

SHERP

Samburu Handicap Education and Rehabilitation Programme

New wheelchairs and medical help



Left, a doctor from APDK and Manaseh begin an examination on one of our children. Most of our children underwent examinations this quarter in order to identify their medical aid needs and we were fortunate enough to have had the chance to provide for many of those needs. Right, Nchamanoi attempts to reach out and touch the camera while he sits in his new wheelchair.

During the last two months of this quarter, we were able to have specialist come to SHERP in order to measure our children for new wheelchairs! Coordinating this process took far longer than we expected but we eventually were able to get every child in need of a new wheelchair measured. One reason this process was delayed was due to the fact that many of our children are completely unable to make the long journey to Nairobi. We are now proud to report that these new wheelchairs were delivered and have been distributed to our kids.

and independently navigate the compound is beyond their reach and so they require assistance. For many of the children here, mobility is a constant challenge and so we strive to provide these children with wheelchairs. The wheelchairs that they previously were using were very worn and prone to breaking. These new chairs will ensure that our children will have the chance to move freely to and from school and throughout our compound. Special thanks to **Therese Smeets** for her donation for a special chair for Lengees!

It is always fortuitous to receive any sort of medical aid for our children. Many of these tools will help them

For many of the children here, the ability to freely

We continued the ongoing treatment of the children that we currently have at Olkalou. These children, who are enrolled in two to four year procedure and treatment plans, are doing well. Lastly, the child that we helped to facilitate a cleft lip surgery is now almost fully healed! We believe that with her new face, she will have a better chance at living a healthy, positive, and inclusive life here in Kenya.

JUNE 2012

PAMOJA TWaweza

SHERP

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A Reminder of Who We Are

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



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!

June 2012

CONSTRUCTION

Continuing to Grow, Along with the Children



Left, our old kitchen



Right, our outdoor kitchen after construction

SHERP is growing at a tremendous pace! This quarter, we were able to renovate our kitchen store, demolish and construct a new outdoor kitchen. The cooking area has been a source of constant headache for us for some time due to the fact that it was unsanitary and difficult to secure. Dirt floors that became mud puddles when it rained, walls made out of thin iron sheets, and lack of ventilation all contributed to severely poor conditions in which to prepare food for our children. Now, with the construction of our new kitchen, we will have drastically improved the cooking for our children. Along with the new kitchen. It was only with

the funds provided by the **Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Development** that we were able to construct our new kitchen. The children of SHERP thank you!

With the aid of **Jan and Kurt**, our wonderful Swedish friends, we had the ability to stock this kitchen with pots pans, and brand new cooking and eating utensils. The plates that the children had been using previously were long in need of replacement, we also purchased gas cooking stove and gas cylinders and we thank Jan and Kurt for their support!

Along with the new kitchen, we also had the chance to renovate our store. Previously, we were storing our food in the workshop and

in the Eating Room. These areas were the only places large enough to accommodate the bags of rice, unga, maize, and beans that we occasionally received. This, however, resulted in our children being forced to either eat outside or in their dorms. This proved to be highly unsanitary and we are very glad to have the full use of our eating room once again. Also, these two stores proved to be highly insecure concerning rodents and we lost a disappointingly high amount of food due to these pests. With our renovated store (and an adopted cat!) we expect to manage this situation far better in the future.

FOOD SECURITY

Growing the Food We Eat

Just a few short weeks ago, we planted more than thirty moringa trees! Moringa, often called ‘The Magic Tree,’ is a very remarkable tree due to its exceptionally high utility and nutrition content. It is a fact that moringa has a high concentration of protein, calcium, iron, magnesium, potassium, and vitamins A and C per 100 grams. It is possible to make tea out of the bark and to use paste from the leaves to help purify water. We expect to have a dramatic increase in the nutritional content of many of our children’s meals!



A close up of our growing moringa plants

Sack Garden

With the help of some of our children, we planted seven sack gardens in our shamba right in time for a few weeks of good rains. The crop that we planted was sukuma wiki and we plan on feeding the rabbits from this garden exclusively in the future.

