



the longest journey begins with a single step

Footsteps Transforms Community at Obingo

Footsteps has completed four new classrooms and provided a piped water connection to Obingo School for the first time, transforming the lives of local people. Parents, attracted by access to clean water, see the benefits of allowing their children to attend regular school. Funds to build the school were raised at the Footsteps Out of Africa Ball in 2010 and by Peter Jackson and David Burditt's trek up Kilimanjaro in the same year.

Obingo school has also seen a new addition to its uniform, in the form of used sports tops donated by Rokeby School in London. The red tops have been adopted by Obingo Primary School as their own sports strip when they play other schools.

Future Events

November 11, 2012

Dinner at the Lighthouse
in Wimbledon in aid of
Kobeto School

Spring 2013 - Quiz Night

July 2013 - Rafiki

November 2013- Ball

If you are interested in
supporting any of these
events please contact

suzanne@footstepsuk.org



Big Thanks to Molly

In January, 13-year-old Molly Jackson from The Lady Eleanor Holles School in Hampton raised an amazing £100 by selling cakes at her sunday school and donated the money to Footsteps.



Footsteps Volunteers Visit Projects in Kenya

By Danny Lawson



It was with excitement and some trepidation that I boarded a plane headed for Kisumu in March.

I knew this would not be an easy trip but that it would probably be a life changing one. Having been a keen supporter of Footsteps for years from the comfort of my own home it was not an opportunity I wanted to miss.

What an experience it turned out to be! We were taken to several schools which had been supported and improved by Footsteps. We also visited three potential new projects. The contrast between the two was extraordinary.

However, it was when we found an exercise book of work completed by an 11 year old (the same age as my eldest son) that things really hit home. Their syllabus was the same as our children's but the conditions in which they were learning were unimaginably different.

We learnt that the lucky children were the ones who made it to school. Most were undernourished, orphaned and poorly clothed. Nevertheless, despite this hardship the communities were not without hope and energy.

I was struck by the thoroughness of the Footsteps vetting process. No application for funding was approved unless there was a watertight business plan behind it and 100% commitment from the community (demonstrated in one case by an elderly woman who had agreed to give up her home for the benefit of the local school). The leaders and parents of several of the schools we visited were acutely aware of the value of education and worked together to improve their situation.

Footsteps really does change communities for the better, though the creation of well designed, well built, safe schools and also by its sponsorship programme. The greatest testament to that was two boys who had been sponsored by Footsteps throughout their school career and had now come back to help. Without Footsteps it is hard to imagine how they could have achieved this.



Bright Future for Rae Primary School

Rae Primary School is situated along the main road between Kisumu and Magunga, near to the town of Katito. The school is in a desperate state of disrepair. However, we have already connected the school to water during the Rafiki 2011 visit and have raised sufficient funds to begin building the school from our dinners in Oxford in the summer of 2011 and at the Lighthouse in Wimbledon in November 2011. We have also applied for more funds through the **EU Community Development Trust Fund (CDTF)**.



Buy a Desk for Footsteps

Although Footsteps has built many new schools and classrooms, there remains a desperate shortage of desks. To remedy this we have set up a 'buy a desk' scheme, where donors can be recognised on the desk they have bought. This is a scheme we hope will particularly appeal to children here in the UK who wish to help. Here's how it works.

Send us a donation of £10 with your email address and the name you want on the desk and we'll do the following:

- organise for a desk to be constructed by local people in Kenya and deliver it to one of our schools
- mark each desk with the name of the donor (it's burnt in by hand using a hot metal rod)
- send you a cuddly toy with its very own, detachable, "I bought a desk for Footsteps" lapel badge. If you want it posted there is a £2.50 charge per toy (sorry!)



A New School Is Identified For Footsteps Support

By Tony Robinson

Down a mud track not far from the centre of Katito or from Magunga Primary School you will stumble across a compound with a few mud and tin buildings and some unfinished brick rooms that constitutes Kobeto Primary School. Yet despite its desperate state of repair, the school has climbed up the league tables in recent years from midway to the top third of schools in the district.

In our recent survey of schools in the area, Rashid, our Project Manager, identified Kobeto Primary as a candidate for our building programme. In March 2012 we took our intrepid volunteers to visit the school and ask their opinion. We were all immediately overwhelmed, not by the condition of the school which was just as bad as the survey predicted, but by the professionalism and strength of the Headmistress, Mrs Roseline Oballa.

