



Wamumbi Orphan Care Foundation

# WAMUMBI ORPHAN CARE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

1<sup>st</sup> January 2016

ISSUE 3

**Welcome** to our third annual newsletter! Wamumbi Orphan Care Foundation works in partnership with Wamumbi Orphan Care, a registered community based organisation in Kenya.

Thanks to all of your support, we were able to provide grants to our partner organisation, Wamumbi Orphan Care, so they could carry out both essential and exciting activities for the benefit of 57 orphaned children in 2015. It was a busy year for us with some challenges and many success stories to share with you.

Continue reading to find out more about how we're supporting the children to overcome their difficult circumstances to become fully participating members of their communities...



Wamumbi Orphan Care children during a workshop in April 2015



## CHANGES IN WAMUMBI ORPHAN CARE FOUNDATION

There were a few changes in the organization with Frederique Brigham and David Gwynfor Edwards stepping down as trustees and being replaced with Angharad Stockwell and Gareth Williams. Angharad and Gareth have already been making significant contributions to the running of the charity and fundraising efforts in the UK.

## EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

In 2015 many activities took place in North Wales to raise funds for school fees, training courses, and apprenticeships for our young people in Kenya. The One World Gala, an international talent show, was organized by Bangor University in March, where we sold homemade cakes and jewellery, held a raffle, and had an information stand. This was a fantastic event with over 400 people in attendance and we raised £560.



The team, (l-r) Genevieve, Angharad, Martha Cronin, Modong and Anne, manning the jewellery and cake stands at the One World Gala in March 2015.

Cakes continued to be baked and jewellery made and sold at various points in the year, with the last fundraising event of 2015 taking place at the Student Christmas Market at Bangor University. The amount raised from the day was just £150 but this was doubled thanks to match funding from Santander bank.



Selling jewellery and Christmas decorations at the Student Christmas Market at Bangor University in December 2015.

In 2015, we supported 15 teenagers through secondary school and Martha helped two more successfully apply for Equity Bank 'Wings to Fly' scholarships. Their good grades led to them being accepted on the programme and they are being funded on extra curricular activities during school holidays as well as having their school fees fully catered for. We also raised enough funds for one of our teenage girls to do a practical training course in tailoring, two boys to undertake a two-year mechanics apprenticeship with a local garage, and one of our boys to complete a computer course that he'd started but was unable to find the remaining funds for. We are already seeing those we've helped with training in the past get jobs and move on from Wamumbi Orphan Care because they are able to support themselves, so we're hoping for similar successes for our current group. Martha always takes the time to talk to our teenagers about what they would like to do and their skills so that we can support them as best we can.





Two of our teenagers, who were accepted on the Equity Bank's 'Wings to Fly' scholarship programme, packed and ready to start school in January 2015.

*In 2015, 17 teenage boys and girls from WOC were able to continue secondary education; one boy completed a computer course; one girl started a tailoring apprenticeship; two boys started mechanics apprenticeships with a local garage.*

#### KITCHEN GARDEN UPDATE, EMERGENCY FOODSTUFFS AND BEDS FOR OUR NEW FAMILIES

The WOC project management committee was very busy making seedbeds again this year but twice failed due to severe weather events that damaged the seedlings too much. A lot of energy and time was invested for little result, which was disheartening but they will try again when the weather is more conducive to the survival of the crops. We were able to give out some emergency foodstuffs to the families that needed some assistance during these times; this was particularly the case for six new families we took on. Our new families were supported with chickens and chicken houses, and each household was assessed for specific needs. Where we found that sleeping conditions were very poor, we gave out beds with mattresses and blankets. We administered our annual food security survey in September and October to assess any changes over the years since starting the kitchen gardening and chicken projects in 2012.

After Genevieve did a talk at the Menai Strait's Women's Institute in January, she was invited to do another talk with a group of ladies in Llandudno. They were interested in supporting our work and held a fundraising tea party in May, which raised £350 in an afternoon. This group has continued to support us with donations towards various projects since then and have really been a great help and fun to meet with. It was thanks to them that we were able provide our newest families with the things they needed to become a little more comfortable and food secure.



New families with beds distributed in June-July 2015.

#### CREATIVE GROUP COUNSELLING WORKSHOPS

Thanks to a grant from The Chalk Cliff Trust in early 2015 to run a series of workshops with the children and guardians, we were in a position to run a 10-day theatre therapy workshop and a four-day music workshop in April, a two-day group counselling session with our guardians in May, and a six-day boys' counselling workshop in August. They were facilitated by wonderful facilitators, Leonidah, Masese, Ken and David, who have established good relationships with the children over the past two years of running similar workshops with us. Towards the end of August, we also held a sexual health workshop with our long-standing friend and colleague Kathy Tate-Bradish of The ABCs of Sex Education, who taught the children about



transmission of STIs/STDs and refusal skills through role-play. The youth counsellor we work with, David Mwakodi, took footage during the workshops to understand how the children have benefited from being part of Wamumbi Orphan Care and the video can be viewed online along with other short video clips we've made over the past few years: enter 'Wamumbi Orphan Care videos' into the YouTube search box.



Children during the music workshop in April 2015.

*In 2015, we provided 39 youngsters from WOC with counselling through the medium of a 10-day residential theatre therapy course. 45 boys and girls attended a four-day music workshop. 32 guardians came together during a two-day counselling session to share experiences and support one another. 20 boys attended a six-day residential youth counselling workshop. 34 boys and girls benefited from a sexual health workshop.*



Before and during the sexual health workshop in August 2015.

### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Thanks to a grant received from Souter Charitable Trust in February 2015 to cover running costs for a year, Wamumbi Orphan Care was able to continue renting an office in Kangema to hold meetings, workshops, and run our library from. There were also adequate funds to do home visits and other necessary follow-up activities with all of our children and their guardians. During a visit to Kenya in July, Genevieve and Martha called a meeting with the Wamumbi Orphan Care project management committee to discuss recent activities and plans for the future. This was an opportunity to drop off more books for our small library and we had a session making clay sculptures with sculptaface kits provided by Richard Austin, a friend from Cornwall. The kits are being kept in the office for future use with the children.





Discussing current issues and plans for the future with the Wamumbi Orphan Care project management committee in July 2015.

A group of ladies led by Sharon Crowden from the Menai Strait's Women's Institute crocheted beautiful shawls and blankets for all the guardians of the children in our group. They shipped them over in time to be distributed at our Christmas meeting.



Our Wamumbi Orphan Care guardians in Kenya with their new shawls handmade by a group of ladies in North Wales.

*There has been great progress this year and we are looking forward to continuing our efforts in the following year with your help! Like us on **Facebook** to receive regular updates on our work.*

**WAMUMBI ORPHAN CARE FOUNDATION TRUSTEES:**

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