

# SHERP



## Samburu Handicap Education and Rehabilitation Programme

### List of Contributors for Children School Fees

*SHERP NL* — 17

*Mugie Ranch (Claus)* — 2

*Equity Bank, Maralal Branch* — 1

*Bonnie Gillis* — 1

A total of sixteen children sat for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education examination towards the end of the last quarter of the year 2012. Out of the sixteen, only two children did not get good marks to take them to high school. The rest of the fourteen children either joined high school or vocational institutions. This has brought the total number of SHERP children in high school/college/university to twenty one. SHERP's growing list of children attending post primary schools is slowly becoming more representational of the type of children that we serve. For the first time in SHERP's history, we have students who are visually and hearing impaired as well as those suffering from great physical challenges attending secondary school concurrently.

Florence Leleshep, who was born with severely underdeveloped arms and a shortened leg, will be attending MOI Girls' along with Manjelina who is visually impaired. Maring Ngitok, who is completely blind, continues to attend Kenyatta where he is performing extraordinarily well. And we

have eight deaf children who are, or will soon be, attending Karen Technical Institute for the Deaf.

We made the decision to withdraw all of our deaf children who were attending Kedowa. This is due primarily to the fact that we expect them to learn more and perform better in technical and vocational courses that in the realm of academic endeavors. Also, the skills that they will learn in vocational training will instill within them a trade that will allow them to earn money after they are fully out of our program.

We are especially proud of Moses Ekiru this quarter! Moses, who is wheelchair bound, was accepted into Equity Bank's Wings to Fly program which pays school fees for students attending secondary. Moses scored the highest ever marks attained from a SHERP student with an impressive 342. This score allowed him to qualify for the program and is now enrolled in Maralal High School.

Challenges faced for this achievement, very expensive to raise funds for children school items, especially the beginners. The necessary expenses needed in order to attend secondary (uniforms, materials, transportation



Moses Ekiru in his school uniform

costs) increase annually and we are very glad that our supporters have been constant in their care and affection for the children.

We are forever grateful to all of our international supporters. Your support helps us show the community and parents that disability is not something that should be despised, discriminated against, or punished. You help us show that it is completely possible to support persons with disabilities into leading successful and fulfilling lives.

Parents and other community members in Samburu county need to increase their level of support for persons with disabilities. We as Kenyans cannot continually receive support from international well wishers when we do so little to help our own. Let us put a greater effort towards helping our children!

# Samburu Handicap Education and Rehabilitation Programme

## A Reminder of Who We Are

**S**HERP is an organization devoted to giving children with disability the chance for a happy and healthy life. We support 154 children on-site with disability who cannot be supported by their families, and in total nearly 400 children with disability across the Samburu county.



Friends for Life

We were founded in 2001 by Grace Seneiya, at the time a young Samburu teacher unable to live with the Samburu tradition that children with disability were, at best, looked after as a guilty secret, at worst, killed as being a curse on the family.

From humble beginnings where visually impaired students would share Grace's home and food, SHERP has grown into an organization that has given countless children a chance they would otherwise never have received. Many of our first children are now adults and are employed and fully integrated into the community.

Our quarterly newsletters seek to inform and educate our donors and friends about the work taking place at SHERP. We are attempting to document our successes, struggles and our need for your continued support and help, without which the remarkable success of the children here would not be possible. Please enjoy reading this newsletter, forward it to friends and colleagues and don't hesitate to get in touch with us!

March 2012

# SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

Increasing Income for the Children of SHERP



*SHERP Quarterly  
Gross Income*

**450,000 KSH**

Above, our finished cottage! It is composed of three units and currently houses two of our volunteers

**T**he three unit cottage has been completed! This project was funded through many small donations from different supporters. The four key supporters for this project were:

*National Council for Persons with Disability  
National Fund for the Disabled of Kenya  
Pippo Zakaria – Italy  
SHERP MRL*

Using funds raised from the other cottages, we were able to contribute towards the construction of this new unit. As this project grows, we will have the capacity to raise funds for additional cottages without the need of outside assistance. One house will be used to house SHERP volunteers who come occasionally to assist projects and the other two have already been occupied by tenants. The two rental units will generate 25,000 KSH a month for the children here!

SHERP is well on its way to becoming self sustainable!

Also, we have tentative plans to use the projector to possibly show movies to the students of the local secondary schools once or twice a week. We would charge the students about twenty shillings per movie and we estimate that we would have the capacity to host up to 150 students at a time. If we are able to set up the necessary plans for this, we could generate a rather sizeable income for the children. These plans are in the idea development stage and we hope to have more information and details next quarter.

