Tobin and Pascal Lee, pictured at Dublin Airport prior to their departure on 1st June last.

SUPPORT THE WORK OF CHILDAID

The leaflets below can be cut out and used for promotional or fundraising ideas

KILIMANJARO
'THE ROOF OF AFRICA'



Towering above the cloudline to a height of 5,895 mtrs, Kilimanjaro is truly a majestic mountain, as seen from the African Plains



Members of the Kilimanjaro Expedition in 2000, pictured at the summit, with the late John Lucey (red jacket)

Sponsored expeditions to Kilimanjaro in Tanzania are the principal source of fundraising for ChildAid.

If you would like to climb a real mountain, but have no knowledge of mountaineering, why not give Kilimanjaro a go.

If nothing else, it will give you something to boast of for years afterwards, and will provide a lifetime of fantastic memories.

For the more experienced climber, we also organise expeditions to Base Camp on Mount Everest.

If you would like to learn more about ChildAid, or would like some information about our fundraising expeditions, check out our website at:

www.childaid.ie

CHILDAID
GIFT VOUCHERS



To: *Mam and Dad* FROM: *Your loving family*

ChildAid acknowledges your generous contribution to the Educational welfare of children in third world countries of East Africa

ChildAid, Plunkett Chambers, 21 - 23 Oliver Plunkett Street, Cork
tel/fax: 021 4222985; e-mail: childaid@oceanfree.net; web: www.childaid.ie

Gift Vouchers are available in denominations of 10,20,50, and 100 Euro

What better gift could a child receive than the Gift of Education?

For birthday, Christmas or special occasion, why not give a ChildAid Gift Voucher to family, friends, and loved-ones.

THE GIFT OF EDUCATION IS A GIFT FOR LIFE

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