

CHaCHaCHi

Chance and Change for Children

News 3
June 2009

The global crisis and price inflation have devastating effects on the poorest of our world. Hunger and poverty have become even worse in the slums of Nairobi.

Owing to your donations, we are able to mitigate the misery of at least a few people.

We mainly support:

- ◆ The Makina School in the Kibera slum of Nairobi
- ◆ The Makina graduates and other destitute - mostly orphaned - young people to complete a professional or further education
- ◆ Tania - a home for the disabled
- ◆ HIV-positive mothers of the Amani women's group

The Makina Primary School

The sudden death of the 32-year-old headmaster Leah in March 2009 came as a huge shock to all of us. The teaching staff, however, became active and established a team of three persons who now manage the school in a democratic and positive way. I myself, Heidi, was convinced of their work when I met them in April/May. I was actively involved in finding two new teachers. I believe that the school can now continue with a team-minded and committed teaching staff.

Again we paid for the teaching and learning materials for the school year 2009.

During the four-week holidays in 2009, there is still a great necessity for a daily meal (corn and beans), which is extremely welcome. Besides the school children and the teachers, hungry kids of the neighbourhood are fed with healthy and nourishing food.

Since 2009, we have additionally been supporting the 12 teachers with CHF 50 per month each. Their irregular, tiny salary simply cannot cover their minimum living costs. We also pay some „pocket money“ to the two cooks on site.

Professional and further education for young people

We pay the boarding school costs for high school (CHF 200 to 300 per student annually) to those destitute school-leavers of the Makina Primary School who completed school with very high marks at the end of 2008.



The kids simply love the Lego brick gifts!

We enable other young people with minor intellectual abilities to complete professional trainings as dressmakers, cooks, car mechanics, carpenters or joiners.

We are currently supporting 19 adolescents. When I met them in May, I saw that they are all providing good to excellent work.

Tania - A home for the disabled

Jennifer and Joseph, the two committed home directors, are currently caring for and training about 110 handicapped - and often discriminated against - children in their private home. Many of them are deaf-mute or suffer from multiple disabilities, others are traumatised. Besides the children living in this home, about 50 additional children come to Tania's all-day school. The modest pension of the two directors does not cover the current costs for food, clothing, electricity, learning materials, teachers' salaries, etc. Since 2009, we have been supporting them with a small monthly contribution, for which they are very grateful.

Microcredits for the Amani Women's Group

Sara, a strong and much appreciated woman, manages and cares for a group of HIV-positive mothers. She introduced me to Simon in early May, when I was looking for a suitable person who might teach the women the fundamentals of small business success. Simon is a young financial expert; he is a microcredits specialist and has been coaching women in this field for a few years. I was convinced of his knowledge and skills as well as of his very practically oriented training course. We immediately organised a meeting with the mothers' group. About 30 women participated in the three-day workshop, sponsored by CHaCHaCHi. The first applicants are now receiving their microcredits (about CHF 150.- each) and will be coached by Simon.



An experience – one of many

On the 1st of May, I met the students whom we sponsored in the past. I recognised Charles and Zaina among them. They are former eighth-year students of the Makina School (see photo above).

Charles lost his mother when he was 9 years old. His father has no regular employment and is being exploited as a day labourer. Charles is an exceptionally intelligent, social and hard-working 15-year-old boy. He goes to the „Langata High-School“ and shows his excellent school report to me. I praise and compliment him and ask him what his new school is like and whether he is able to do sports. He tells me that he likes the school very much and that they often play football. He adds, however, that he usually just watches the others play... „Why is that?“ I am asking him. „Are you, as a talented football player, maybe injured since you don't participate in the games?“ First, he is embarrassed and at a loss for words. Then he explains that students are only allowed to play if they wear sports shoes. He says that he doesn't have any shoes and that a friend would occasionally lend him his. „Charles, wait here for me until I have talked to the others and I'm done. Then let's go to the market!“

Zaina also comes from a very poor background. As a very talented and enthusiastic football player, she attends the „Kibera Soccer Academy for Girls“, which is an all-day school. At home, she can only do her homework late at night because there is a lot of noise until about 10 p.m. She gets up at five in the mornings to study for school again. However, the dim light in the slum hut makes studying almost impossible. Zaina is wearing thongs. Since the story of Charles has made me sit up, I am asking her how she is playing football when they are training. „Barefoot“, she replies. „Is that common at your school?“ I continue to ask. „No, we are supposed to wear sports shoes, but I don't have any.“ „Zaina, please, why don't you join Charles and wait for me over there?“

A bit more than an hour later, we return from the market with two pairs of almost new, fantastic football shoes!

The two teenagers are beaming. The socks are the only thing missing now!

☺☺☺☺

The Managing Committee

We are pleased to inform you that Fabienne Dumoulin has joined the Managing Committee in June 2009.

Heidi Brenner, Chairwoman and Executive Director
Nicolas Miescher, Vice-Chairman
Enza Walz, finances
Fabienne Dumoulin (new member)

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If you need further information or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via e-mail or telephone. Further information on www.chachachi.org

Support

We would like to thank you very much for your donations. We depend on your contributions in order to carry out our projects in a successful and sustainable way. We assure you that the **full amount** of your contribution is **directly donated to the children in Kenya**.

We decided to send out a pay-in slip only once a year, that is in December together with the newsletter. We don't want to beg from you excessively and we try to keep our expenses as low as possible. If you would like to donate twice a year, your contribution is of course very welcome!

Donations Account

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Our **Annual Report 2008** can be downloaded on our website. Please call us if you would like to have a copy sent to you by mail.