Plans are also being formulated for the construction of a possible general store, small restaurant, and hair salon that would be built on the compound along the main road. These plans are yet tentative and we will have more details about this particular IGA later so be sure to check in next quarter's newsletter for more information!

# RENOVATIONS

Renovated Dorms and Plans to Renovate Toilets and Bathrooms



Above, before and after pictures of the boys' dormitory

Every building, regardless of where in the world it is, requires renovations every once in a while. The good folks at the **GO Campaign**, in partnership with the **Trinity Church** of Newport, Rhode Island USA, have donated funds needed to start the renovation process here at SHERP. The boys' dormitory, one and two, has been completely renovated into a single large, clean, and comfortable dormitory. This dorm now houses all of the older male children who are not mentally handicapped and it is proving to be an amazing gift to the children here at SHERP.

This project is still ongoing and we envision that we will start and finish the next dorm when the current school semester comes to an end. We also plan on making our bathroom and bathing facilities wheelchair accessible (an unforgivable oversight on the part of the former builders and ourselves). For the toilets, we plan on installing handrails and expanding the size of the stalls in order to more easily accommodate wheelchairs. The showers and bathing areas will likewise be more accessible for our children by increasing the size of each stall.

We will be sure to keep you informed as to the progress of the renovations!

March 2012

# OUTREACH

Spreading the Message of Disability to the Community



Above, pictures of our outreach programmes in Lesirikan and Tangar.  
At Right, a picture of Nateku who is now working and prospering at SHERP

**I**n the month of February, we conducted three outreach programs. These programs mimicked the last two outreach efforts we conducted but the following areas were targeted:

*Bendera village, approx 700 people*  
*Lesirikan area, approx 350 persons*  
*Tangar village, approx 180 persons*

Tangar is a few short kilometers from the small village of Lesirikan in which we did an outreach some years ago. In 2006, we were introduced to a young girl named Nateku who was born with undeveloped leg muscles. She was unable to walk and was forced to crawl on her hands and feet. In this way, she was able to commute from her rural home to her school. She dropped out of school in class four due to the incessant taunting and teasing of her classmates. It was at about this stage in her life wherein

she began to contemplate suicide. In northern Kenya, there is a flower locally called 'the desert rose' that is fatal if ingested.

Nateku was saved from taking this flower by a passing neighbor and the ridicule that she faced increased. Luckily, we found her soon after her attempted suicide and took her to Ol'Kalou where she underwent surgery for her legs. Today, she is able to walk and is full of life. Currently, she is awaiting enrollment in a vocational school and is helping part time at SHERP.

These efforts were not as successful as our previous programs due to the fact that we were competing with political campaigns. However, we are confident that those people who attended the seminars received our message clearly and we hope that it will remain in their hearts and minds for many years to come.

# OUTREACH cont...



At Left, Before and After photographs of Kitonga. While staying in the 'manyattas' (traditional houses of the Samburu, he was mainly transported by an ill fitted and broken wheelchair. Now, Kitonga is safe and happily residing at SHERP! His story is an inspiration for our supporters

**T**angar is another small village in northern Kenya, Baragoi, that holds a special meaning in the collective memory of SHERP due to the fact that it is the home area of Kitonga Lesiatoi, pictures above. As some of our readers may know, Kitonga family forced his mother to abandon him when he was a small child. Through good fortune, Kitonga made his way to SHERP and is now enrolled in class six and is doing well. Hopefully, due to our outreach efforts, we will never again have a case such as his.

## NEW GOVERNOR

A New and Visionary Leader for Samburu County



**C**ongratulations to Moses Kasaine Lenolkulal, pictured right holding the blue Bible, who was sworn in as the new Governor of Samburu County. We wish him luck in upholding the law, providing services and fulfilling the other responsibilities of his office. We also would like to congratulate the other elected members of the new government. We hope that they will support Moses in provided services to the constituents of Samburu County.

March 2012

# MEDICAL

Keeping Our Children Happy, Safe, and Strong!!



Above, some of the children pictured enjoying themselves and engaging in physical therapy at Ol'Kalou Disabled Children's Home

**T**he medical care of the children is a daily activity, which includes more than twenty children being supported each day with epileptic medication. This medicine, if taken regularly, helps to prevent our children from suffering seizures which can result in brain damage if left untreated.

