



# flying kites

Annual Report 2013

# MISSION

At Flying Kites we run a home, primary school and scholarship program for orphaned children in Kenya.





## MODEL

In the foothills of Kenya's mountains, we have built a refuge for orphaned children who have nowhere to turn. Here, children who have suffered the effects of abuse and homelessness are given the tools they need to thrive. In the wider community, we offer scholarships to critically-poor families, so that fewer children end up with nowhere to turn.

# CURRENT EFFORTS IN KENYA





## FARM

As part of our commitment to health and sustainability, we cultivate large farms on both of our Njabini sites to provide fresh produce for our home and school. The recent expansion of our farm over the course of 2013 has greatly reduced our monthly grocery budget and allowed the Flying Kites family to enjoy cauliflower, spinach, carrots, potatoes, kale and plums. The children participate widely in both farms and enjoy caring for our chickens, sheep and rabbits. One of our greatest successes this year was the launch of our bio-gas initiative in October, which allows our cows to be housed in a non-grazing unit, whereby their manure powers our kitchen through biogas technology, reducing our reliance on kerosene and firewood.



## HEALTH

The majority of children who come to live at our home have previously suffered from ill health and malnutrition, and early efforts to combat stunting require a holistic approach to intervention. We work with doctors, nurses, nutritionists, dentists, physical therapists, psychiatrists and experts in childhood development on a contract basis to ensure we meet the needs of the children in our care. We currently care for three children who are HIV+ and receive medications from UNAID's anti-retroviral treatment program in Nairobi. We treat children who are affected by HIV/AIDS, cerebral palsy, kwashiorkor, tuberculosis, measles, PTSD, and a range of learning difficulties.



## TEAM

To shape and execute our projects throughout the year, Flying Kites employs a team of 30 Kenyan staff, occupying a variety of roles ranging from Director to accountant, to teacher, driver, farmer, chef, tutor, housemother and community worker. We strive to maintain a positive, progressive working environment, paying above-market wages and prioritizing the health and well-being of our team and their families.



## HOME

We run a home for 37 orphaned children who were unable to remain safely within the wider community. Here, children who have suffered immensely are able to reclaim their childhood in the refuge of our sprawling 12-bedroom farmhouse and under the guidance of our nurturing housemothers. The Flying Kites Children's Home is adjacent to expansive wilderness that provides the children in our care with ample space to run, explore, swim in the river and play in their treehouse. They enjoy lots of extracurricular activities to feed their spirit and sense of adventure, as well as access to high-quality medical and educational services.

# HIGHLIGHTS 2013



Alice Kimani joined the Flying Kites team as our full-time accountant in Njabini and several months later was promoted to the role of Country Director. Alice was trained at the University of Nairobi and began her career in social services with the international non-profit Service for Peace. Over the course of the past year, Alice has been instrumental in leading our team in Njabini to go 'above and beyond' for the children and families we serve.



## KEEPING SIBLINGS TOGETHER

On October 7, 2013, we welcomed five new children to the Flying Kites home – siblings Tabitha, 12, Stanley, 9, Samuel, 6, Ziporah, 4 and Cecelia, 2. Though their past is one of utter desperation, we are committed to giving these bright-eyed, beautiful children a safe place to call home. When they arrived, all five children were withdrawn and fearful, suffering from months of malnutrition. Now, just weeks after coming to Flying Kites, the strides they have made as survivors has been remarkable. The siblings are enjoying participating in all facets of life at Flying Kites, including schooling, playing soccer and games, helping the cooks with prepare food, spending time with volunteers, and making friends with the other children. We are so happy to welcome them to our family and look forward to sharing stories of their growth and successes with all of you.

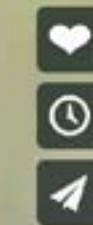


## What do you want to be when you grow up?

from Flying Kites 5 months ago NOT YET RATED

## ENGINE ROOM EDIT

We were a lucky organization to be selected by Boston-based producers Engine Room Edit as the subject of their upcoming documentary, 'Pamoja'. While filming, the team took some time out to also provide our development department with some incredible short pieces.





# HIGHLIGHTS 2013

## FUNDRAISING : BLOOMINGDALE'S BRUNCH

On November 10, 2013, Boston's finest came out to support Flying Kites and enjoy mimosas, brunch bites and an exciting fashion show at Bloomingdale's Chestnut Hill. Sponsors of the event included jewelry company Alex and Ani, and TRADE. Bloomingdale's donated 10 percent of sales back to Flying Kites.

## DASH FOR DREAMS

The Flying Kites' second annual run/walk 10k through Central Park took place on November 23rd, 2013 and brought together supporters from across the country. Over 300 runners braved the cold to complete the course and raised thousands of dollars for the children and families we serve.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Justine King  
Peter Keating  
Meredith Starr  
Jennifer Lapierre  
Renee O'Gara  
David Gilstein

# MEET JOSEPH

Dear Friends,

My name is Joseph Munga. My birthday is on May 30, 2000 – and I recently celebrated my 13th birthday. Flying Kites' birthday celebrations are one of my favorite things – everyone is energetic and happy for the individual who is celebrating. We all love birthday cake and sharing it with each other. The month before my birthday, I was honored to represent Flying Kites at Dagoretti, which was a conference for children to discuss critical topics – this session we talked about how we can take care of our environment and also about the seriousness of child abuse in Kenya.

When I returned home, I shared my experiences with the family and am proud to be a member of this home. This is my 4th year in Flying Kites and I am in class 6. As a member of class 6, I represented our school in the Drama Festival in February – I was so surprised when I was placed 1st for my performance.

I like it very much here and look forward to playing football in the backyard when I get home from school. Thank you for your support of Flying Kites, without it I wouldn't be able to have the experiences I've had this year.

Joseph



## EXECUTIVE STAFF

Alice Wambui Kimani  
Country Director

Leila de Bruyne  
Operations

Paul Kamore  
Headmaster

Justine Axelsson  
Development

Michael Chambers  
Programs

Phoebe Karami  
Head Matron

# BY THE NUMBERS

In addition to operating a primary school on-site, we partnered with 14 different public and private schools in 2013, to offer over 80 scholarships to students throughout Kenya.

We provided:

**6** students with full scholarships to two local preschools



**36** students with full scholarships



**29** students with partial scholarships



**9** students with full scholarships to six private secondary schools



**2** students with full scholarships to university  
one student with a no-interest loan for university

# FINANCIALS



## REVENUE

Individual Contributions - \$89,151	16.9%
Awareness in Action - \$118,346	22.4%
Ambassador Program - \$51,094	9.7%
Sponsorship Program - \$119,383	22.6%
Restricted Funds - \$150,000	28.4%

**\$527,974**  
Total revenue

## PROGRAM SPENDING

FK Home, School, and Outreach Program - \$174,891	66.6%
Awareness in Action - \$61,405	23.4%
Ambassador Program - \$10,657	4.1%
Sponsorship Program - \$15,578	5.9%

**\$262,531**  
Total program spending

## ORGANIZATIONAL EFFICIENCY

Programs - \$262,531	73.6%
Operations - \$72,475	20.3%
Marketing - \$4,639	1.3%
Travel - \$12,559	3.5%
Depreciation - \$4,407	1.2%

**\$356,611**  
Total organizational efficiency spending

