

AMARA NEWS

Handing-Over Ceremony at Ngalalya Primary School Celebrates completion of 9th School Project!



On the 27th of February 2016, the Ngalalya Primary school project was finally completed. AMARA helped construct 7 classrooms and established a library. A kitchen, water connection, playing ground equipment and shamba and fruit trees have also been implemented. Hon. MP Peter Makau ensured pit latrines were built. A daily lunch feeding program is in place. *The high achieving children of Ngalalya were ecstatic*

Connecting Cultures through Music and Dance



Connecting Cultures through Music and Dance was the first AMARA fundraiser for 2016. The event showcased performances by Honduras singer Wanny Angerer, acrobatics by Sarakasi Dancers, Croatian Ballerina and contemporary Bharatnatyam dancer Nikolina Nikoleski. The MC for the evening was the charismatic John Sibi-Okumu. Money collected from the fundraiser will be used towards various AMARA projects.

AMARA's Sixth Annual Golf Fundraiser



On a Sunday the 22nd of May 2016, Amara hosted its 7th annual golf tournament at Sigona golf club. 72 players, 80% were returning participants and donors, who supported the event. The participants enjoyed a day of music, lunch, dinner, and of course, **golf**, and in total, a staggering KShs. 1 million was raised.

The Jungle Book Musical



The Jungle book Musical, is a children's classic that was visually brought to life by the wonderful cast of Aperture Productions. The musical was held at the Oshwal Centre Auditorium from the 13th to the 15th of May 2016. Out of the total sales of The Jungle Book Musical, parts of the proceeds collected were donated towards AMARA's Projects, they also sent out a collection box and pledges. After viewing our promotional clip of work at Ngwata the crowd contributed generously. The sums pledged totaled to approximately KShs 600,000/- which will go towards the supply of desks and books at Ngwata Primary School. In addition to this, AMARA held a stall where they sold their collection of Eco bags. We enjoyed working with the Aperture team and appreciated everyone's support.

Solar Lanterns

Most of the students that Amara supports come from low-income communities that don't have or cannot afford access to electricity. Amara initiated the solar lantern project in order to avoid parents relying on hazardous and expensive kerosene that degrade the environment. As a result, there has been an improvement in students' academic performances as they have more time to study at night. Furthermore, parents can cut on kerosene costs by using the solar lanterns for charging mobile phones and providing light. Finally, there is a reduced risk of respiratory and eye-related problems from toxic fumes caused by the burning of kerosene and firewood. The solar lanterns are purchased on a shared-cost basis with the parents.



Karate Classes

Since 2015, karate classes have been implemented at Kanaani primary school and have helped improve the fitness and focus of many of the students. Karate, through its subtle, yet poignant lessons of discipline, promotes independence and socialization skills of the students. Self-defense is also important for these children to be able to stand up against any physical abuse or challenges they may be facing in their lives.



Books and Desks

Books provide avenues for children to explore the different realms of possibilities; the larger variety of books they receive, the wider their literary universe becomes. Despite providing books to numerous schools, the students are still limited in their capacity to access a wider scope of literature. At most of the schools, the students are confined to sharing desks and this impedes their right to a wholesome education. AMARA encourages the donations of desks and curriculum textbooks for students to have a fundamental learning environment.

Feeding Programs and Kitchen Gardens



The feeding programs are invaluable for the students as it boosts their productivity and concentration in school. For example, in Kanaani primary school, the student population has increased to around 900 in 18 months (an increase of 45% in student population). The KCPE results have dramatically improved. These effects have been observed in all AMARA schools.

Kitchen gardens and fruit trees provide a sustainable way for the schools to take ownership of their environment. Furthermore it allows the schools to be empowered rather than being dependent on outside help. Extra produce from the shamba (initiated by AMARA) is sold to the local community. The sales from the kitchen garden are then transferred back into the feeding program kitty.

Kyangoma Special Needs School

AMARA has recently introduced medical assistance at Kyangoma Special Needs School through regular physiotherapy sessions by Sister Rosalia of Assumption Sisters. This will help improve their motor skills and general physical health as well as help with alleviating pain. Some of the children have also had surgical operations to help with their disabilities. On the 30th of July we have planned a workshop at the school to incorporate fun and games in learning exercises and teach the kids life skills. In April holidays, 4 children got the opportunity to stay with Agape family to learn life skills.

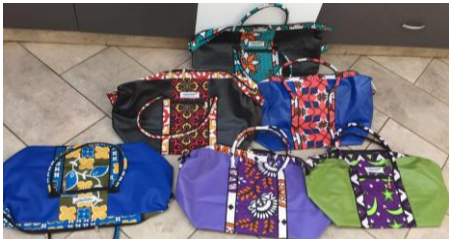


Donations of books and stationary were made to Agape Children's Home, which is an orphanage in Nairobi run by Pastor Oliver and his wife Margaret. The project was fully funded by CarEducation. In addition they have assisted with beds/bedding, food and workshop materials.



AMARA Eco Bags

The 'Amara Eco Bag' is a continuous fundraising project that supports an entrepreneurial endeavor initiated by a woman in Kibera. The profits of her enterprise go to supporting orphans in her local community. The bags are a truly Kenyan concept featuring authentic kitenge design. The bags range from laptop bags to hand bags to sling bags and are comparable to global standards. Amara is currently looking to partner with corporate sponsors to sustain our fundraising project.



Prize day at Kanani Secondary School

Kanaani Secondary School hosted their Annual Prize Giving Day on Friday 15th July 2016. It was well attended by Students, Parents, Teachers fraternity and Government Officials. It is a great honor for AMARA for the milestones achieved by Kanaani Secondary School under the dynamic leadership of Ms. Marietta Kyalo who is four years has turned the School around. This year four pupils from the school have been admitted to University for further studies. From January 2017, the School will become a Full Girls School.

Current Project: Ngwata Primary School

"A school is a building that has four walls with tomorrow inside."

Our current project is the construction of Ngwata primary school. Presently, six classrooms and a surrounding fence are being constructed for the school that has a population of 720 students. A feeding program is also scheduled to commence on the 16th of September this year with books, stationery and desks already on the way.



PEER TO PEER INTERACTIONS



4th year Medicine students from Nairobi University visited Kanani Primary School to share their dreams with the children .



Students from the Aga Khan Academy, Nairobi spent a day at Kanani Primary school. Children from the two schools interacted through games and activities.



Children from Kyangoma Special Needs school visited Nairobi and stayed with Agape Children's Home. Agape then took the kids on a field trip to The Giraffe Center.

Mountain View Primary School

One of Amara's upcoming projects is the construction and extension of Mountain View Primary School in Mavoko Constituency, Machakos District, which has been generously funded by one family.

Phase I of the project had been completed with building of three classrooms. Phase II, which is scheduled to commence shortly, includes a multipurpose hall and 3 more classrooms. A feeding program has also already been implemented. Fruit trees and a kitchen garden are in the initial stages of development. A water connection solution is also being looked into which would be critical for the students and staff in such an arid area.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

For the 2016 Feeding Program, AMARA has achieved its target of raising KShs 3 million to feed 2833 children. By the end of 2016 all AMARA schools will have playground equipment and kitchen gardens.

APPEAL

AMARA is seeking funding for national curriculum textbooks and desks for Ngwata and Mountain View Primary School.

THE AMARA TEAM



Bindi Shah



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A special thanks to all our donors and sponsors for your continued support!!