Below is a short summary of the related activities performed during this quarter:

We helped to facilitate orthopedic surgeries and treatments for nine children, eye surgeries for two children from Samburu east, and three for cleft lips. Sixteen children total underwent surgeries and extensive treatment. Two more children were referred to Kijabe Hospital; one for general observation and the other for a review of a surgery performed last quarter.

# DONATIONS and SUPPORT

First Timers and Long Time Friends



Ulrike Beckhert

**U**lrike, from Germany, has come to lend SHERP a helping hand! Working in the Special Classroom, Ulrike will be here at SHERP for two and a half months providing energy and new ideas to our program. She brought with her a wonderful swing set that will be used in the Special Needs Classroom. During her time here, she will also be volunteering part time at a local nursery. We are very lucky to have her here and we hope that she enjoys her time with us!



Roslyne Overstake

**R**oslyne is a good friend of Grace and a longtime supporter of SHERP. During the month of February, she came to Maralal to pay us a visit. While she was here, she acted as an amazing impromptu nurse for the children by helping to administer their daily anti epileptic medicines and looking over their medical complaints. Roslyne also donated Ksh. 50,000 which was used to cover children daily needs, we really appreciate your kind support. Asante sana Roslyne tunatumaimi tutakuona tena!

If you are interested in volunteering for SHERP, please feel free to contact us using the information found on the last page of this newsletter! We welcome volunteers and we will work with you to ensure that your time here was productive, fun, and enlightening!

# DONATIONS and SUPPORT

## Donations and Disco!!



*We truly appreciate support given to the children over holidays. This helps to remind our children that they have not been forgotten or ignored by their community. Thank you all so very much who came to visit with the children over the Easter weekend!*

## AP Chapel

Visitors from the **Administrative Police Chapel** came to SHERP on Sunday the 24th March in order to spend some time with the children. They came in the afternoon started their visit by having **Mrs. Baratungu** preach for us. The children listened attentively to the sermon and after it was through, they all sang together. The ten women from the AP Chapel also brought some biscuits and juice for the kids which was much appreciated. The women truly took their time with the kids and spent almost two hours at SHERP. Their last gift of the day was a number of cabbages and other food items for the children to eat for supper. Thank you AP Chapel for the special Sunday afternoon!

## Disco Night



After a nice geographical movie (Human Planet!) we started a new tradition here at SHERP: We turned off the lights, Josphat played some good music out of his repertoire and we started the first Disconight in the workshop! The kids were excited to receive some glowsticks around their wrists and everyone had the chance to eat some candy. We want to combine Disconight and Movie Night at least once a month from now on!

The older ones were at the beginning a little bit shy but after some time they entered the stage for the final Dance Contest. Everyone won in our Dance Contest and the applause was huge. We danced all together for some hours and afterwards we fall asleep very fast after the exhausting dance.

# Special Report

from the

## Special Needs Class

They Cannot Talk but if They Could, This is Probably What They Would Say...



**S**ome of the children in the Special Needs Class who are in need of diapers. Some of them are being potty trained but this will take time before they are able to use toilets on their own. We use approximately four diapers a day for each of the children and even more when they are afflicted with stomach troubles.

Without the diapers, it is nearly impossible for these children to attend class. Instead of teaching, the teachers in the Special Needs Class spend their time wiping and cleaning the children. The children are also unable to be truly comfortable if they are without a clean pair of pampers through the day. Please help us! To learn how, see page 12.

***Habari!** My name is Joseph Okumu and pampers help to keep me happy, clean, and healthy. I hope to one day be able to use a potty but for now I am using about three pampers a day. I hope that you will be able to help keep me clean and happy! Thank you for helping me!*



***Supa!** My name is Nchamanoi Lesepe and I am learning how to use a small potty! I am still getting the hang of it and will need diapers and detergents for some time to come! I try every day to use the potty but accidents still happen! Thank you for wanting to help me!*



***Mambo!** My name is Ranton Lepeiya and I am in need of diapers every-day! I love being clean every day but it is not possible without my pampers! Thank you for helping me!*

# OTHER EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS

Other Things Going On Around SHERP and In Kenya

## Integration

## Change in Management



Lucy Wanjiru, one of our matrons

For the first time some Kids of the Wisdom Centre Academy from Maralal came to SHERP to visit, to play same Games and get to know each other.

At first everybody was a little bit shy but the toys broke the ice between the kids from the different Places. We made some games with the Kids to get to know each other and to learn the new names and everything was really excited.

