

Ready to roll rock



Former street boys on the road to success

After a final year at school that was badly interrupted by Covid closures, three former street boys from our Sunshine Centre in Naivasha, Kenya are moving on to their next big step in life.

Samson Kabue, Philip Otieno and George Kamau (left to right in the photo below) have all elected to take courses in heavy construction machinery operation at Kilimambogo Highway & Building

Technology Institute.

Before starting their course, the three were kitted out with safety helmets, safety boots and overalls. The course is very 'hands-on' - the main photo shows

Samson driving the heavy road roller, getting ready to roll rock!

Once living on the streets, these young men will soon be building them.



Fresh hope for street boys



There has been an upsurge in the number of boys roaming the streets as the Covid pandemic casts its long shadow over Kenya's economy, bringing the tourism and hospitality industries to a halt and leaving many small businesses struggling to survive.

Reduced family income means that boys from poor families migrate to the streets in search of food, and to collect scrap metal which they can sell for a few shillings.

No money at home means no education as families cannot afford school fees and levies.



During her shopping trips in Naivasha, Mama Chege noticed the new street boys loitering around the town. After spending time talking to them, getting to know them and giving them something to eat, she

offered them places at our Sunshine Centre, and 25 joined.

After checking their life stories and liaising with the children's department, social worker Simon Kuria organised for the

children to resume their education at nearby Karai Primary School.

Out of school, the Sunshine boys learn useful skills doing essential chores around the Centre.



Life's a beach for former street boy Samuel



Former street boy Samuel Kamau is taking a degree course in Tourism and Travel Management.

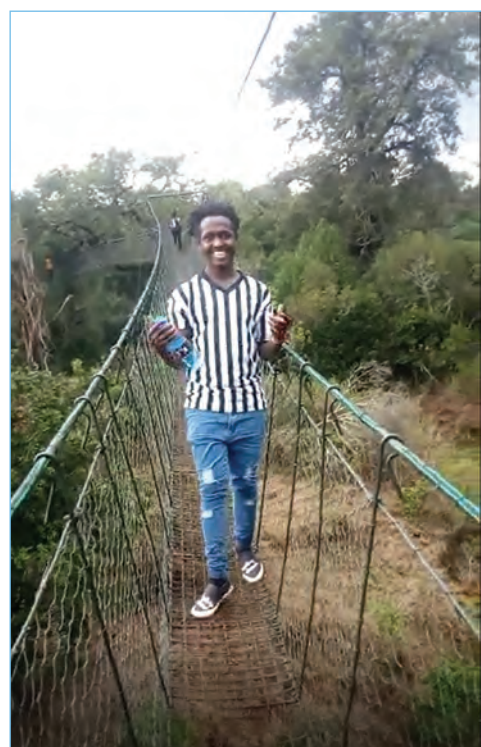


As part of his course, he has been visiting tourist attractions ranging from the sun and sand of the coast to the chilly heights of snow-capped Mt Kenya.

His studies took him across the equator at Nanyuki to the Baden-Powell memorial (the founder of the Boy Scouts chose Kenya as his final resting place, rather than Westminster Abbey).

Samuel reported, "The experience has been awesome. Now I know where to take tourists based on the experience they would like to get.

I would like to thank Sunshine family for the support they have given me."



When the money runs out...

Poor parents struggle to pay for their children's education - but bursaries help share the burden

Poor families (especially those who have recently lost some or all income in the Covid crisis) cannot afford the fees so their children drop out of school, or are sent home until the parents can pay the fees and arrears.

This is a harsh way of dealing with the problem, but no school in Kenya can survive if parents do not contribute.

A girl who misses lots of education faces the risk of doing badly in important national exams, and is at risk of pregnancy or early marriage (the dowry system in Kenya tempts parents to generate some income by marrying off daughters who are not in school).

Working with the Bishop Wambari Girl's Secondary School director Rev Simon Kinyanjui Chege, we have identified 8 girls

at the school who have been, or are about to be, sent home for non-payment of fees. With the help of a specific donation, we have paid off the fee arrears and the current term's fees.

The girls have been able to resume their interrupted education, and the parents have had a 'payment break' before they are expected to contribute again next term.

Meet some of the 8 girls who are benefiting



Sandra Wairimu

A few months after Sandra Wairimu joined Bishop Wambari Girls School in 2018 she lost her father due to cancer and the struggles to pay her school fees started.

Her widowed mother only has a tiny income with which to feed and educate her family, so Sandra has been in and out of school because of unpaid school fees which has badly affected her school performance



Mary Muthuma

Mary Muthuma's mother lost her job when her employer shut down in the Covid crisis.

Now working as a house help earning just 300 Kenya shillings (£2) a day, she has been unable to keep both Mary and her elder sister at school, so she elected to pay the fees for her elder daughter, with Mary dropping out of education.