Poro Farm Update

Our farm in Poro has recently been weeded and it looks as if we will have an even larger crop this year than last! We were able to collect 55 bags of maize last year. This was in spite of the fact that we planted our shamba (garden) late and were unable to perform adequate upkeep for our crop. This year, we planted on time and we expect to harvest up to 100 bags! Each bag holds 90 kilograms of maize. This maize will be used to make ugali, a staple food for Kenya, porridge, and githeri, a dish of maize mixed with beans. Our major supporter in this endeavor was the **National Council for Persons with Disability**. They helped us immensely in the process of gathering the seeds necessary for planting and ploughing of the vast land. Thanks to the Council (and to good rainfall!) we expect to feed our children for many months after the harvest!

Rabbit Farming Update

We are a few weeks away from slaughtering our first batch of rabbits! As of this writing, the rabbits are just under the desired size for slaughtering but we are confident that within a few weeks they will be large enough to provide the children with a delicious meal! This will be the first time for the vast majority of children to eat rabbit and many have expressed reservations about trying this type of meat. Due to traditional values, rabbit meat is considered very undesirable. Our plan is to secretly and slowly introduce it into their diet so as to destroy this traditional reluctance.



Some of our big, healthy rabbits

June 2012 WORKSHOPS and SEMINARS

Imparting Important Life Skills

Beads n' Bags

During the month of May, SHERP hosted a workshop that taught those who attended how to create beadwork out of paper. The process uses used pages from magazines in order to create the beads. The pages of the magazine are cut into strips and tightly rolled. After being rolled, the paper is coated with clear nail polish to keep their shape and also to provide a higher shine to the finished beads. Three of our sponsored children attended the seminar, Mary Riminta, Chana, and Deli. Both Deli and Mary quickly mastered the process and turned out lovely necklaces. Chana is slowly working to master the skills but we have full faith and confidence that he will one day produce wonderful beadwork as well.



Some of the individual beads crafted by Mary



Deli rockin' a hat constructed out of discarded plastic bags

Also during this workshop, they were taught how to create sturdy and attractive hand bags out of discarded plastic bags. Due to the fact that these plastic bags can literally be gotten for free means that this type of craft could prove to be highly lucrative for those who take the time to master this skill. We see this as a possible IGA for those of our children who will not have the ability to go on to secondary or university.

These two workshops have greatly helped to expand the knowledge that our children have and we are very grateful to **Mary Aloka**, a technical trainer from Kisumu, for teaching us!

TRAININGS and OUTREACH

Saving Sight and Training Teachers

Training on Visual Impairment

We had the esteemed **Ophthalmic Clinical Officer Carol Tallam**, from Nakuru Provincial Hospital-eye clinic. She was invited to SHERP in order to teach both parents and teachers on the issue of low vision. The session for the teachers focused primarily on communication with persons with low vision while the session the parents attended dealt with causes and prevention of vision issues. We were able to host almost twenty teachers and fifteen parents for these seminars and much information was distributed. Even though the turnout was rather low by our estimates, we were encouraged that so many parents were concerned and actively seeking information on the topic of low vision. We attribute this to our efforts at spreading honest and positive information out to the community.



At left, Ms. Carol giving detailed and technical reasons for visual impairment among the Samburu population. This information will hopefully be used in order for both teachers and parents to better understand the ailments suffered for their students and children.



Above are the 30 teachers trained early this quarter on management of learners with disability.

Training in Baragoi

In Baragoi, we held an outreach program that included more than thirty teachers who were taught on the subject of care for children with disability in their respective schools. Teachers represent the major contact point that we have as an organization for children with disability in more rural areas. If properly trained and informed, they can act as powerful allies in our fight for equality in education for children with disabilities. We suspect that the information that we were able to provide to these teachers would help to better equip them to deal with the special learners in they interact with on a daily basis.

June 2012 DONATIONS and SUPPORT

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,” - 1 Peter, 1:3

The Nairobi Chapel and the Lekolool Family's Easter Blessing



Above, members of the Lekolool Family and Nairobi Church.

A member of the Family, Manjelina, and donated goods.

