

- Even With a Crisis Situation all Over the World -

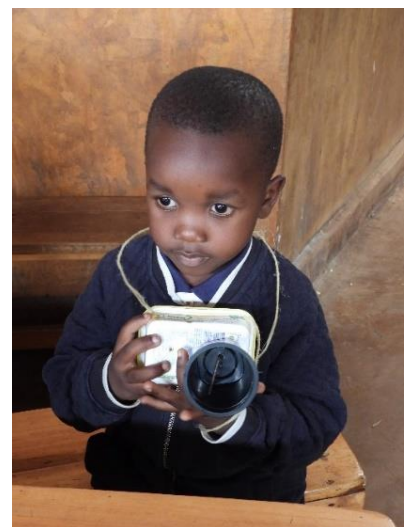
HOPE AND CREATIVITY GROW TOGETHER

Building Future Capacities for the Most Vulnerable Children of Africa



THE LITTLE BOY

No, No The little boy in the photo does not have a real camera! One year ago he did not even have a place he could call home. He lived somewhere in the slums of Nairobi - Kenya. His numerous challenges range from having an irresponsible father, losing his mother after years of illness and being left alone with his sister who is also young. These are his many traumatizing experiences he carries in his little soul during his first years of childhood - one of extreme poverty. Now he and his sister have been rescued and saved by being taken into the boarding facility at the big Mbagathi School - The Rudolf Steiner School in Nairobi in Kenya. Now he has a nice bunk bed, he gets good meals, there is space for him in the Kindergarten at the school, and he has 4 boarding 'parents', who tirelessly care for him and for the 120 children from the age of 3 up to 15 living in the boarding.



Back to the camera! Yes, he still does not have a real camera, but he has another camera as you see in the photo, which he might love much more because he has made it himself! He did it out of a little yoghurt cup, an empty butter box and an old string. All things, which he has just found on his way! His past traumas have slowly faded away over the last year. The hope, that he will also have a future in this world, has activated his imagination, and now he has started developing creativity in his little soul. He will continue his way through life, by schooling together with all the 400 other, mainly underprivileged children at the Mbagathi School. He has got the chance to grow in a warm and healthy school community.



THE TEACHER

Petronilla in the photo is a young Kenyan teacher also at the Mbagathi School - is with her class 8. They are having a physics lesson, where they are trying to experience and deepen all the amazing phenomena of the world. Petronilla is excited to teach physics, and the young children are inspired by her excitement and interest in the world. But she has like 'the little camera-boy' been activating her imagination and creativity. The available tools for physics and chemistry are not many...so a few simple items will show the physical laws. From the photo we see the wonderful exploration of magnetism. Look at the boy pointing! The young students and the teacher have a certain hope, that life can be changed through schooling – a way out of poverty and human suffering can be found by learning.

THE COOK



How can you manage day after day over many years to be the cook at the Mbagathi School preparing daily school meals for 400 children and 55 staff members and casuals, having a kitchen with big wood and gas stoves – and still be happy? Mehta - the cook - has an important task: to use his creativity to prepare healthy meals even in the current situation marked by a food crisis, no food security, rise of food prices and many hungry mouths to feed. Luckily, he knows that he is a part of a whole strong community aiming for the same goal; to serve the neediest children of Kenya with education and a new strength for their lives.

THE MBAGATHI - SCHOOL

The Mbagathi School has grown and developed year after year into a strong fully operational community that always and faithfully keeps the aim of the school in focus: To bring Waldorf Education that builds future individual capacities to the most needy, traumatized and vulnerable children in the society who live in the poorest areas of Nairobi.



The Mbagathi School is called 'The Mother School' of East Africa because from there the Waldorf/Steiner pedagogy has been radiating out to the neighbouring countries namely Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Zanzibar. It is currently working together under East African Association of Waldorf Schools.

The Mbagathi School is a kind of 'model school'. The Waldorf Teacher Training - a running modular course with around 70 students from the whole of East Africa - has since 1997 taken place 3 times a year also many Teacher Conferences are hosted at the school. This creates strong bonds and a community experience that is felt across borders as well as cultures. The school has over the years developed a farm, spearheading Biodynamic farming in East Africa and a strong "Going Green"

impulse with sustainable initiatives such as solar power, water conservation and healthy food production – giving local workers a job.



THE BACKGROUND



There is a very dark background to overcome. In October 2022, drought in Kenya was declared a state of national emergency. There is an overwhelming and widespread drought in Kenya and over the whole Horn of Africa putting millions of people under a huge threat of lack of food. The impact of covid-19 financial consequences in Kenya during lockdowns and loss of jobs for so many underprivileged people was not solved. Then came the Ukraine war and among



other consequences there was a stoppage of imports of important wheat products. All prices of food, oil, fuel – went rocketing up, with an extreme rise in inflation. This meant a lot of suffering. It is clear, that it is the poorest in the Kenyan Society, who suffer most - especially the children.

All roads and the whole environment are dusty with a layer of red dust, just as the situation also creates a layer of dust on the souls of the children. There is very little hope for their families in the slums. All energy goes to fighting for the most basic need, which is something to eat and water to drink. Many of the children at the Mbagathi School come to school hungry every morning. During the holidays, when they are away from school, their skin becomes dry, their hair turns grey/red and they become thinner. All this is a result of malnutrition, poverty and drought.



SPONSORSHIP



But YOU CAN Help

The whole running of the Mbagathi School is based on sponsorship. Amazing and difficult to understand, how a large school with the current number of 400 children and the whole school community of 20 teachers and a non-teaching staff of 35 working year after year since its start in 1989 has managed to run by sponsorships and donation.

YOU CAN BE A SPONSOR TO A CHILD by paying **Euro 33** per month or **Euro 396** per year. The sponsorship covers schooling and daily school meals. You can choose to have a named child, who you can have contact with, or a more general sponsorship, which covers the same for a child. For more information contact:

School Leader: judith.brown-school.leader@steinerschoolmbagathi.co.ke or

Sponsorship office Leader: mercy.njoki-sponsorshipoffice@steinerschoolmbagathi.co.ke

