

THE LINK Newsletter

SUMMER 2016

RIDE FOR
REFUGE
October 1, 2016

MEDICAL
CAMP in
Limuru, Kenya



Help for Kenya's Street Children

Kawangware is one of the large urban slums of Nairobi, Kenya, with more than 600,000 residents, most of them living on less than a dollar a day. Sixty-five percent of the population are children and youth. Unemployment is staggering and HIV/AIDS is rampant. Many youth live on the streets, eating garbage, and drinking milky brown contaminated water. Hopelessness causes many street youth to resort to illegal activities such as theft, drug trafficking, and prostitution.

Our International Needs partners in Kenya are working hard with a small team of social workers to help these children get off the streets. Counseling is carried out on the streets where social workers assess the children and create a rapport with them. Medical attention is given to those who need it. Drug abuse treatment is often necessary and connections are made with detox programs.

Youth who are able to work are encouraged to find employment or create work for themselves.

A group of youth from Karangware are operating a car wash business with the help and supervision of our partners in Kenya. Inexpensive housing has been found for them where they live

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in small groups. The youth pay rent out of their wages and are taught how to care for themselves, operate a small business, manage their earnings, foster good relations, and resolve conflicts. Social workers supervise and monitor their progress. Younger street children have different needs as they cannot be expected to work or care for themselves.

There is an urgent need for a drop-in centre for younger street children in Kawangware. A place where they can receive food, clothes, a warm bath, shelter, and counseling until they are able to return to their families or are taken into care. Families would be required to come to the **International Needs' drop-in centre** to visit their child and receive counselling as a family to address the issues that caused the child to leave home. Street children who have no family would be placed in suitable homes where they can be cared for.

“It is our hope that with skills training, skills teaching, and mentorship, street youths will be able to find or create work for themselves and lead more fulfilling lives. We want to see younger street children reintegrated into families, going to school, and leading meaningful lives. The International Needs' drop-in centre will help us immensely to reach these goals.”

Jocelyn Muraya, Director of International Needs Kenya

You can make a real difference in the lives of vulnerable street children. Please give generously online or by sending back the enclosed appeal slip. Thank you!

INTERNATIONAL NEEDS CANADA

DISCOVERY
TOUR

Upcoming Discovery Tours

Ghana Discovery Tour **January 21-30, 2017**
Bangladesh Discovery Tour **February 10-22, 2017**

For more information please contact Corrie Mulder at
905.637.9411 or corrie@internationalneeds.ca

PRAYER CORNER

Items for Prayer

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sins and heal their land.”

2 Chronicles 7:14

Please pray for the work being done by our partners in Kenya with the street children and youth in the Kawangware slum. There is such hopelessness there! Pray for wisdom for our partners and for healing, wholeness, and a sense of belonging and being loved for the children and youth. May they know the joy only Jesus can give.



Ride for Refuge October 1st, 2016

Yes, it's time to take out your bikes and start preparing for our annual Ride for Refuge fundraiser. This year our family-friendly bike ride or walk will take place on Saturday, October 1st. We will be raising support for street children and youth in Nairobi's Kawangware slum. Our International Needs' partners in Kenya are doing an incredible work to help to reintegrate the children into families and communities and to bring healing, wholeness, and purpose back into their lives.

Today is an excellent time to sign up with one of our existing teams or start a team of your own in your community. Route lengths are 5km (for walkers) or 10km, 25km, or 50km (for cyclists).

For more information on the Ride for Refuge or to register or join a team, please visit the link below: www.canada.rideforrefuge.org/charity/internationalneedsCanada

Items for Praise

"He has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify Him."

Ephesians 1:14

Praise God for two successful Medical Camps, one in Limuru, Kenya, and one at ZACTS School in Zambia. God cares for the needs of His people and hears the cries of those who suffer. Many were helped and cared for by compassionate medical personnel, to the praise and glory of God.

Medical Camp in Limuru, Kenya



Limuru is an agriculturally rich town in central Kenya, 40 km north of Nairobi. It is widely known throughout Kenya for its production of high quality teas. Because of the tea plantations it is considered to be a more prosperous region than other parts of the country. However, there are a lot of challenges in Limuru and many live in poverty. There is one government hospital in the region but most people cannot afford its services.

