

# Wana Duma Children's Project

January 2009

## An Update on Home Visits

In past newsletters we have written about the living conditions for most of the families in our program. Many of our children live with "Grannies" and Great Grannies. Keeping these women healthy is very important for the success of the students. During Susanne's last visit she made the rounds to the families to see how everyone was fairing. Some of these families have chickens and a garden and were doing well; while others were relying on the kindness of others for food. They were

going without any food for themselves and their grandchildren for days at a time. As a result we have included more families in our food program.

It was very exciting to find out that many of the Grans were very good craftspeople. Some of them made beautiful woven sisel bags and others wove used sweaters they bought at flea markets into bags. Susanne brought home as many as she could in support of the project and they sold to friends and

family immediately! Another one of our Mothers in the program makes lovely banana leaf baskets and hot pads. We would like to expand the purchase of crafts made by our families. It empowers these women in their commitment to raise their grandchildren.



## Our New Gilgil House!



The new house in Gilgil is working out really well so far. **Susan** and **Susanne** share half of the house and have extra beds for the girls when they need a place to stay for a night or two. The other side has a

kitchen, sitting room and boys bunk room that sleeps four. **Daniel** is using the sitting room for an office and **Susanne** would like to add a library. The kids love to pop in often. We also have regular "beef stew" gatherings—and they really pack away the food! We have rice and bananas as well. We use this time to hand out school supplies, clothes, toiletries and medicine. It's also a great time to get to know everyone better.

We can already see a day when we will outgrow these rooms! The home is very simple

with most of the furnishings purchased at the flea markets. A good sense of humor doesn't hurt either when the shower is located over the toilet!



**Hanging out at the house.**

## An Update On Our Kids!

Five of our students have now completed their vocational training and we are assisting them in setting up shops. We are currently looking for a spot for **Peter** who finished his bicycle mechanics course. He has "opened" up shop right away under a tree in town! We are trying to find an affordable room to rent to keep him dry and his tools safe.

**Samuwel** finished his motorcycle mechanics course and he's now

successfully managing his teacher's shop. Instead of tools he is requesting a bicycle to get to and from work. Both boys are now earning money and continuing to be part of our **WDCP** family by learning how to mentor others.

**Alice Wangari** and **Fidelis** have received their new sewing machines. We are looking at setting up a small shop for them to work

along with **Grace Wangeci**. Grace graduated from Beauty School on December 19th with high Marks!

There are a lot of refugees from last years political fighting in the north that are now entering Gilgil. Finding appropriate shop space for our kids will take some time.

*"Whatever you are,  
be a good one."*

*—Abe Lincoln*

### Graduates



**Rahab, Josphat** and **John Muya** graduated from Form 4. the next few months we will be helping them decide on vocational schools. Rahab is interested in catering.

### Secondary School

**Agnes, Titus, Joseph** and **Stephen** are continuing with Secondary Day School.

Eight other Students: **Dennis, Joyce, Anastasia, Catherine, Mercy, Elizabeth, Anne** and **Martha** took the Standard 8 Kenya Exams. We are still await-

ing the results. The students that pass this test will continue their education. Anyone not meeting the standards for this test will be moved in to a vocational program. Meanwhile, **Irene, Patrick, David** and **Geoffrey** are continuing to progress with Secondary and Pri-

mary Boarding schools. Irene is still battling poor health after another set back with malaria and typhoid. All three boys are doing very well, maintaining a B average!



## Primary School

Our two Hannas in Kamathatha Primary school will be placed in a Primary Boarding school. Both girls are living with Great Grandmothers. The Great Grannies are quite old and getting frail and have wanted what was best for the girls and we were happy to find a spot for them.



Hannah Kagure with Susan

Hannah Nyaguthi



## Zoo Visit



In the Fall of 2007, I began to create field trips as a way to spend time and bond with the kids. After two events with 28 kids to the Nakura National Park and the “beef stew play day,” I realized I wanted smaller groups to have a better chance to interact with individual students. So this last fall **Daniel, Hassan** and I started by taking the **Aoko** family of six from the Korogocho slums for a zoo day. We visited the baby elephant orphanage then to the giraffe center to feed the giraffes and we finished with a fun lunch. It was the first experience for the kids outside of the slums and they enjoyed themselves immensely! Hassan’s seven year old daughter and Susan’s 12 year old niece joined us. It was so much fun to see these kids light up as they interacted with the animals for the first time in their lives. Aside from seven- year- old, **Sleighman**, getting car- sick numerous times, a good time was had by all – including **Sleighman!** He wasn’t going to let anything get in his way of his big day!

A month later I repeated this trip, adding a trip to the crocodile farm. This time I was joined by five boys from Gilgil, **Titus, Josphat, Stephen, Patrick** and birthday boy – **Joseph. Daniel** brought them up from Gilgil to Nairobi by Matatu (a local bus) a two hour trip. **Hassan** and I met

the kids with a safari vehicle for the day. I was afraid the boys being 16-20 in age would be too old for this kind of day. But it was all new and fun for them. They had never seen the sights of Nairobi either and enjoyed seeing important land marks **Hassan** pointed out along the way. They got a kick out of petting a baby elephant and feeding the giraffe and ostrich – they even pet the belly of a baby croc! After a lunch of chicken and birthday cake, **for Joseph’s 16<sup>th</sup> birthday**, Daniel and five excited boys headed for home. Daniel reported they couldn’t stop talking about their fun day and now the rest our kids can hardly wait for “their” trip!

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Wana Duma Children's Project  
1421 Country Club Drive  
Camano Island, WA 98282  
Phone: (360)387-5212

*Providing guidance and support to  
Children in Kenya.*

**We are on the Web!**  
**[www.wanaduma.org](http://www.wanaduma.org)**

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*Believing that an education holds the key to a healthy adulthood;  
the Wana Duma Children's Project is dedicated to removing bar-  
riers that children in Kenya and elsewhere in the world encounter  
which impede their access to education.*



Christian, Mary, Susanne, Susan, Daniel and Hassan

