



AAFnews

Newsletter of Akamba Aid incorporating Water for Life

WORKING
SINCE 1999
TO RELIEVE
POVERTY
AMONG
FAMILIES IN
N.E. KENYA

Trustees

Denis Cannon

Colin Martin

Dr Rose Crane

Tony Perry

Dr James Buckle

Simon Frackiewicz

Autumn

Newsletter

2011

Cooper's Well Completed

The first well to be built by AAF since it's merger with **Wishing for a Well**, was completed near Kamwengi in September and a Canzee Pump was installed and commissioned by Colin Martin and Adrian Moore. In celebration of the 25 years of dedicated work carried out by Bryan for the Akamba people, the well was named "**Cooper's Well**" in a ceremony attended by Chief Daniel and many local Akamba people.



Among them was Wilson Mukura Kitheka, (on left) the man who befriended Bryan in Suez in 1952 and whose impassioned letter first brought Bryan and Marjorie to Kenya in 1986, a trip which was to lead to the founding of the Wishing for a Well Appeal.

Over the past 25 years Bryan has built a great many earth catchment dams and shallow wells in an area the size of Somerset. Primary schools have received books and items of sports equipment, Clinics have received donations of medicines, and Akamba people are truly grateful for the help they received in many different ways.

There is no doubt that over the past 25 years, Bryan has inspired many British people to become involved with the health and welfare of Ukambani and it's people. May it continue for many more years.

Twiki-Wiki Project

The twin communities of Twikoli & Wikimuu lie 3km. apart in a remote and arid part of the Kyuso District. The people have to walk many miles to collect water the colour of coffee from a river bed. The nearest clinic is a 25km. walk away, and 130 young children are taught in a mud and thatch structure with an earth floor and NO toilets.

Akamba Aid hopes to raise nearly £60,000 to carry out a major project in 2012/2013. We hope to construct two small earth catchment dams ~ one clinic ~ two nursery classrooms ~ and three blocks of latrines. The classrooms will also be used as meeting rooms for the formation of women's groups to assist in training in sanitation & health.

(See the Big Give on page 4)



Twikoli Nursery School (Now)

Water for Life Projects



Colin Martin and Adrian Moore fitting the Canzee pump at Kandongu Well

In September Colin Martin, assisted by Adrian Moore and Denis Cannon visited the Kyuso District to carry out various Water for Life projects, together with assessment of further projects in school building and maintenance, education sponsorship, and water supplies, scheduled for 2012.

As well as completing a new well at Kamwengi (Cooper's Well) and installing the pump, major repairs and maintenance were carried out on a deep well at Manzolo together with maintenance at Kandongu and checks on other sites. Although there has been almost no rainfall this year and very little last year, some of the wells had a surprising amount of water, although the recharge was very slow.

Assessment visits were also made to sites designated for the construction of two dams in connection with the Twiki-Wiki Project. (see front page). Subject to available funds we hope to carry this forward during 2012.

The trustees are extremely grateful that the former donors to "Wishing for a Well" have continued their wonderful support for Water for Life projects now undertaken by the Akamba Aid Fund

School repairs & Maintenance



Classrooms at Kandongu Primary School

At the request of the Head teacher Colin Martin and Denis Cannon visited Kandongu Primary School situated in an extremely poor area. The school had great difficulty in raising the necessary funds to keep the buildings in good repair. When we toured the school we found nine classrooms needing major work done.

Many walls had serious cracks from top to bottom, and in some places there were even large holes through to the next classroom. We found holes in the roof sheets and in the tops of many walls. Very few walls were plastered either inside or outside, and joints in brickwork were crumbling badly. None of the floors had ever been concreted, thus the atmosphere in each class was dusty causing coughs and lung problems with many pupils. Windows were just holes in the brickwork, without window or door frames.

Because of the poverty of this region, these conditions are repeated at many of the primary schools. We decided we had to do major repairs, and sought prices from William our builder. Luckily the present exchange rate worked in our favour. We were able to fund all the necessary works for £2,000 and will also be able to supply a quantity of desks to prevent 5 pupils sitting at one desk. Before we left at the end of September we gave instructions for the local materials to be gathered by the community and the work to commence as soon as possible.

As well as Kandongu Primary School, new improved pit latrines were constructed at Ndongwe, and Kairungu, with funds kindly provided by a grant from CUSAFE at Jesus College Cambridge.



Hole through the blackboard to next

AAF Students Society

Two young men Timothy and Benjamin, were supported by AAF through secondary and university education, both gaining honours degrees, one in accountancy and business studies, the other in electrical engineering. They have now obtained excellent employment, Timothy with the Equity Bank and Benjamin with a solar power company in Nairobi.

They are both keen to repay the support they received, by setting up a networking society for all students, (numbering nearly 100) who have gone through the AAF sponsorship scheme and gained employment. Their aim is that each member should pay a small percentage of their income to a sponsorship fund, which will in turn pay for the educational support of another bright young person from the same poor background as themselves.

They want to be able to give the same benefits that they themselves received from AAF. This is very gratifying to us and shows that the work done by AAF in the past will reap great rewards for the future for the Akamba people.



