

SHERP



Samburu Handicap Education and Rehabilitation Programme

....education, education...



SHERP children who attend Mugie Ranch Primary School. Left, the headmaster Mr. Avedi, Manasseh, and Ulrike

The cost of secondary school tuition in Kenya is typically above 30,000KSH per year. In state schools the Government only pays for tuition (around 10,000 KSH), leaving a huge gap to cover the costs of boarding, travel, books, uniform and all other expenses. As a result many children are unable to continue education beyond primary school (which teaches children up to the standard expected of a thirteen year old). Thanks for Mr. Clause, 19 of our children are given an opportunity denied to many in Kenya, especially in the North. Through this funding SHERP can give these children the best possible chance in life, despite the disabilities with which they have been born.

SHERP

Samburu Handicap Education & Rehabilitation Program

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 children on-site 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 Seniyea, 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!



Good ol' Lekamparish!

June 2013

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Hunting for Eggs, Playing with Friends, and Enjoying Our Time Together



The children proudly showing off the eggs that they painted and hunted down!

With the help of **Kathleen** and **Roselyn**, we organized Easter Egg hunt! The eggs were decorated by the children themselves earlier in the day. The children enjoyed themselves immensely. Due to the fact that we were not sure if the eggs were good for human consumption so we had the children throw them in celebration. We ended the day with juice and biscuits and a word of prayer from **Sister Angela Paula** from the Catholic Church. We thank everyone for this wonderful day together! Additional photos of the Easter Adventure can be found on our Facebook page, S.H.E.R.P.



Can you spot the egg?

NEW EMPLOYEES



On the first of June, **Regina**, the former teacher for the SHERP Special Unit, returned to her duties full time. Regina will focus on the educational development of the children with the aim of integrating some of the children back into the local primary school. Her return will guarantee that the children of SHERP will experience an increase in the amount of individual attention that they receive. Karibu tena Regina! We are thankful for you returning to the team!

Nateku, the former child of SHERP highlighted in our last newsletter, is now a full employee of SHERP! She started on the 27th of May and she is really helpful and efficient. The plan for Nateku has not yet been realized and we still fully intend to send her to St. Irene's Vocational School in order for her to learn a trade starting next year. We are glad to have her support for the time that she is here! Thank you Nateku!

INTEGRATION



Children playing together on SHERP's field

The Compassion School came for a visit with our children on the 19th of April! Bringing together all children for them to accept each other, regardless of differences. The children played together on SHERP's field and finished the day in our hall with balloons, juice, biscuits, and candy. They left SHERP after offering up a song and a prayer for the children here. This first meeting was appreciated by all and we hope to one day take our children to their classroom and to continue this relationship into the future.

CHILDREN OUTING

Ulrike's Departure and Special Mugie Trip



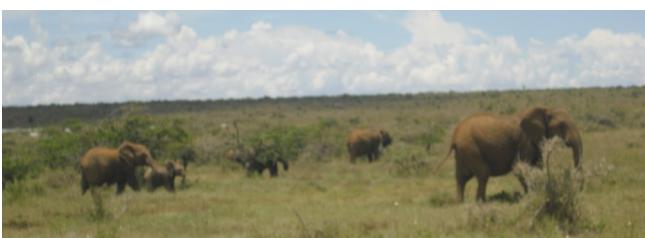
Ulrike, Sylvie and some of the children who visited the park

With the help from Ulrike and her family, we were able to bring eight children to the Mugie Ranch on the 8th of April. The children were lucky enough to see elephants, giraffes, buffalo, gazelle, and ostrich. The children enjoyed a lovely lunch in the middle of the park. The entire day turned out to be an adventure with all eight of the children stuffed in the SHERP car. The roads were terribly

bumpy and the children enjoyed the roller coaster like ride. Many of the children had never gone so far away from the compound and their trip to Mugie was like a fantasy tour. For many of them, it was the first time for them to see some of the well known animals of Kenya.

All of the children greatly enjoyed the trip despite their disabilities. Even Mike, who is completely blind, had fun. This day will forever stay in the minds of the children who participated. Thanks a lot for this marvelous day!

We take this opportunity to say Asante Sana to Ulrike for her close and loving presence to the children, her enthusiasm and energy, and sense of fun. Also, thank you for bringing the swing from Kristin, again the children really enjoy it. Thanks and welcome again!



ELEPHANTS!!! (we love these creatures!)

The children enjoying their lunch in the park

June 2013

SHERP SPECIAL CLASS

Update on SHERP's Special Art Class

The Art Class is still ongoing and is moving forward with plans to create works of art to present at the annual Camel Derby in August. The children are hard at work creating cards, beaded necklaces, and other things. Martin, our Peace Corps volunteer, helped the Art Class by creating cards for each of the works of art created by the children. These cards will help us advertise the good work the art class is doing and to raise money to continue the project. If you are interested in purchasing cards, either for yourself or for the promotion of SHERP, feel free to contact us! Thank you in advance!



The Samburu Handicap Education and Rehabilitation Programme (SHERP) is dedicated to the wellbeing of children born with disabilities in rural Kenya.

Each of these pieces of art was created by children attending our Special Needs Class with minimal assistance from their teachers. The money generated from this project will be used to purchase needed items for their classroom.

We hope that you purchase a piece of art and visit us on our Facebook page: S.H.E.R.P. or send us an email at: sherpmrl@gmail.com

The card that is attached to each work of art



Above left, Rumoki working hard on her own art project. Above right, cards that the children created. Both photographs were taken late last year and we are still going strong on the project!

