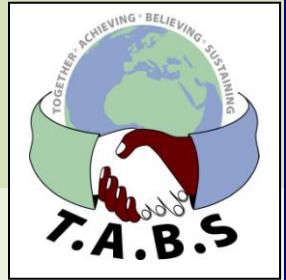




T.A.B.S



INTERNATIONAL

Issue 3

December 2009

Christmas Appeal

Kiandatu, Thika in Kenya

We have been supporting a small project in a slum called Kiandatu on the outskirts of Thika, a town 50kms north of Nairobi, Kenya for the past 8 years.

We first came across Kiandatu when 2 TABS board members visited the project whilst on a personal trip to Kenya through their own churches. Rachel and Susanna were so struck by the level of need there, especially from the children, that Kiandatu has never been far from TABS's thoughts. Many of the children are orphans and live, eat and sleep at the project which is their only source of food and shelter.

The project feeds and educates over 100 children from the slum every day. They live a hand to mouth existence and receive no other support. *(continues on page 2)*

Lessons from Kabbubu

Some of you may remember that in summer 2008 we visited a village in Uganda with a group of volunteers from the UK.



This village had had the ongoing support from a charity called the Quicken Trust for some years and had developed so much from this continued approach that it is now a self sustainable village, looking after the needs of its own residents and building itself up through social and business enterprise.

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Christmas Appeal - Continued

We have decided to adopt this project formally and have set up a joint development group with the amazing people that run the project, in order to improve and expand the work going on there. The map below shows you where Kiandatu is in Kenya.



Kiandatu, on the outskirts of Thika, 50kms north of Nairobi.

It is our aim to help purchase the project a small piece of land on the outskirts of the slum where together we will build a compound, accommodating a new school, community centre, orphanage, health clinic, training facilities and a hostel for volunteers to come and work in the project.

We will work with the local community to develop training opportunities, social enterprises and be instrumental in making real changes in the lives of the people who live in Kiandatu.

Our vision is to help build this project up with the support and assistance of disadvantaged people from the UK, who would never normally have the opportunity to get involved in such a life changing experience, and volunteer abroad.

To start this amazing journey we need to raise £30,000 to assist with the purchase of the land and to start work on the compound. We also need to increase the monthly amount we support the project with from £500 to £1000. This £500 feeds and educates over 100 children a month, 50% of whom are orphans who are looked after by the older children and a small team of staff.

Kenya has seen a massive inflation rate of over 26% this year and this has had a huge impact on the price of food and other essential items. The poorest of the poor are the ones who suffer the most, which is why it is crucial to increase our monthly donation to the project. It really is a matter of life or death for these children, and currently £500 a month is not meeting even their most basic needs.

For information and ways you can help please see page 4.

Lessons from Kabbubu - continued

Unexpectedly we had to change the destination of our last trip in August 2008 from Kenya to Uganda. However, at TABS we believe everything happens for a reason, and not only did the volunteers have an amazing experience, we also had the opportunity to be totally inspired by the set up of the Quicken Trust in Kabbubu.

