



Update from the Education Exchange trustees to all our donors & supporters *December 2012*

Headlines

- All our projects in Kenya are flourishing
- We have seen a major increase in giving each month
- Our website will soon be up and running
- The Charities Commission have awarded us Charitable Status
- The film of our April visit is nearly ready– and is a brilliant insight into our work in Kenya
- We have held a number of highly successful fundraising events in 2012
- Our contact details have changed

Massive progress on all fronts this year!

Our major tasks in 2012 were UK-based: as we told you in our May newsletter we were aiming to apply for charitable status, create a website, make a film of Sue & Dave Shorten’s April visit– and recruit as many new donors as possible.

As you will read in this newsletter, we have made major progress on all these tasks.

At the same time we have continued to support all our projects in Kenya

So 2012 has been an incredibly successful year– thanks to all of you!

Now we have charitable status

On 1st November 2012 Education Exchange was awarded charitable status by the Charities Commission (Registered Charity Number 1149665). The application process is long and rigorous but we were able to convince the Commission of the worthiness of our aims. The first practical benefit is that we can apply for Gift Aid on all donations from donors who are taxpayers– this has the potential to increase our income by 25%. This year has seen the number of regular donors more than double and we will be writing to them all in the new year.



Grace– now training as a nurse with our financial support– suggests a motto for 2013. Good idea, Grace!

Education Exchange new contact details

www.education-exchange.co.uk
info@education-exchange.co.uk
07899 074526
01953 681526
Twitter : @EducationEx

Education Exchange Trustees:
Tudor Venn (Chairman)
Dave Shorten (Secretary)
Tim Porter
Ellie Stewart

New website and film to be launched in the New Year

Education Exchange is about to launch a new website .We have had superb support from Tony at Dragon Micro, who has donated time and expertise to get the site up and running. It will act as a powerful means of keeping our supporters up to date and informing other potential donors. We have a new email address which is already active. You can follow us on Twitter too (see all contact details in the adjacent panel). Mark Jones, Head of Media at Samuel Ward Academy, Haverhill, is in the final stages of creating a film about our work. It will be available from the website and in DVD format in early 2013. It is brilliant– and certain to win Oscars and BAFTAs next year!!



Bringing people together in Kenya and the UK



Dave Shorten presents one of the first IT diploma winners with his certificate. Upper Planet Centre Manager George Mwakisha and Sue look on with pride

Update on our projects in Kenya

Mary & Marilyn's two sales in 2012 raised a total of £1595- this is the most they've ever raised and is a fantastic effort in difficult financial times. Thank you to both of you! The funds will be used to support secondary pupils at Mwangeka High School at risk of dropping out of education because their parents can't afford the fees. So at the start of the new school year in Jan 2013 we will be able to help up to 40 young people to stay in educa-

tion. Our newly opened Upper Planet Training Centre has seen 19 students pass exams in IT- a great achievement in year one of the project! Also the Centre stays open in the evening to act as a Cybercafé, which brings in useful income. Mvono Health Clinic is gearing up for discussion with us later in 2013 so that we can work out a programme of support. We talk regularly by email with the owner, Selina and we are likely get actively involved in 2014.

Taita Environmental Initiative continues to increase the number of members who are being given small loans to help them out of poverty- we're now up to nearly 40! TEI is also looking to rent a café in Wundanyi which will act as head office and bring in major income. Their business plan will be shared with us in early 2013- so will the Upper Planet business plan- along with other ideas to develop local business and make the economy of the Wundanyi area more prosperous.

Suffolk fundraising timetable 2013:

Reach Out & Touch (Arts evening)

**All Saints Hopton
Sat 19th Jan 7pm**

Table-top sale

**Hopton Village Hall
Sat 2nd March 10am**

**Mary & Marilyn's
Spring Fundraiser
All Saints Hopton
Sat 18th May 10am**

Education Exchange needs to continue to recruit new donors to fund future developments with our Kenyan partners. Please tell your friends about us!

The TEI named loan scheme

In our May issue we outlined a new scheme in which :

- * UK donors know the identity of the person they are helping
- * They know details of the project that the loan is funding
- * They receive regular updates on the project

* At the end of the loan period, donors either get their money back or choose to fund another person and another project

Back in May three Suffolk people made loans under this scheme. Now the number has risen to seven, with

This is Elvis. His mother got a loan from TEI and he is training to be a teacher

the most recent loans having been allocated by the TEI Board in the last few weeks. This now means that seven people will have a clearer picture of how tough life is for our Kenyan brothers & sisters. If you'd like to give a donation in this way please get in touch



Reminders for our supporters

We will invite you all to our Annual Meeting which will be held in May - our financial year ends in March.

We are compiling a supporter and donor contact list with everyone's email, phone number and address. If you do not wish your details to be included please let us know.

When we held our first public meeting in January 2012 we had five regular donors each month, saving a total of £80 . A year later we have twelve donors, saving £185 per month . Now that we have charitable status, Gift Aid gives us the potential to add 25% to that figure.

We want to stay a small family charity with no admin costs- but we're still looking to raise more as there is always more we can do in Kenya. Thank you all for your amazing support in 2012- here's to even more success in 2013!



Bringing people together in Kenya and the UK