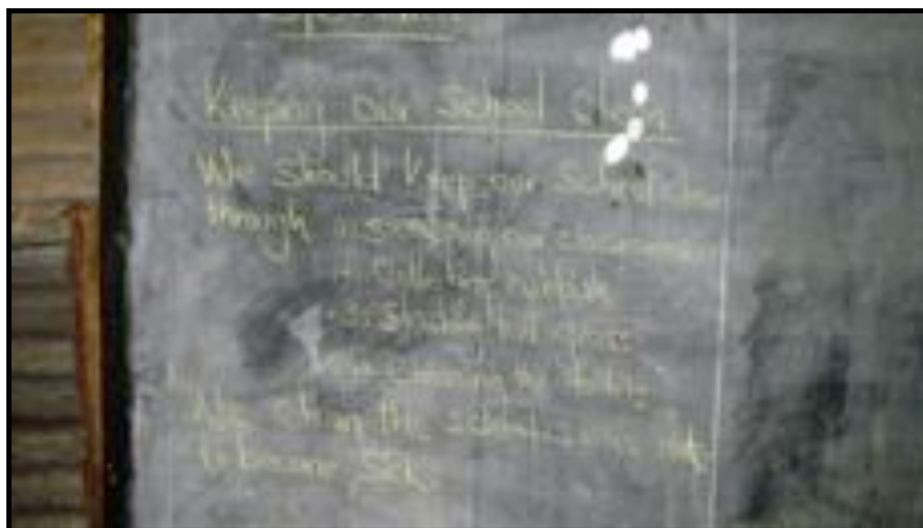
Roseline showed us around her compound, explained the difficulties she faces, pointed out items contributed by other charities which only includes a pair of water tanks, and generally impressed us with her commitment to her school and the pride she takes in its appearance and performance. In one classroom the blackboard said, "We should keep our school clean through (a) sweeping our classrooms (b) collecting rubbish (c) slashing tall grass (d) cleaning the toilets. We clean the school so as not to become sick." A simple message, but a sign of the care taken to improve conditions.

In our assessment of schools for inclusion on our programme we focus on three elements: Is the head teacher committed? Is the school in need? Does the community support the school? We found all of these questions answered positively, as the photos show. We have therefore decided to take on Kobeto as our next project.

There is a need to finish off six classrooms, to construct four new classrooms and an administration block. In total it's a project in the region of £65,000. It's a lot, but we are confident that with the support and imagination of the many friends of Footsteps we will transform another school and make a better future for the children who go there.



Existing Classrooms at Kobeto



'Despite the poor surroundings they still insist that the children take pride in their school. We were so impressed with their spirit and commitment we knew this was the next school we should support'.

Katito Health Centre - Children's Ward



Footsteps fights infant mortality

20,000 bricks, 45,500 kg of cement, 443 tonnes of sand and 246 iron sheets, among dozens of other materials have finally been put together in the form of a new medical facility at the Katito Health Centre.

The project which started with fundraising activities in November 2010 was completed in May 2012 after construction started in December 2011.

The facility has 10 bays for child in-patients but in times of epidemics and peaks of infection the facility would cope with up to 20 children at any one time.

For the first time the facility has sleeping quarters for nursing staff to stay overnight and the Health Centre will transform from an out-patient only facility to a joint in and out-patient centre.

A spacious new laboratory will allow for the provision of services that couldn't be undertaken in the previous facility.

Dr Kennedy Otieno, the district medical officer of health, wrote to us to say, "The District Health Management Team (DHMT) under the leadership of the District Medical Officer of Health takes the earliest opportunity to thank the Footsteps organization for this kind donation. The facility shall be used to care for the sick children within the district and, it is our hope it will be a step towards reducing child mortality."

This is the biggest single building that Footsteps has ever built and of course this wouldn't be possible without the constant support we get from you, our fundraisers in the UK. The thanks of Dr. Kennedy Otieno and all the people who will use this facility go to you.

Kings College School Takes Strides for Footsteps'

Following on from Ed Rarity's successful music concert last summer to raise funds for Footsteps, Kingsley House at KCS in Wimbledon launched a new fund raiser last month to help the charity.

Pupils taking part in the *Footsteps for Footsteps* initiative signed up to wear a pedometer for a month and were sponsored for a target number of steps. Collectively they totaled 4,890,265 steps (the distance between London and Kazakhstan) with the top walker reaching 101,894 steps.

In total the boys and girls of Kingsley House raised £3,278. Many thanks to them and to Chris Fowler, Head of Kingsley House.



Neon Disco

The disco at Blossom House School on 15th June raised £1710. Many thanks to everyone who helped out and to Blossom House School for providing a great venue.

