

# SHERP



## Samburu Handicap Education and Rehabilitation Programme

### End of Year Report for the SHERP Sustainability Project



#### *Construction Project Targets for 2013:*

1. Dorm Renovation
2. Bathroom and Restroom Renovation
3. At Least Three Additional Cottages

The completed Safaricom House, above, and our three cottage unit, above left

**S**HERP is growing larger and more sustainable every quarter! This quarter saw the completion of the **Safaricom House**! This large structure was rented out in its entirety by AM-REF International who has agreed to use the building for the next four years as their office here in Maralal! The money from this cottage will greatly ease the burden of providing food and other necessary items to our children! Thank you again **Michael Karanja** for

helping to facilitate the process of procuring the funds from the **Safaricom Foundation**! Thank you so very much and please know that your donation will be used to invest in the lives of children at SHERP for many, many years to come.

SHERP also is close to finishing a three cottage unit! This unit was funded by a mixture of different donors as **Pippo Zacharia, NFDK and National Council for persons with Disability** we were able to complete it in mid Decem-

ber. The three unit structure, which will have two units that have two bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen, and restroom, and one unit with a single bedroom, sitting room, kitchen, and restroom, will be used to target persons who want a space larger than our standard bed-sitter but smaller than our large Safaricom House.

The added income from both of these projects gives a large and highly helpful boost to our organization. Truly, our vision of self sustainability is within

# 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.

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!



A group of our younger children playing in our field

# Medical Report

## Possible future surgeries and a word of thanks



After surgery



Before surgery

*Stella pictured on 24/12/2012 a few months after surgery. Stella first visit to SHERP in August 2012 before surgery. This is an amazing transformation CHEERS SHERP NL*

This quarter saw many children undergoing various types of surgeries. The following types of surgeries were performed during this quarter.(Neurosurgery, cleft surgery, eye surgery and orthopaedic surgery) A total of 21 children underwent surgery. Most of the children who underwent surgery this quarter were from Samburu North Baragoi/south Horr regions and a few from Samburu central.

One of the children attended clinic after receiving both spina bifida and release of pressure from the brain. It is amazing how the child is recovering so well. I want to say that without the support of **SHERP NL** all this life changing surgeries will be impossible.



After surgery

More than 20 children received different types of surgeries eye, orthopedic and cleft surgeries. Bravo to SHERP NL for the support.



Before surgery

# GRADUATION

Congratulations to the SHERP class of 2012

The class of 2012 has finally completed their primary school education! We had twelve students from Maralal DEB, the local primary school, three students from the Mugie Ranch, and four students from various other schools sit for the primary school examination this year. This class, which is the largest group of children to sit for primary school examination in SHERP history, worked hard throughout the year and we hope they performed well enough to attend secondary school. These children, who were a mix of visual, hearing, and physical disabilities, represents many years of investment from our donors, friends, and supports. Without their aid, these children would most likely not have received a chance to attend primary school. Special thanks to **SHERP NL** for their commitment.

This class carried with them a rather unique sense of self value. Whereas many of our earlier students were vague about their dreams and aspirations after primary, the majority of this year's class held firm desires to attend secondary and even go on to university.

We also had six children finish their secondary schooling! Of these six, we hope that at least three of them will have scores good enough to continue their education on to university. Special thanks to **SHEPR NL** for providing funding for these students.



Some of our primary school candidates: Top photo, from left to right, Sakati, Daniel Raston, Jackline, Manjelina, Canal, Narikai, Jamaka, and Mark Ltangason. Bottom pictures, from left to right, Isaac and Moses Lenchan.

We also thank **Dr. Bonnie Gillis** for her counseling and support to these children.

Maring Ngitok, our visually impaired student at Kenyatta University, and Josephat Lesinjir, our physically challenged student at Laikipia University, are both doing well. We will hopefully be getting the results back from their most recent semester and we fully expect them to have performed well.

We hope that these students of SHERP will one day act as role models for future generations of students at SHERP. We envision a day wherein we will have a pool of successful young men and women with disabilities who will come to SHERP in order talk to the children about the value

# CHRISTMAS

Celebrating Christmas In Style Here in Maralal!



**C**hristmas comes but once a year and we try our best to make the day a really special occasion. This year, with the combined efforts of SHERP's three heroines **Sylvie**, **Kristin**, and **Janett**, we were able to host one of SHERP's best Christmases yet. Most of the decorations, and all of the masks that the children are wearing throughout this newsletter, were handmade in the Special Needs Classroom.

The festivities started with loud Christmas music and eventually built its way up into a very nice dance party! The children were able to eat chapatti, meat stew, cabbages, and other types of vegetables while also enjoying a soda. Like every year SHERP has been in existence, **Grace Seneiya** came to personally serve the children food and drink and to supervise the activities. The goat that was eaten was generously provided by Mr Johanna Lempeei of Ngilai Baragoi (Grace's uncle) and it proved to be more than

enough for the children and staff, the sodas and biscuits were donated by **Samburu County council**. We also thank **Mr. Kamau Njoroge** a soda distributor for buying more soda for the children.