SHERP was blessed to have spent this past Easter with Mr/Mrs. **Francis Lekolool and Raphael Lmingisian family** and four other couples from **Nairobi Chapel** (**Danny and Nancy Mucira, Ben and Muthanje Waruinge, Jean Paul and Clementine, Ndagijimana Timothy and Pastor Janet Mutinda,**) who brought with them food and drinks enough for all of the children who stayed at SHERP over the holiday. The children enjoyed a delicious and filling meal of meat, stew, rice, chapatti, and fruits. They also donated many gifts including education, sanitary and play equipments. They also gave each child and staff member a small copy of the Bible and ended well with a prayer in French by Tim and songs from the children. The Lekolool Family has been a supporter of SHERP for many years now and they have developed a passion for helping our children. We thank both of our guests for their generosity and are proud to say that they have not forgotten the children of SHERP during this important holiday. Thank you for helping to show the town of Maralal true Christian spirit and we hope to see you again next year! **Unknown Moses** is growing stronger each day after the anointing and prayers from this wonderful group. Matthew spoke true indeed when he declared: **“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy”** (Matt. 5: 7).



Mrs. Lekolool, along with some of our staff and children with the new Bibles from the Christians from Nairobi.

DONATIONS and SUPPORT

JUNE 2012

PAMOJA TWaweza

Thanks, Updates, and Reports on How We're Doing

Dr. Lolokuru

During this past week, Grace was attempted to purchase food for the children and did not have enough funds to purchase what she needed. **Dr. Lolokuru** was generous enough to donate 30,000 of his own money in order to help feed our children. We thank you for your unexpected but much needed support. You are truly a special person and we want you to know that you have directly helped to feed the children here. Asante sana.

Washing Machine Update

Last quarter, our friends in France, **Etoile Entraide**, donated to us the funds needed to purchase a state of the art washing machine. We reported that the woman were reluctant to use the machine but after a few months practice the machine is in routine use!

Faith Williams

Faith recently came to visit SHERP and volunteer some time helping our children. She has also been doing her part to ensure that movie night is a roaring success by donating over twenty movies for the children to enjoy! Thank you Faith and we hope to see you again!



Thanks to Aerocar, our children are one step closer to having their own computer lab! Aerocar donated five computer monitors to our children and they also were generous enough to ship this donation (along with the toys from Kristin's friends) to Kenya for free! We think Heino, from SHERP NL, for being the link between us!

Rotary Club of Maralal



Mr Boit, above, planting one of the trees

The **Rotary Club of Maralal** made two visits to SHERP this quarter. The first was to plant trees to help beautify our compound. The Club visited with Mr. Boit from KCB and two other visitors. The trees that they decided to plant, twenty in all, were placed in the front of our compound on the grassy stretch of land between our parking lot and a block that contains our clinic and two dormitories. We expect that, a little bit down the line, to have a very shady expanse for our children to relax in.

The second visit from the Rotary Club focused on hygiene. Every child at SHERP received a toothbrush, toothpaste, and a bar of soap. Ben, our program manager and medical advisor, demonstrated the proper technique of brushing ones' teeth.



Our children displaying their new toothbrushes, toothpaste, and soap

June 2012 DONATIONS and SUPPORT

More Volunteers, Friends, and Computers!

New Volunteers! Our physical therapist has arrived! **Selke**, from Germany arrived in Maralal this June. Selke will be staying with us for the next eight weeks and in that time she will help to exercise and provide physical rehabilitation to our most vulnerable children and to impart on selected staff the knowledge on how to continue the work after she returns home. We are very glad to have her with us and we hope that she enjoys her stay!

Also, Kristin, our special education volunteer, was recently visited by two of her friends from Germany. While visiting Kristin, **Sabina** and **Jan** were kind enough to spend several days at SHERP helping our special learners. Both of them are psychologist and were able and willing to lend their expertise to the benefit of our children. They also were generous enough to donate many wonderful gifts to our special learners and we thank them for their time, effort, and care!



From Left to Right, Kristin, Selke, Sylvie, Sabina, and Jan

Laptop Computer



Lucia Brandenberg, a friend of Sabina and Jan, donated a laptop computer to SHERP for the benefit of Sylvie, our special education teacher! This laptop will help Sylvie keep electronic records for her special learners, create reports and will allow her easier access to online material. Thank you Lucia for your donation!