Jane Njeri

Jane Njeri's father is a driver whose income fell sharply in the Covid crisis. Her mother has had to stop working to nurse her sick mother.

With money so tight, Jane's school fees remained unpaid, so she was sent home and was unable to sit for her end of term 3 exams.

We have seen an immediate, short term benefit: 8 girls who were in danger of dropping out of school are back in education, and the financial burden and stress on their families has eased substantially. In the long-term these girls have better employment prospects and are more likely to be able to care for themselves and their families.

Climbing high at Mt Kenya University

Naomi and Caroline are fostered in the local community near our Tumaini children's home in Mombasa, with Footsteps providing financial support which has helped the sisters enjoy a normal family life. Both have recently completed their (Covid-delayed) high school education.



Caroline (right) joined Mt Kenya University in September and is taking a certificate in Journalism and Mass Communication. One of 30 students on the course, this term's studies include TV production, media advertising and government and public affairs.

She says, "I am enjoying my course and I am working very hard. I really appreciate the support I am receiving, both for my studies and for accommodation and food."

Naomi (left) has just joined Nairobi Women's Hospital College where she is studying for a certificate in health records and IT. Her 8 course units include anatomy, community health and digital literacy.

Naomi sends her big appreciation to all donors for supporting her.



Former street boy George serves lunch for 50 guests



Former street boy George Gitau is nearing the end of his hospitality and catering training course. Recently, he was given an opportunity to showcase his newly acquired skills by catering for 50 members of the Naivasha Polytechnic Savings and Credit Co-Operative (a member-owned financial institution that

offers savings and credit services to its members).

Together with a friend, George prepared and served a traditional Kenyan feast, including tasty cooked chicken, ugali (a Kenyan favourite), chapattis and vegetables, followed by sweet, juicy water melon slices for dessert.

Among the guests who enjoyed the meal was Sunshine Centre and Naivasha Polytechnic director Rev Simon Kinyanjui.

Afterwards, several of George's friends from the Sunshine Centre enjoyed what was left over - vastly better food than they were eating when they lived on the streets!

Kelvin takes the train to train

Kelvin Kiplangat is the first former street boy from our Sunshine Centre to go to Bible school. This is his story (in his own words) so far...

My journey to Pwani Bible college in Mombasa was so nice because I was accompanied by the Sunshine Centre Pastor Ndungu because he had studied there and I didn't know the way.

It was so nice to board the new high speed train in Nairobi at 8 am to start the journey to Mombasa. That was my first time to travel by a train so I enjoyed it a lot. The train stopped several times for people to step down and others to get in. The journey took 6 hours and we arrived at the Mombasa terminal station at 2pm (see the photo), and then we boarded a matatu (minibus taxi) to Kongowea, and then walked to Pwani Bible college.

We were made very welcome there because of the good name Pastor Ndungu left there, and we were then directed to the house of Pastor Buya - the Dean of Students - who is a friend of Pastor Ndungu's.

My stay and learning was so good and smooth until the second week where I got ill with malaria and dengue fever, and I was advised to buy bottled water for drinking. The illness made me lose my appetite till I thought that God was not on my side, but one book in the bible gave me courage and hope - the book of Job. I am now happily in good health.

I am writing this letter to thank everyone who has really provided for our needs here in



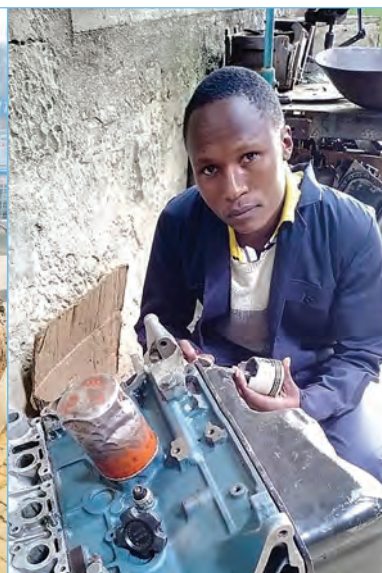
Kenya, especially the Sunshine Rehabilitation Centre. I also thank the Director Rev Simon Kinyanjui and his wife Rebecca who have tried a lot to see the home running smoothly, being helped by social worker Simon Kuria and other able staff members. May Almighty God bless you!

I want to take this golden opportunity to also greet you in Jesus' name. I hope you are doing well wherever you are. I am happy this great day that Almighty God has enabled us to see that all glory and honour belongs to him.

My prayer is that Almighty God protects you throughout this pandemic period and blesses you more and more for the great job you have done by taking us from a pit (the street) and making us valuable to society and the country at large.



And a few more of our young people who started college courses recently...



Left: Benson Thotho (Diploma in Health Promotion at Kenya Medical Training College).

Centre: Mary Cherotich (Certificate in Social Work and Community Development at Thika Technical Training Institute).

Right: George Mathenge (Motor Vehicle Mechanics at Naivasha Technical Training Institute).