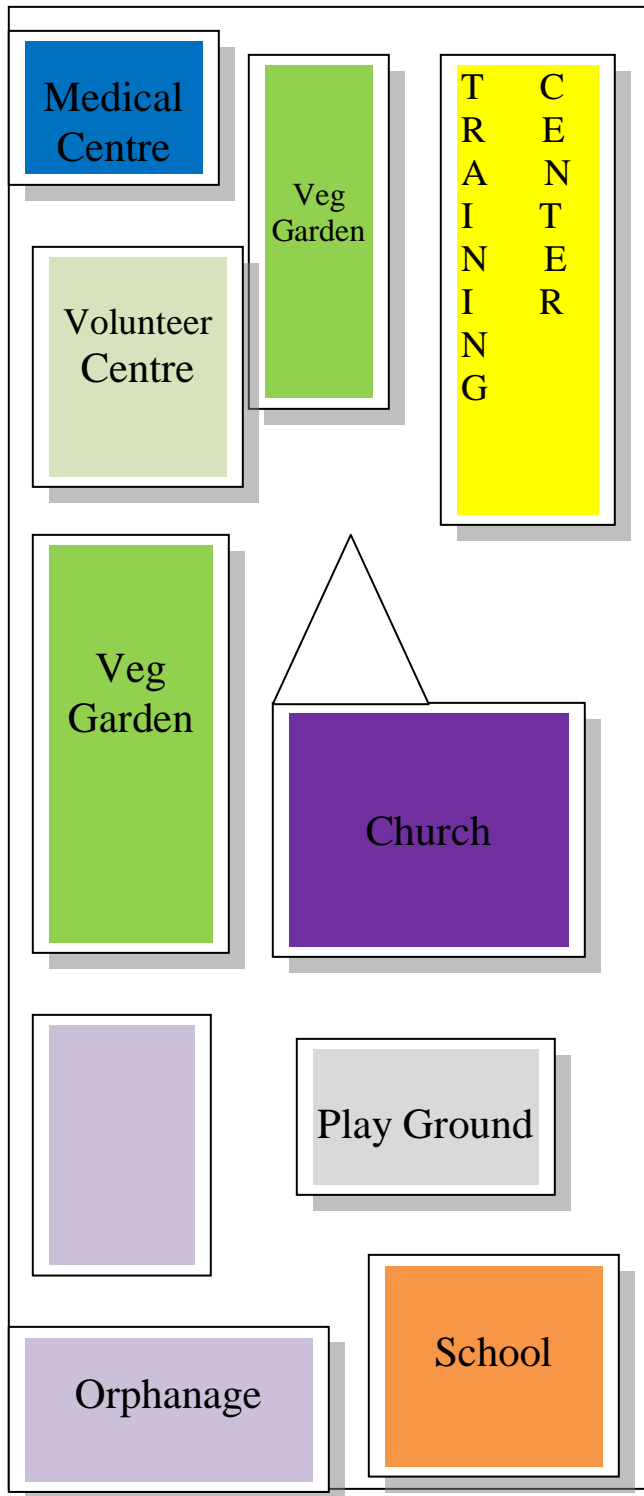
The idea to focus all efforts in one place struck us as so simple but very effective. The ongoing continued support has not only helped a forgotten village to once again meet its own basic needs, but has also enabled it to become self sustainable, educate its own children so they can come back and be the teachers and doctors of the future, and give the many orphans a chance to fulfill their potential.

We believe this is a model that would work equally effectively in Kenya.

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This is why we have committed TABS to Kiandatu for the foreseeable future, and with the continued supports from you, our friends of TABS, we believe we can help change the lives of many people.

OUR VISION FOR KIANDATU



SO WHAT NEXT?

The first challenge is to raise our monthly support from £500 per month to £1000 as mentioned previously to improve the support to the children in the existing project!

Our next is to raise the £30,000 needed to buy the land and start the compound.

2 of our trustees, Rachel and Kath will be going to meet with our partners in Thika next March 2010 in order to move our plans forward. A piece of land has been identified which is fantastic and it is important to see this and how our support is helping the project.

We are also planning another volunteer trip for January 2011, where we hope to put our volunteers to hard labour clearing the land and possibly starting the compound walls. Planning a volunteer trip takes a lot of time which is why we have to start so early, and people are currently busy working hard behind the scenes to get this going. We hope to take 10 volunteers with us this time, and those 10 plus the team leaders are certainly going to have their work cut out!

Previous volunteers have expressed how difficult it is to put yourself in a totally alien environment that challenges you in every way; physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually, but also testify to the opportunity being a life changing experience that has impacted on every aspect of their lives and is something they will never ever forget.



Trustee Vacancy

At TABS we currently have an exciting opportunity for a new member to join the team. We have an opening for a Trustee who has a particular interest and skill base in fundraising, preferably someone who has had experience of writing funding applications and knows how to tap into various funding streams.

We feel it is important that the right person is sympathetic to our Christian faith base and values, which underpin the vision and passion for TABS.

We meet 4 times a year at various places across the country to accommodate people's travel needs and you must be willing to sign up to the Roles and Responsibilities of becoming a trustee. For more information on what these are and what it means to be a Trustee visit; www.charity-commission.gov.uk

For an informal chat please contact **Rachel Sanders** on **07803958232**

HOW CAN I HELP?

- Become a friend of TABS
- A one off donation.
- Payroll giving.
- Sponsor a school placement.
- Hold a fundraising event for TABS.

*For more information on how you can support us please contact **any of the trustees** or write to **TABS International at PO Box 5129, Bedworth, Warwickshire, CV12 2BJ***

Fundraising and Friends of TABS

Once again we would like to say a huge thank you to all those who have supported us over the last year, and who continue to support us in our future plans. We really would not be able to continue without your ongoing efforts, and we are delighted to hear about the new and creative ways you keep the money rolling in.

It would be impossible to thank everyone in the newsletter, but we would like to say a special thank you to Nicky Tilly and her team from Chapter 1 Housing Association who have tirelessly and enthusiastically supported us all year. Below are some photo's of the things they have done.



Staff and residents held a summer fete at their project and raised £129 for TABS

Some art work from an International evening held at a Chapter 1 Project in London. They had a bar and raised £143.50 for TABS



Staff made Valentines Chocolates to sell and raised £70.50 for TABS

It just leaves us to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and New Year, and to hope our plans with the Grace of God come to fruition.