MEDICAL ACCESS



Several children underwent surgery this quarter and most of these children were drawn from all over the county. The main surgeries this quarter included orthopedic, eye surgeries, neurosurgeries and other corrective surgeries. A total of seventeen children underwent surgery this quarter. Most of the children who underwent surgery came due to our outreach programs.

One child Njamano Lemarkelle is likely to undergo lip and cleft surgery in the United States. This medical endeavor is being organized and planned chiefly by our Peace corps volunteer Martin Cooks and his family back in his state of Michigan. SHERP will provide funds from our quarterly medical donations for the child's transport to and upkeep in the US. We are currently accepting donations from those who would like to help in this particular project. Please contact Grace Seneiya at the information provided at the back of this newsletter if you are interested!



Left, Sungu Lepukeiya who went for the eye surgery and above, Njamano Lemarkelle who is slated to undergo cleft surgery in the United States later this year.

MEDICAL ACCESS cont

Physiotherapy equipments



SHERP's small, but growing, physical therapy area!

We thank Therese Smeets for her extra donation this quarter which assisted in fixing the children physiotherapy equipments and a beautiful shade (still to be fixed) which will help our cerebral palsy children exercise more freely and ease congestion in our special class.

Thank you SHERP NL and supporters for the continued medical assistance and facilitation of community outreach and awareness of different types of disabilities. We were able to have a well received audio/visual shows at night due to your support! Thank you!.

MEDICAL OUTREACH



RENOVATIONS

Renovated Dorms and Renovate Toilets and Bathrooms



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 girls dormitory, has been completely renovated, clean, and comfortable dormitory. This dorm now houses all of the older female children who are not mentally handicapped and it is proving to be an amazing gift to the children here at SHERP.



We also plan on making our bathroom and bathing facilities wheelchair accessible. 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 renovation.

June 2013

Special Support, Donations, and Visitors

Diapers and Peanuts!! We thank you all!

Reusable Diapers !

Through the tenacious efforts of **Kathleen Heerschap**, SHERP was able to procure reusable diapers! Two companies generously accepted to donate

THiRSTiES

serts for us to try and give them feedback on their usefulness in order for them to add to their donation. Currently, Baby Kicks plans on donating an additional thirty four pants and sixty eight inserts! The children in the special dorms, those who are unable to take themselves consistently to the restroom, are and will benefit greatly from these donations and we greatly appreciate the generosity and concern from our new friends. Special thanks to **Christa and Stephan** at Baby Kicks for working so hard to insure that the children of SHERP remain comfortable and clean! Asante sana!

BabyKicks®
Natural & Organic Diapers

some of their wonderful products to the children here. **Thirsties** donated fifteen pants and thirty reusable inserts and **Baby Kicks** donated a sample package of four pants and six cloth in-



Patrick the Peanuts Man



Thank you Patrick for coming as you promised to share your product with the children and to interact with them. They appreciate the packets of peanuts and the loving spirit that you showed them as you distributed your gifts. Thank you so much and we hope to see you again and good luck in your business!

Special Support, Donations, and Visitors

Visitors, Donations, and Good Times

St. Mary's Girls

The wonderful young women of St. Mary's came once again to lend a helping hand to the children and matrons of SHERP. The girls spent almost two hours cleaning, helping, and interacting with the children. Many of the girls spent true quality time with our children and we greatly appreciate the care and affection that they showed our children. Thank you very much and we hope to see you all once again!



Full Gospel Church

The congregation of Maralal's Full Gospel Church came to visit us on the 19th of May. They spent the morning getting to know the children and gave fifty kilograms of rice, fruits, and foodstuff. They brought over fifty children with them for the visit. They promised to come back and renew the experience and we look forward to their return! Also, sorry again for the lack of photographs of the day!

Australians!



Australian medical team came to visit SHERP

through the BTL Samburu project with donation of clothing and money. They also had a good time with the children. Thank you and come again!

Special Support, Donations, and Visitors



Pictures of the children masquerading in their disguises! Sometimes, it's good to pretend to be someone different

Paula J. Taylor

On the 25th of May, **Paula J. Taylor**, a long time friend of SHERP, came to spend time with the children. Paula, who is a trained counselor and art therapist, brought with her balls, Frisbees, hand puppets, disguises, hula-hoops, beads and thread, an assortment of toys, and a parachute. All of her donations will be useful in SHERP because they will help the children express themselves naturally through play. She also took her time to play and interact with the children. Everyone enjoyed this time of fun. Thank you Paula for staying connected to the children of SHERP!



Donors' Page

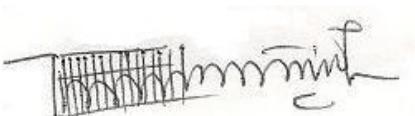
People Who Support Us and Things That Need Supporting

Below 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 ¹	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 etc)	20,000 (per term, apprx 200 euro or 235 USD)

We 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

¹. 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:

"A smile for a child is a present from God"

Kiswahili:

"Tabasamu kwa mtoto ni zawadi kutoka kwa Mungu "

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 education needs.

Four of our SHERP Team members, SHERP NL in the Netherlands, Grace's Children Fund in the United States, GO Campaign in the United States, and Rafiki in Canada offer ways to donate money to SHERP:

SHERP NL.....www.sherp.nl
GO Campaign.....www.gocampaign.org

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
Phone: +254 721566094(**M-pesa**)

Supporters During the Quarter

- SHERP NL
- GO Campaign
- Dr. Bonnie Gillis (Canada)
- Lindsay Park (awesome Skype call!)
- Dr Mark and Carolyn Cooks
- Kenya Society for the Blind
- Mugie Ranch



Thank You!