Training courses make dreams come true

The Naivasha Technical Training Institute provides young men and women with vocational skills to enable them to earn a living. Footsteps provides funds which keep course fees low, enabling young people from disadvantaged families to access training that would otherwise be beyond their reach.



My name is Ruth Wanjiku (with head scarf). I am a first born in a family of six siblings and I joined NTTI in May 2021.

NTTI has been a great blessing to me since most of the machines needed for the course are available. When I finish my studies I would like to be employed so that I can gain more experience, then I can start my own business.



My name is Hannah Ruguru Karanu, I am 19 years old and joined NTTI in January 2021 to study cosmetology. The school is good and everything is cool.

The trainers are the best and they are offering their services to their level best. They have motivated me to love what I do. Also, in this school, I have learnt many things, for example, attending church services so I have learnt more about God, prayers and also going to Church.

When I finish school I want to be employed. I would love to work in Nakuru as I raise money to start my own business.



My name is Duncan Wanyoike, I am a student at Naivasha Technical Training Institute studying Plumbing and Pipe fitting (PPF).

I was born in 1999 in Nairobi, and I am a first born in a family of three children.

I went to Njabini Good Shepherds school and later joined Kijabe Boys High School.

I joined NTTI in March 2020 for the artisan level and God willing I would like to advance to Diploma and to the highest level I can manage to get to.

This school has helped me to accept myself and to work progressively towards attaining my goals in life. Thanks to my teachers and friends for being with me during difficult moments.

Special thanks to our beloved teacher, Mr Kimeu for the work he is doing to keep the learners engaged in workshops with different tasks. May God bless AIC NTTI.



My name is Mary Gathoni Gitau, I am 22 years old and I am training in Plumbing and Pipe-fitting (PPF). After high school, I joined Hemland College in Thika to study PPF and went to Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) for an industrial attachment. I have learned a lot of new skills at NTTI, for example, cutting pipes, threading etc.

My prayer is when I finish school I will be employed at KNH to work as an engineer or a manager.



My name is George Nyanjui (far left) and I am the second born in a family of 8. I joined NTTI in May this year and I am pursuing Automotive Engineering at Craft level.

The reason I chose this course is because I like adventuring in motor vehicles and it is very marketable so when I complete school I hope it will earn me some good money and help my family to raise the other children.

Since I joined NTTI, I have gained a lot particularly in the practical field as there are well-equipped workshops.

I would like to finish my course and I know everything will be alright with time

Does Sunshine transform lives?

- it did for Dancun Kariuki

Dancun Kariuki is the fifth eldest in a family of nine children. His mother depended on casual work to feed and educate her enormous family, but the task was too much for her, and unable to pay his school fees, Dancun dropped out of school and drifted onto the streets.

For three years he lived as a street boy, surviving by collecting and selling scrap metal, begging for money, and feeding himself on rotten fruit discarded in the market.

But, Dancun's life changed when he was admitted to the Sunshine Centre in 2011. He was able to resume his



education and, three years later, he transferred to the Naivasha Technical Training Institute to train in plumbing and masonry before leaving our care at the end of 2016.

Recently, our Sunshine Centre social worker Simon Kuria bumped into him in town. Dancun explained that, after completing his training, he had worked for several years on construction sites.

"In 2020, based on my qualifications and experience, I was recruited by the Naivasha Water Company and I am now responsible for repairing and maintaining water pipes, installing new connections and reading water meters."

Once a street boy with no access to clean running water, Dancun is now ensuring people have access to this precious resource.

Footsteps International in Kenya



Transforms the lives of 150 former street boys at the Sunshine Centre



Cares for 24 orphaned and abandoned children at the Tumaini Centre, Mombasa



Strengthens education of 380 children in Nairobi's slums



Helps train 300 young people in life-skills

We work with trusted partners to ensure that donations actually get where they are needed.

We do not discriminate against any needy person on the grounds of their religion, tribe or nationality.

Footsteps is managed by five trustees, all unpaid volunteers, committed to putting their Christian faith into action.

They are: Martin and Mary Print, Barbara Huntley, Barrie Francis and Paul Robinson.

Under normal circumstances, trustees carry out regular visits at their own expense to check progress on the projects.

We are delighted to receive single and regular donations in support of our work.

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I love receiving my sponsor's letters

Joel proudly holds up a letter he has just received from his sponsor.

As a former street boy, he is enormously encouraged knowing that someone living thousands of miles away cares enough to write letters to him and contribute to his welfare.

Sponsoring a child is an investment in something that money can't buy - shaping a child's life and giving them hope for the future.

Many of the boys at the Sunshine Centre do not yet have individual sponsors, so if you are interested, get in touch with us.



Give a MAD gift at Christmas



Pick a gift and we send you a card representing your gift.

You give the card to make someone happy.

We use your donation to Make A Difference to someone in need.



www.footstepsinternational.org/giftcards