Each of the small children also received a new set of clothing to wear! Every child at the center received either a bangle or a necklace, beautiful gifts provided by **Krstin** and her mother **Uta**!



# ARRIVALS and SPECIAL SUPPORT

Help and Support from All Corners of the World



Janett working with Joseph.



Seiye rollin' in her new wheelchair!

**A** new volunteer has come to improve the lives of the children of SHERP! **Janett Große**, from Germany, was trained in both social work and physiotherapy. She has been using her knowledge and skills in order to work with the smallest and most vulnerable children at the center. Her dedication and work ethic have really been a boost for our program and we are very lucky to have her for the next few weeks!

**S**HERP received a donation of a wonderful and brand new wheelchair from **Sorg Rollstuhltechnik** company based in Germany! The wheelchair went to Seiye, one of the newer children at SHERP who did not receive a wheelchair earlier this year. The wheelchair was brought to Kenya by **Manuel Dugue** who also helped to repair some of our broken wheelchairs. Thank you Sorg Rollstuhltechnik for your spectacular donation and thank you Manuel for transporting it to us!

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer here at SHERP, please feel free to contact us. Contact information can be found at the back of this newsletter. Due to the changing nature of our financial situation, we will need to negotiate individual terms and conditions of the possible volunteer experience. Again, please feel free to contact us in order to learn more!

# DONATIONS and SUPPORT

Medicine, Snacks, and Plenty of Generosity and Thoughtfulness

## Sungura Family Donation



Sungura family with the children of SHERP on Boxing Day

**T**he **Sungura** family came by SHERP with an unexpected, but much needed, donation of food on Boxing Day (December 26th). They brought with them 25 kilos of maize meal, 10 boxes of biscuits, 5 large bales of corn snacks, and many bags of candy. We were not expecting them and we were touched by their thoughtfulness. Many times, the children here at SHERP are forgotten during the holiday season but the Sungura family remembered them and gave them an unexpected and delicious surprise. Thank you very much for helping to make this holiday season cheerful!

## Halloween



The winners of the apple bobbing contest!

## Pastor Kenneth Black



Pastor Black with some of the donations of medicine

**P**astor Ken Black, pictured above in the jacket, delivered much appreciated medicines to the children this quarter. Band aids, bandages, anti-septics, pain relievers, and various creams will go a long way in ensuring that our children remain healthy and happy. Thank you!

**W**ith the help of **Kathleen Heerschap, Sylvie Mayordomo, David Burns, and Nicole Gerimia**, SHERP hosted a spooky and fun filled evening of mazes and games. A dim and twisting, and wheelchair accessible, 205 foot long maze was constructed inside of SHERP's workshop. At the end of the maze, the children were split into two teams and competed against each other for passion fruit. They also bobbed for apples (which was perhaps the most entertaining moment of the evening). Thank you to everyone who came out and helped make the evening great!

**PAMOJA TWAVEZA December 2012**

# DONATIONS and SUPPORT

## Food, Connections and Donations

### Catholic Church of Maralal



**Jane handing out the donations to the children**

The Catholic Diocese of Maralal gave 140 kilograms of rice to the children of SHERP. That is more than one month worth of rice for our children and we thank the Church for their generosity. Special thanks to **Jane** . facilitate the donation!

### Representatives



Grace with the representatives of the Government being presented with a cash donation of 50,000 from Hon. Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka.



**S**HERP has had a long standing relationship with **OIKO Credit** and they have truly been a wonderful partner organization. In the month of October they donated to SHERP detergents and children's diapers. This donation is a giant step towards a child becoming comfortable enough to at-

tend school and physiotherapy sessions without unnecessary challenges. Thank You **OIKO Credit!**

# SHERP SPECIAL NEEDS CLASS

## An Introduction to our Special Needs Unit from Sylvie and Kristin

### Introduction

There are 27 children attending our special class at SHERP. These are the children who are not able to go to public school (yet). They are of very different ages starting at 4 years to 16 years. They have a broad range of disabilities.

Sylvie started the class last summer by doing individual activities with each child. The time for each child was very limited and the gap between each lesson was very long. Because of this, we, Sylvie and Kristin, developed a morning schedule over the last year in order to arrange groups of children who have similar abilities. Now we can see each child several times per week and they have the possibility to interact and learn from each other and are also introduced to proper social norms. In the afternoon, we often open the class to everybody to play, do arts or music or just enjoy a few hours together.