International Needs Kenya held a two day medical camp in Limuru which benefitted the people and helped identify the community's greatest health needs. Many Kenyans working in the medical profession volunteered their services for the two day event; three surgeons and one medical doctor, six nurses, a pharmacist, a dentist, and a hygienist. Counselors were on hand for those being tested for HIV/AIDS. Pastors were also available to share and pray with patients. Local youth who attend our drug recovery program volunteered to help out and 2 cooks prepared food for all the volunteers. Donna Michalek, a visitor from Canada, was at the event and shared,

"The medical camp was truly amazing! I was really impressed by the International Needs' team in Kenya and how well the clinic was organized. They thought of everything!"

Most of the diseases found were related to poor nutrition and lifestyle choices. The doctors suggested that a nutritionist and gynecologist be added to any future team and a program be developed on nutritional counseling, health education, and dental hygiene. Home visits and follow ups will also be an important part of the program.

"We were really surprised by the outcome of the medical camp and will be working on a program to address the health issues we found. Too much carbohydrates in their diets caused many to have poor dental health and tooth decay. A good health education program will greatly benefit this community."

Jocelyn Muraya, Director of International Needs Kenya



He Changes Lives

Juna Sharki lives in the Western part of Nepal with her husband and 2 children. Raised in a Hindu home, Juna came to faith in Christ when her husband was healed of jaundice after suffering with the disease for five years. They had tried various

medical treatments, witch doctors, and many herbal remedies but his condition only grew worse.

Juna's uncle heard of her husband's illness and came to share the gospel and pray with them. Juna thought to herself, "How can these words heal my husband's disease when professional doctors and powerful witch doctors could not?" After a short time, Juna was very surprised when her husband said that he was feeling better and they began to visit the church where her husband received regular prayer for healing. After a few months, Juna's husband was completely healed and the couple committed their lives to Christ. Her husband's harsh ways left him and God blessed them with 2 lovely children.

Juna's husband was able to receive training as a cobbler and found work to support the family. When the children started going to school, his wages were no longer enough to provide for all their needs and so they prayed for further training. God again answered their prayers by providing vocational training for Juna at **International Needs' Lydia Vocational Training Centre**. Here Juna was taught literacy, sewing, music, and many other practical skills so she could earn a living and help provide for the needs of their family.

"I'm so thankful to God for bringing me to the Lydia Centre. I have learned many wonderful things that will help me and my family, and I hope to teach these new skills to other women in my village. I also want to help them grow spiritually."

Juna Sharki

Each graduate of the Lydia Centre is trained to teach other women and commits to sharing her knowledge with at least five others in her community. We praise God for our partners in Nepal and for the amazing work they are doing at the Lydia Centre. They are training, equipping, and giving hope to rural women who, in turn, are carrying this hope back to their villages.



AEFNB Supports Teachers in the DRC

New Brunswick's Francophone Teachers Association (AEFNB) is extending a hand of support to teachers at Ephphata School for the Deaf in Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The Association got on board after hearing of the needs of Congolese teachers during an International Needs' presentation in October 2015. Special needs teachers receive very little wages for the important work they do, making it difficult for them to care for their own families.

In the DRC, deaf children suffer many challenges due to a lack of understanding in their culture. The deaf are often thought of as unintelligent and worthless. Many are left to fend for themselves with no hope for a future. The government invests very little in their growth and development.

International Needs' Ephphata School for the Deaf seeks to empower children and young adults with hearing loss, by giving them a quality education and trade, enabling them to become self-supportive and contribute to the wellbeing of their families. Twelve dedicated teachers work tirelessly to equip their students to live a fuller, more independent life, fully integrated into the community. The AEFNB now sponsors grade 4 teacher, Helene Banza Kazadi.

"Words cannot adequately express our gratitude for the support we have received from the AEFNB. My husband is presently unemployed and we have 5 children. Their support has made a big difference for our family and we are so very thankful."

Helene Banza Kazadi

The Association hopes to send French children's books to Ephphata School with friends going on the next Discovery Tour to the DRC. **"We are very happy to be able to give support to Helene Banza Kazadi and we would like to thank International Needs for all their hard work in bringing social justice to those who need it most."** Marc Arseneau.

Many thanks to the AEFNB for their sponsorship of one of our teachers at Ephphata School for the Deaf. For more information on the work of International Needs in the DRC or to sponsor a teacher, call us at 1-888-702-9805.