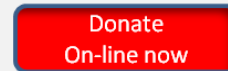


March 2021



Life after COVID: building a better, brighter future

Thank you once again for all your support during the pandemic over the past year. We spent much of 2020 providing emergency food and hygiene support to 3,000 desperately poor children and vulnerable old and disabled people, helping them to survive the crisis. In 2021, we are moving out of our “survival” mindset and re-focusing all our effort on helping vulnerable children build a safe and self-sufficient future.

Sadly, living in ‘survival mode’ remains nothing new to destitute families living in slums. With food, healthcare or schooling costs well out of financial reach they are often locked into a cycle of malnutrition, poor health and lack of skills. Any sense of aspiration and self-confidence is squashed out of them, and, consequently, their children, too. There are few successful role models, especially for girls. Women are usually doomed to a future of casual hard labour in a quarry or a building site earning less than two dollars a day to support their kids.

It is with some excitement, then, on the cusp of International Women’s Day, that we’d like to share with you our newest initiative: The Women Leaders Programme. This exciting programme will help to build girls’ aspirations, create female role models and offer women the skills to lead change in their communities, breaking the cycle of inequality. Read on...

Helping Young Women to Change Their World/The faces of change



It’s International Women’s Day (#IWD2021) on 8th March and this year’s theme is #ChooseToChallenge - a fitting day to launch our Women Leaders Programme

Our programme will give girls from extremely disadvantaged backgrounds the skills, knowledge and confidence to become role models and leaders of change. Each girl will be sponsored through secondary school or University for four years, supported by two personal mentors - one from Kenya and the other an international businesswoman – and be guided through best-practice leadership and business training. In return, each girl commits to mentor a girl from a similar background, creating a new, inspiring chain of changemakers.

All the girls have experienced a lot of hardship in their childhood and struggled to continue their education. As a member of this programme, they know from the outset that they can complete the full education cycle and that they will be equipped to secure a good job or to set up their own business at the end of the programme. In doing so, they will be able to motivate others in their communities and be role models for other disadvantaged children.

What makes this programme different? KCC has been sponsoring children's education for 20 years. This programme leverages our experience and close relationships with poor rural communities in Central Kenya. We get to know each child, their families and their teachers so that we can provide holistic, individualised support. They will be helped on their journey by our social workers and protected by our proven safe-guarding processes.

We're off to a promising start. The pilot programme began in February 2021 when the first 7 girls started their university programmes. Each candidate was assessed by our social workers, reviewed with their teachers and interviewed by the programme team before selection.

These girls are going to make a big impact. The programme will transform their life-prospects, improve the lives of girls they mentor and change the future of many other young people. We have been inspired by the girls' commitment to make change happen. They have told us:

"I want to fight for the rights of women who are regarded as inferior and ensure that their freedom is granted"

"I want to become one of the most influential people in our society. As a journalist, I want my message to go all around the world".

"I want to learn the skills to teach and mentor others and raise the next generation."

"Girls from my village have been making bad decisions that led to drug abuse and irresponsible sexual behaviour leading to pregnancies. I want to gain mentoring skills to create a brighter future for these girls."

"I am studying Community Development and Environment to help my community eradicate unemployment."

CAN YOU HELP?

It costs £500 to sponsor a girl for each year of the programme but the return on this investment will ripple through their communities. It is a big commitment which is only made possible by your support and so we will be grateful for any help you can give us. Our international mentors and world-class leadership developers are gifting their support so every single penny donated goes to supporting the girls.

Donate



...from little acorns grow

Happy news from our baby home. During the pandemic we have been caring for 15 abandoned babies. Normally, the Court will order that a baby is placed for adoption if we can't trace the parents after 6 months but COVID prevented this happening. In March, two babies will be re-united with their mums and five other babies will be joining their new adoptive families. It's always hard to say goodbye but we are pleased to know that the babies have a safe, happy life ahead.