

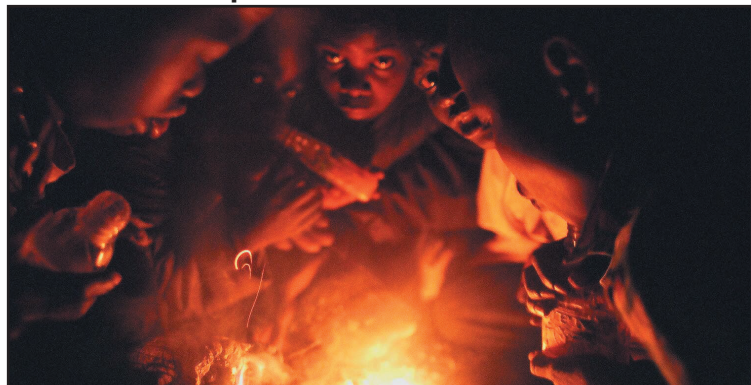
Njia Panda Ya Tumaini

Transforming Children's Lives

E-newsletter

Edition 10, May 2010

Street Work Expanded



NPYT has been working with children on the streets of Kitale for the last 18 years. This work has been vital in identifying new street arrivals and in providing the children with some of their rights; particularly that of health. Up until February 2010 this work has been somewhat haphazard with no clear format or assessable impact or goals.

The new 'Street Smart' programme is changing all that. The programme, though in its infancy, is designed to:

- Quickly identify new street arrivals and offer them an alternative to staying on the streets.
- Instil a sense of self esteem in the children who choose to remain on the streets
- Gradually change the public perception of street children from that of nuisance to one commanding respect and compassion.
- Equip the children with knowledge vital to their wellbeing and healthy life.
- Promote the establishment of small businesses and 'Street Banking' for some of the older youth.

Initially we have one member of staff and a local volunteer working with the kids for about 4 hours every morning. Sessions normally begin with going to a nearby river and bathing and washing clothes. Once cleaned up they spend the rest of the morning discussing issues affecting them. No topic is taboo. The morning session ends with lunch and then the children return to the streets to look for their evening meals. Already some of the younger children, who had been resisting help, have joined our rescue centre and have left the streets. Many new arrivals have been helped and the groundwork is set for the full programme to proceed, in collaboration with and supported by Retrak (UK), though we are awaiting funds.

Voices of Children

The TRACSEN network organised this event to enable children to express their opinions and vent their concerns directly to policy makers and enforcers. Hundreds of children from across the district of various ethnicities and religion attended, and many performed. Apart from dancing and song there were also plays tackling such subjects as child labour, abandonment and disability. Also in the spotlight was the poor and abusive conditions children were exposed to in the parastatal ADC farms. Bad housing, lack of access to water and sanitation, forced child labour and limited access to education were among the complaints about ADC life. Everyone left with a sense that eyes had been opened, thoughts provoked and the first baby steps of positive change taken. It is hoped that this will be an annual event with an even wider range of issues highlighted.

LVCP Dormitory Destroyed

The girls dormitory at Liyavo, NPYT's long stay home, has had to be dismantled following the appearance of large cracks in its walls. The building was originally built as a maize store on a settlers farm before independence in 1964 and the subsequent division of the farm. Built with no foundations and only mud for mortar there was no possibility of repair and an entirely new dorm will have to be built. For the moment the girls are having to sleep in the project communal study and library disrupting the daily routine of both boys and girls.



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