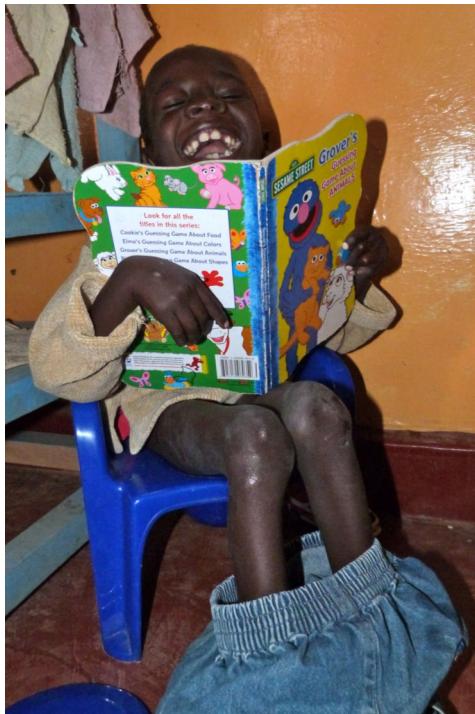
### Goals of the Classroom

Our main goal is to teach the children to become more independent and prepare some of them to go to a public school. To achieve those goals we are focusing on the following skills:

#### *Walking and Physiotherapy*

Each morning we meet at our pool which is surrounded by a walking rail with all the children who need help in order to walk. Some are then walking with walking aids, others by using just the rail to keep their balance and others need to be supported individually to be able to move. Doing this together and on a regular basis helps the children to find the strength to move and prevents them from staying in the same position the whole day.

As mentioned before, Janett continues to perform and teach physiotherapy to the staff on a daily basis. This improves the physical abilities of the children immensely and some of them show a much greater mobility than before.



Above, Mutembei proving that reading time can be anytime!

#### *Self-Care Activities and Toilet Training*

We teach the children to wash themselves, get dressed and undressed, eat and drink independently and ask to go to the toilet. Some of the children help by cleaning the classroom or getting water or by tidying up the toys after playing.



At Right, Ranton getting some exercise

# SHERP SPECIAL NEEDS CLASS

## Continuation of Goals for the Classroom



*Learning*

The biggest challenge in class is to focus the attention of the children on certain tasks. We try to improve vocabulary (recognizing, naming or showing picture cards), work on memorizing, teaching colours and numbers, and teaching them how to draw.



All children seem to feel very comfortable, happy and confidant when there is music playing or if they can engage themselves in making music and moving to the rhythm. We are often surprised how music can change them. One example is Johnny, a blind and severely physically and mentally handicapped young man, who is very withdrawn but when there is rock music playing he just moves as if he has never done anything else before.



*Music*

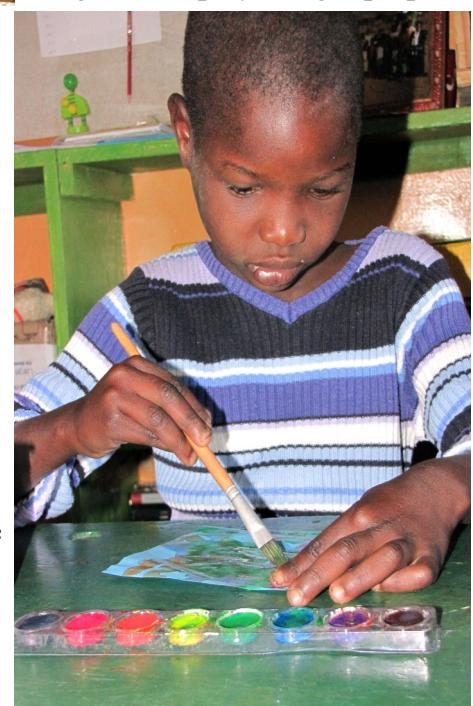
*Playing*

After focusing on a learning task the children always have the possibility to play freely. Thanks to all the donations our classroom is well stocked with playing items, toys, dolls etc. for all different age groups.



*Art*

The children very much enjoy painting. Therefore we started to let them paint postcards, masks, and decorations for Christmas. Some are able to make bead necklaces, others enjoy making things out of play dough, prepar-



# SHERP SPECIAL NEEDS CLASS

## Goals and What We Need

### *Discovering the Outer World*

We regularly visit the local cattle market with some of our children due to the fact that they never have the possibility to see the world outside of the SHERP compound. The children were apprehensive at first but they now enjoy these trips, which are made unforgettable by the chai and mandazi (a hard cake) taken at the local hoteli (restaurant).

The teaching level of our class is certainly not very high but we focus mainly on the happiness of our children. Whatever the children learn and what they succeed in helps them to gain confidence and freedom.

We wish we could teach the children more skills and would love to improve the way we teach and care for the children. Any support, whether it by in the form of new ideas, knowledge about special education or how to handle certain disabilities, would be more than welcome!



### *What We Need*

As mentioned above, professionals who could teach us certain skills to improve our work are very welcome. We would love to increase the range of our musical instruments.

As playing items break very fast we are always in the need for new toys. We also wish to ask the Ministry of Education through the County Director to attach a special needs education teacher in our special class since it is the only special education preparatory class in the whole county.



# Get Involved

## How You Can Help

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:

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 Website: [www.sherp-kenya.org](http://www.sherp-kenya.org)



English:  
 "I am fine"

Kiswahili:  
 "Niko poa"

### Supporters During the Quarter

- SHERP NL
- GO Campaign
- Jeanette Ciccarelli (Australia)
- Dr. Bonnie Gillis (Canada)
- District Commissioner Samburu
- Lindsay Park (Canada)
- Maralal DEB
- National Council for Persons with Disability
- Pippo Zacharia (Italy)
- Sungura Family
- Catholic church of Maralal
- Oiko Credit
- Thomas Leremore
- Red cross

Thank You!