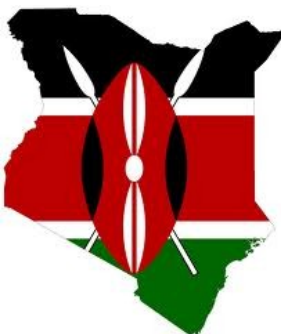
One week later on the 26th of March we visited the Wisdom Academy with 5 Kids from SHERP. We had a good time playing outside with the kids and teacher Agnes showed us some new games and songs. When the rain started we all went into the classroom and it was great to see how the kids interact with each other.

This kind of integration meeting should take place every week from now on. We want to bring the kids together. For respect and acceptance!

Elections interfered with many of our normal activities because of the many campaigns that it spawned.

Transportation for the quarter was both expensive and time consuming because we had to take children out of school due to the elections and then return them afterwards. Twice, surgeries that were scheduled were postponed. However, we are proud that Kenya was able to vote peacefully!

## Elections



Support staff works tirelessly to ensure that the children are clean, comfortable, and well fed each day. We thank them for their commitment. In order to help the matrons better care for the children, Sylvie has been promoted to the position of head matron. She will help the other employees better manage their time and work practices by creating and maintaining work schedules and outlining best practices for the women to follow. Thank you Sylvie for stepping up and taking more responsibility! We expect that the affairs of the children to run more smoothly now that we have plans in place for effective management.

# Donors' Page

People Who Support Us and Things That Need Supporting

**B**elow is a list of things that we need to get sponsored! Please, if you are interested in helping to donate to any of the causes or items below, feel free to contact us through email, Facebook, or Twitter!

Item	Amount Needed
Pampers	40,000 KSH per month (apprx. 400 euro or 470 USD)
Children Basic Needs <sup>1</sup>	40,000 KSH per month (apprx 400 euro or 470 USD)
Food	60,000 KSH per month (apprx. 600 euro or 705 USD)
School items (books, pens ets)	20,000 (per term, apprx 200 euro or 235 USD)

**W**e hope to have a page like this included in every one of our newsletters from now on. It will help to inform our readers and fans about the current needs of our children. If you are interested in supporting any of these items, please contact us through the contact information found on the last page of this newsletter.

Until our sustainability project kicks in to begin covering the above costs, we would like to get a donor interested in sending us a small monthly donation. We will acknowledge your donation in this newsletter, either on this page or another and will reduce your donation amount from the Amount Needed from the table above. Thank you and we hope to hear from you soon!!



Grace Seneiya  
SHERP Founder and Director

<sup>1</sup>. Includes things such as soap, body oil, detergents, razors, and other items that the children use or are used on the children every month.

# Get Involved

## How You Can Help

Learn a Little **Kiswahili**

**English:**

“I thank you very much”

**Kiswahili:**

“Nakushukuru sana”

SHERP always welcomes any support, friendship, and resources given to us. We offer a variety of ways for people to get involved.

SHERP offers a volunteer program for students, professionals, groups, or organizations interested in donating their time, skills and knowledge to help us with our medical, business, health, and/or educational needs.

Two of our SHERP team members, SHERP NL in the Netherlands and the GO Campaign in the United States, offer ways to donate to SHERP. It is also possible to donate directly to SHERP through our website :

SHERP NL.....[www.sherp.nl](http://www.sherp.nl)  
GO Campaign.....[www.gocampaign.org](http://www.gocampaign.org)  
SHERP MRL.....[www.sherp-kenya.org](http://www.sherp-kenya.org)

Join us on Facebook at **S.H.E.R.P.** or Twitter at **GraceSHERP**

Otherwise, organizations or individuals wishing to give gifts in kind, offer financial support, make donations, or offer other types of assistance should make contact with us directly:

SHERP  
PO Box 287  
Maralal, Kenya 20600

Email: [sherpmrl@gmail.com](mailto:sherpmrl@gmail.com)  
Phone: +254 721.566.094 (**M-PESA**)  
Website: [www.sherp-kenya.org](http://www.sherp-kenya.org)

### Supporters During the Quarter

- SHERP NL
- GO Campaign
- Dr. Bonnie Gillis (Canada)
- Lindsay Park (Canada)
- Maralal DEB
- National Council for Persons with Disability
- Mugie Ranch
- Samburu County Council
- County Director of Education
- District Education Office
- Joseph Learamo

**Thank You!**

