

Romilly's Newsletter

A big thanks to our wonderful supporters for all their generosity to the charity since 2000. You can be proud of what has been achieved. You have helped to give care and love, and hope for the future, to children who had nothing. Our current projects in Kenya and Zambia are working well and we are now looking at prospective projects in Tanzania. Thank you.

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Concert St John's Smith Square 5th March 2009



Catherine Hopper, Gemma Rosefield, Morgan Szymanski, and The New London Children's Choir

Kitwe Zambia.

Christopher Mulenga, of Friends of Street Children Kitwe wins International Service award



Romilly Twenty Four



This November Romilly would have been 24 years old. We celebrate by setting a target to raise £24000 to help children in distress in Tanzania.

Kawaza Primary School.

The school is doing well and the number of pupils increasing.



A Christmas Carol



The boys of the Naivasha Children's Shelter are putting on the play of Dickens's story.

Our New Partner

is Mkombozi based in Arusha and Moshi, in Tanzania. It was set up by two volunteers in 1997 who saw that

- 50% of Tanzania's population were children
- The treatment of street children by the authorities was a disgrace
- The human rights of these children including the right to education were being abused
- And that no one was championing their cause.

Romilly trustee, David Jamieson, visited Mkombozi this October and believes that they are one of the most inspiring street children organisations that he has met. Mkombozi has a genuinely holistic approach, which embraces trying to stop children

coming onto the streets, dealing with them when they are there, integrating them with



Senior street worker with street children

the community, providing them with the tools to succeed in the future, mobilising other child welfare organisations, and defending their rights.

Mkombozi have done research into why children leave their homes to take up life on the streets and have established key indicators of the likelihood of a child migrating to the street. With the help of their

schools and communities they are able to identify vulnerable children and mentor them and their families. In the villages where they have applied this proactive approach Mkombozi have been able to reduce the number of children migrating to the streets by 60%. This is a remarkable achievement.

For those children that do live on the streets Mkombozi have specially trained street workers, taking education to them and caring for them. They try to reintegrate children with their families, get them into mainstream education or if that is not possible provide them with practical education.

Mkombozi has a strong belief in the potential of these children and young people to provide the solution to their predicament. One of Mkombozi's most successful ways of enabling them to do so has been to provide children as young as 12 with the training, support and a loan to start their own business. Loans can be as little as £10. Surprisingly few default. Businesses range from selling sweets and foods to designing and making clothes.

Romilly is evaluating projects to extend Mkombozi's excellent work.

ROMILLY'S CONCERT AT ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE 5TH MARCH 2009

Our fund raising concert for 2009 will again be at St John's Smith Square and promises once more to be both uplifting and fun.

*The emphasis again is on youth, and it features the Grammy Award winning **New London Children's Choir**, singing a wide range of music from Vivaldi to the present day, under their conductor **Ronald Corp**.*

*They are joined by **Catherine Hopper** who will sing a selection of Schubert songs as well as excerpts from opera. She is a Britten Pears Young Artist, and has been described as "one to watch out for", "heartmelting" and a "show stealer".*

*Also in the programme are the lively, award-winning duo **Gemma Rosefield** and the Mexican **Morgan Szymanski**, who join together for a vibrant mixture of Spanish and South American music for cello and guitar. Gemma is the winner of the prestigious **Pierre Fournier Award 2007**. "Truly magical. She soars, she floats, she's operatic and she makes you weep": "a mesmerising musical treasure". Morgan is the first guitarist to be awarded a **Junior Fellowship at the Royal College of Music**, where he completed his Masters with distinction. "A soloist of formidable talent but also that rare thing among guitarists: a fine chamber musician."*

If you would like to come to the concert, and in so doing, help our work with street children in Africa, either mail thedraketeam@aol.com, or ring Tim or Lizzie Drake on 0208 994 9544. Alternatively, fill in the application form

The Romilly Forshall Foundation

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Christopher Mulenga wins International Service Award.

Christopher Mulenga is an unpaid volunteer at Friends of Street Children in Kitwe, Zambia. It was Christopher who managed the construction of the borehole and the two dormitories paid for by generous donations to the Romilly Foundation in



Football at Romilly's dormitories Kitwe

2005 through to 2007. It was a long and often frustrating task. The dormitories were finished early in 2007 but due to the failure of the local electricity company to connect the site, children were only able to move in in August 2007. The site now accommodates 30 children and 10 staff. The children have volunteered to leave their life on the street to be cared for while local volunteers try to reintegrate them with their families and bring them up to a level at which they might join mainstream education. In 2007 Christopher and his colleagues managed to join 76 children with their families, and expect to have reunited 72 children with their families by the end of 2008. Children are encouraged to grow their own vegetables. Nine of the children at the site attend local primary schools where they are taught English, Bemba, Maths, Social Studies environmental science, RE and creative activities. 5 are preparing for their secondary school leaving exams, and the remaining 15 are taught at the classroom on site.

Christopher's own story is remarkable enough. His father lost his job when his British employers



Christopher with township children

left Zambia after independence. Christopher, still a child managed to complete school and qualify as a

teacher, while supporting his family by selling dried fish. He still teaches, supports a large family and spends his free time working for the street children of Kitwe, whose cause he unceasingly champions.

His International Service Award is for the defence of the rights of children. He is travelling to Britain to receive it at York on 10th December.

Naivasha boys produce A Christmas Carol.

Debbie Case, who is the driving force behind the Naivasha Children's Shelter, reports that there are 55 boys at the shelter. The local authorities are taking greater responsibility for the street children. All children coming to the shelter now have to pass through the Children's Department who have just sent 5 more. During the summer Beatrice, Romilly's younger sister and Emily Forshall, her cousin visited the shelter. Both described a happy, well run place where the boys are



Woodwork class at Naivasha Children's Shelter

making good progress. As well as academic classes like maths and English, the boys are taught woodwork. A metal workshop is being equipped and the boys are encouraged to grow as much of their own food in the large vegetable garden. They have just started a chicken rearing project with 408 baby chicks and hope to be able to sell the eggs.

Christmas is coming so it is the time of the Annual Football tournament when the boys play teams from local farms. They are also preparing a production of 'A Christmas Carol'. Debbie says that they are working hard and that it is going to be a sell-out.

Kawaza Primary School Thriving.

Fiona Trewby of Robin Pope Safaris says that the school is thriving. Since Romilly's supporters generously paid for two new class rooms and the refurbishment of others, pupil numbers have risen dramatically as have donations for other educational projects sponsored in the region by Robin Pope Safaris.