Toy Donation



Moses surrounded by the new toys

With the help of many of Kristin's friends back in Germany, SHERP received a large donation of plush play things for the children in our special learners! These toys will go a long way in

helping to relax and educate these learners and we are truly grateful for your contribution. Danke!

DONATIONS and SUPPORT

Pampers, Soap, Balls, Nets, and Helpers

OIKO Credit Donation



Grace with OIKO's donation and four containers of soap

Our friends at **OIKO Credit** truly helped us with a depressing situation this month. They donated 1,536 pampers to our smallest children. These pampers, which will last us for approximately two and a half months, will be greatly appreciated by the children as well as the matrons and teachers who work closely with them. OIKO has proven time and time again to be of excellent spirit and their concern and care for our children will be used as an example of how everyone should strive together in order to help keep children with severe disability healthy, clean,

and happy. Also, this donation allowed SHERP to spend resources in order to purchase twenty liters of soap. These two items, pampers and soap, will ensure that our children remain happy. Thank you OIKO Credit for your thoughtfulness and generosity!

Help with a Smile!



Janet (mid), Sabina and Leparis

SHERP has received much help this quarter! **Janet** of Maralal has been supporting us with the children and has been making contributions to SHERP. Janet, who started off as a volunteer, now works full time with the children. Her role here has been one of constant change; office assistance, interpreter, physical therapist trainee, and children's officer. We expect her to be with us for the foreseeable future and we are glad for her help!

Ministry of Youth and Sports



Mr Hezekiah donating the gifts to SHERP

Mr Hezekiah of the **Ministry of Youth and Sports** paid us a brief visit in order to donate to SHERP a soccer ball, volleyball, and a volleyball net! We thank the Ministry and Mr Hezekiah for not forgetting SHERP and we hope that they continue to support us in the future!

June 2012 In Other News...

What has been Going on in Maralal and Around SHERP



Above, Grace meeting with the new Director

Director of Education

Maralal town has also seen the face of our new Director of Education, **Mr Nkoroi**. This new officer will be in charge of working to streamline and enhance the educational system of Samburu County. We know that he will be working closely with SHERP in order to help us address many of the apparent problems the current system has concerning children with disability!

Security Update

Two new security lamps were installed on our compound in order to better illuminate the front of our school at night. These two lights will also provide a bit more protection during the dark nights for our sleeping children.



Constitutional Change in Kenya

As many of you are aware, Kenya is experiencing a radical change in its political landscape. Before the adoption of the new constitution, Kenya was broken into various districts that all reported to Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya. Now, with the introduction of the new constitution, Kenya is subdivided into counties. Each county has its own capital city where county problems can be aired and problems addressed. The county capital of the Samburu County is Maralal town. Our new County Director paid a visit to the children here at SHERP and we are very glad to have him here in our county!

SHERP's Website

SHERP finally put up our own website! The address is **www.sherp-kenya.org**. The site will feature our quarterly newsletter, more regular updates including pictures and letters from Grace, as well as a direct way to contribute financially to our cause!

Get Involved

How You Can Help

Learn a Little **Kiswahili**

English:

“If I give presents to many children, I will feel good”

Kiswahili:

“Nikipa zawadi watoto wengi, nitafurahia”

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.

Three of our SHERP team members, SHERP NL in the Netherlands, the Grace’s Children Fund, and the GO Campaign in the United States, offer ways to donate to SHERP :

SHERP NL.....www.sherp.nl

Grace’s Children of Kenyawww.graceschildren.org

GO Campaign.....www.gocampaign.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:

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Supporters During the Quarter

- SHERP NL
- Grace’s Children
- Jeanette Ciccarelli (Australia)
- Samantha Slater (USA)
- Dr. Bonnie Gilles
- District Commissioner Samburu
- Lindsay Park (Canada)
- Kurt and Jan (Sweden)
- Lekolool Family & Friends
- Nairobi Chapel
- Dr Lolokuru
- National Council for Persons with Disability

Thank You!