Timothy



Benjamin

Health Matters

One of our trustees Dr James Buckle has been visiting Tei Wa Yesu Clinic at Gai regularly over the last 12 years in his role as medical director. This year he was accompanied by his wife Mary (a nurse), Vivienne Evans (teacher) and Ben Williams (optician). AAF have been supporting the clinic in many ways providing medical equipment, maintaining regular pharmaceutical supplies for the patients and supporting the most needy patients with their health care by means of the NHIF cards. For the cost of £20 we are able to cover all the annual inpatient costs for a family - this year we have been able to support 116 families (around 1,200 patients).

The clinic continues to grow both in terms of extra staff as well as services it offers the local community; with the nearest hospital 100km away, patients need to have services provided as close to home as possible. The development of the Combined Care Clinic (CCC) allows HIV/AIDS patients to be diagnosed, educated, monitored, treated and supported without travelling vast distances. AAF supports this clinic with financial aid to help feed the patients and their children as well as funding specialist training for the nursing staff.

The 4x4 vehicle purchased last year by AAF for the clinic continues to offer great service both, as the clinics "ambulance", but also for transporting staff to villages deeper in the bush to run immunization and medical clinics.

This year we planned to take Health education into the local schools, with the use of drama to reach the children. Mary and Vivienne directed and produced a play about the importance of the use of Mosquito nets in the prevention of Malaria. Initially it was received with great amusement and wonderment by the children but they eagerly joined in. Taking on board the important message and enjoying acting it out both to their classmates and to the other classes within the school. With up to 700 children in the school we hoped the message would quickly spread to the whole village.

Whilst we were at the clinic the old autoclave finally blew up (literally and metaphorically) and to run a small hospital without the ability to sterilize equipment is almost impossible - so on our return journey into Nairobi we were able to source and finance a new autoclave to be sent straight back up to the bush.



AAF Mobile Clinic at Ishiara



Drama at Ngaie Primary / Special School



James Buckle with Ngaie Student

Eye Clinic

Optometrist Ben Williams recently returned to Kenya after last visiting the region in 2009. Ben spent a week performing eye tests, prescribing glasses, treating eye disease, and listing patients for cataract surgery.

He has compiled a list of 50 of the most needy patients requiring cataract operations. These are patients who have extremely dense cataracts, many of which have vision reduced to the point where they can only perceive large hand movements in front of their face.

This is a situation that would never occur in the UK, where cataracts are often extracted at the point when a patient's vision drops below driving standard.

"We travelled to some new areas to perform eye clinics in 'untouched' areas, as such we encountered some very desperate vision problems and on one day at a clinic in Ngomeni we found 29 people with blinding cataract".

We hope to raise enough money to see these surgeries through to completion, it costs approximately £50 to get a cataract operation performed at PCEA eye hospital, at Kikuyu, Nairobi, and any donations made during "the big-give" will be doubled, allowing us to treat more patients at our future visits.



Recycling Spectacles



About Akamba Aid



Akamba Aid Fund
Broadshard
Norton sub Hamdon
Somerset TA14 6SJ

Phone : 01935881519
Email

akambaaid.fund@btinternet.com

Akamba Aid Fund is an independent charitable trust based in South Somerset. It was set up in 1999 with the aim of enabling the poorest rural communities in Eastern Kenya to have access to the basic essentials of life that we take for granted and have done for generations. It was registered with the Charity Commission in 2000 (No. 1083554).

The Akamba are the fifth largest tribe in Kenya, numbering around two million who inhabit mainly the north eastern part of the country, an extremely arid part of the world.

Most are subsistence farmers totally reliant on their crops to provide for their families. There is little employment in this region, therefore among the Akamba, nearly 70% live below the poverty level of \$1 (60p) a day income.

To find out more

Phone Denis on **01935 881519**

or email **akambaaid.fund@btinternet.com**

or visit **www.akambaaidfund.org**

The Big Give

theBigGive.org.uk

helping your donations go further

Once again we owe our grateful thanks to the great many kind well wishers and organisations who have supported our work in Kenya, and among them :-

Chard Rotary

Crewkerne Rotary

Shepton Mallett Rotary

Cambridge University

Hodgson Charitable Trust

Norton sub Hamdon PCC

Chiselborough PCC

Middle Chinnock PCC

South Petherton PCC

Milverton PCC

S.P. Methodist Church

Norton Primary Sch

Broadwindsor Primary Sch

Honeypot, Chiselborough

Lord Banks Char. Trust

We are delighted to announce that this year Akamba Aid has been chosen as one of the beneficiaries of the Big Give Christmas Challenge. All donations made to Akamba Aid Fund via www.thebiggive.org.uk during the week commencing Monday 5th December, 2011 will be matched £1 for £1 by the Big Give organisers. Please save the date!

The Big Give begins at 10am on Mon 5th December.

Every pound you donate to Akamba Aid on the Big Give website between Monday 5th and Friday 9th of December will be doubled by the Big Give so that your donation will help twice as many poor families in Kenya. And you can be sure of AAF's promise that every penny will go to Kenya to help those in real need.

To take part just visit **www.thebiggive.org.uk** after 10am on Monday 5th. of December ~ enter **Akamba Aid Fund** into the search box which will take you to our site. Then follow the directions to make your donation to Akamba Aid ~ whatever you donate will be matched by Big Give, £1 for £1. The website may be busy so please be patient, and if directed to, try again the next day.

If you wish to donate to the **Twik-Wiki project**, and want to be reminded, please send us your email address. We will then send you an email reminder, three days before.

Thank you.

www.akambaaidfund.org