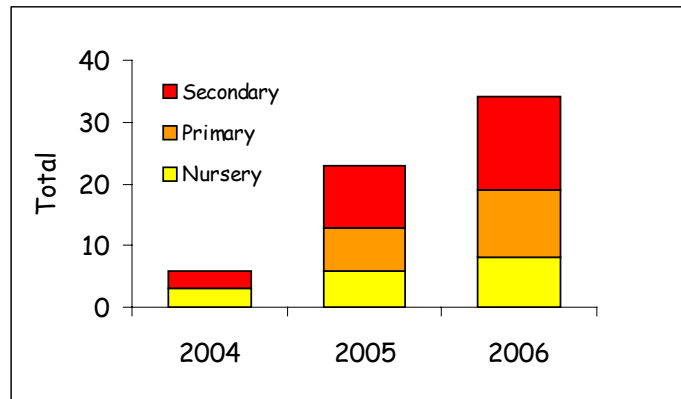


Kesho News

January - May, 2006

Kesho has had a really positive start to the year and have obtained sponsorship for an additional 15 students. Since we started, a total of 40 children have benefitted through Kesho. We are currently sponsoring a 35 students (16 Boys and 19 Girls) of which 10 are orphans (see graph).



In response to this rapid rate of growth we have taken on three extra committee members here in Kenya (Tabitha Mwangi, Saida Ahmed and Terina Carnall) and also appointed a Treasurer and Secretary in the UK (Drs. Joanne Jenkins and Lisa White) to manage the collection of sponsorship money from our UK sponsors.

We are in the process of registering Kesho as a charitable organisation within Kenya which will have many benefits and give us official recognition within the Ministry of Education and other relevant organisations.

In January, our accounts were sent for audit by an independent accountant in Kenya and found to be in good order. We are now in the process of developing a computerised system to manage our accounts and individual student data more efficiently.

Kesho relies on a tight referral system for filtering and prioritising new applications for sponsorship. Referrals are usually made from using the local knowledge of Committee Members and from recommendations from School Heads, The Chief and The District Minister of Education. In addition, Kesho tries to visit students at home and at school at least once a year so we can provide a level of sponsorship appropriate to their individual needs. Owing to the growth in the number of students being

sponsored, we have begun to recruit volunteer Co-Workers to assist the committee with this important process of monitoring and evaluation.

Last month, two of our members were invited to the Coast Regional Lilliane Fonds workshop in Mombasa; an organisation assisting children with special needs. It was a useful opportunity to network with other organisations working with children on the coast. Kesho frequently meets children with a wide range of special needs and where we can not offer assistance ourselves, it is important that we are able to make appropriate referrals. Kesho currently sponsors two young girls at Port Reitz School for the Disabled in Mombasa and we are considering whether to put in place the necessary procedures required by the Lilliane Trust to expand this scheme.

We are planning to make more of our Kesho Days in the future. While they are primarily an administrative forum, they also provide a unique opportunity for a broad range of other activities. By bringing students together they gradually get to know one another and feel part of a team. The committee are able to interview the older students, assess their school performance and set goals / targets for the following term. This term, we also introduced a peer review scheme whereby secondary students were matched to primary students and encouraged to get to know them, to share experiences and ultimately to act as role models; motivating and inspiring their younger peers. Next term, we plan to invite a drama group to the Kesho Day to address relevant topics of interest to the students. Drama is used extensively throughout Kenya as an accessible, enjoyable and instructive form of communication. We are very fortunate to have Saida Ahmed recently join our committee, who is a member of a drama group herself and who can help organise such events in the future.

I hope this gives you a feel for what has been happening this past year. We have come a long way but there is still a long way to go.... Thank you once again for all your support.