



***Dear Raha Supporters and Well wishers,
A happy new year to all***

We are writing to give you a brief overview of what we are planning and have been doing with your continued support.

NEW INITIATIVES AT RAHA

EYE CAMP IN MWINGI, KENYA

'I have never had my eyes tested, even not my family'...Patrick age 45

Premal Patel of Specsavers doing his thing in India.



An eye camp is set to run from the 11th to the 15 of February. Premal and Rasila have taken on planning it from the UK and Daksha is liaising with the various teams and local volunteers in Kenya. We aim to test the eyes of 1000 patients in less than a week. Those requiring further treatment or surgery will be taken to Kikuyu Hospital and followed up with their outreach program. All the funding for this camp is coming from supporters and well wishers both in Europe and Kenya. Our many volunteers in Nairobi, Mwingi and further have provided great energy and support. We look forward to an excellent week in February.

To see what Rasila and Premal have been up to visit:

<http://www.beckenham.towntalk.co.uk/news/d/11949/Help-Put-A-Smile-On-A-Kenyan-Child's-Face/>

TRAINING FORMER SEX WORKERS FOR CAREERS IN CONSTRUCTION

Stacey has been a sex worker since the age of 6, being sold and resold many times. She had come to see beating, rapes and abuse as normal. She did not feel she deserved anything better or an education of any sort. Until she began her retraining program reality for her was stark and brutal. With funding from you, we have managed to work with local groups to support their retraining programmes.

Stacey is a clever girl, and has taught herself to read and speaks three languages, including English. She is looking forward to training to do a job that is mostly the realm of men. She looks forward to standing tall and is beginning to believe in her right to self determination, pride and choice.

***'I want to be my own boss , I can be anything I want and I want to be a carpenter and see my work in big houses'....Stacey
age 20***

Photo posed by a model.



Raha has taken on the initiative of training sex workers for careers in Construction. We are doing this in partnership with **SWARA HOMES LTD** and **E-GAP SOLUTIONS LTD** Kenya.

After their initial training in the construction industry women will work on site and decide what path they would like to specialize in. They are being trained in their respective chosen field, be it carpentry, welding, masonry, electrical or plumbing works. After completing this period they will all be encouraged to attend college and supported through this. This will be done in conjunction with formal mentoring that will take place once a week. This will be a space to speak of concerns and ensure the success of this initiative.

PROVISION OF SANITARY TOWELS

‘This protection freely lets me to carry on with my studies and to look after my son’.... Mary age 15. Mary lives in Kibera.



Maureen Dunning with other supporters continues the lead to donate money for the regular provision of Sanitary towels for girls in Nairobi. Girls are often forced to use rolled up rags, which cause chaffing and infections. Many girls miss school and remain in their homes due to the lack of sanitary protection.

WHEELCHAIR PROVISION WITH THE KENYA PARAPLEGIC ASSOCIATION

‘It has changed my life; I am independent in my movement, a big change in my life’...Joseph Age 14



We are partnering with Frank and Maureen Dunning, Aeroskills Ltd and British Airways in the UK and the Kenya Paraplegic Association to provide Wheelchairs for those who need them most. With thanks to our supporters we have been able to collect donations of high quality Wheelchairs which have been distributed all around Kenya. A number of our recipients have at last been able to do away with travelling around being pushed in a wheelbarrow. Others less financially able (a wheelbarrow is an expensive asset) have finally become mobile outside their homes. A special Thanks to Chris who arranged for the transportation of these on British Airways. The whole team are planning to do this again. This has generated much excitement in Kenya.

Please take a look at www.kenyanparaplegic.org

EDUCATION.....LAST BUT NOT LEAST!

'I am so happy to be at school. I want to be a lawyer and look after my family'

...Steven Age 17

Coletta, Steven, Pauline, Margeret and Matiwo.
The children at school in Salaama District,
Kenya.



As well as providing books, educational material, food and equipment for schools, we carry on supporting more children to finish their secondary and University education. Our aim of making people independent of giving and 'charity' can only be done through the ultimate long term feeding program, Education.

Most of the children we support are orphaned or come from very poor families often parented by a single parent. Your support in spreading the word and enabling more sponsors for education will be invaluable.

It costs about **£250** to put a child through a good school; this includes food, clothing and school extras. Our preference is registered high quality boarding schools so that the child is fed, has electricity to study with (as all our families and children do not have electricity access in their homes), and is in a safe environment.

So many of you enable this presently, too many to name. Thank you all. We currently have a further list of 15 children who we have vetted and are awaiting funding. If any of you wish to support this endeavor we shall very pleased to hear from you.

OTHER NEWS

After much consultation, we have decided to reduce our food distribution drive, doing this only for the destitute and during periods of famine and drought (Kenya has just come out of a severe drought). Our major focus will be education and training.

On a separate note, after indentifying the need on a trip into Kibera, we are devising workshops in assertiveness and parenting skills for young parents living in difficult and vulnerable circumstances. These workshops will be run with the help of local communities and will be facilitated by Daksha.

In the UK, with the help of St. Christopher School in Letchworth Garden City we raised toys to the value of £500 for Body and Soul in London. A charity based in London, working with children with and those affected by HIV/Aids.

As many of you know we are in the process of changing from being a Not For Profit Organization to a UK registered charity. Not long to go. Thank you Martin at Brighton Formations for facilitating this.

Though people are our main focus, we work with thought for the environment and do not support causes or initiatives that will have an adverse effect on the environment. We also do not send out paper mail, campaigns or letters. This enables us to keep our costs down, making your funding go fully to the cause.

We are firm in our standing to work from a non secular perspective and to remain being run by self funded volunteers. Any costs incurred will not be covered with donor money, so rest assured 100% of your donations go directly to the cause you support. .

To all our supporters, well wishers on whose energy, generosity, determination and encouragement we ride.



THANK YOU

Daksha and Nimi Hirani
in Nairobi and Letchworth Garden
city

www.rahainternational.com

All Photos have been published with permission. A special thanks to our model and supporter, Stella Wanja.