

EQUITY LINK

NEWSLETTER

www.african-equity.com

IN SUPPORT OF THE HTN ORPHANGE, NYAHURURU, KENYA

HABARI!

(WELCOME)

AFRICAN EQUITY JULY NEWSLETTER.

A month sure is a long time in the growth of AE. Snowballing is probably the best way to describe the last few months.

OVERVIEW

The support has been overwhelming. A steady stream of financial support has continued to come in along with donations of goods for the container shipments. A number of schools have generously donated many trailer loads of teaching resources. Stationary, sporting equipment, tools and clothing has continued to flood in. We have goods to fill approx 3 *40ft shipping containers.

The financial support has also allowed us to start the construction of 8 new classrooms. These are desperately needed to alleviate overcrowding of the current facilities. Additionally we have been able to fund the completion of the 2 new science laboratories. This will allow us to attract up to 100 **paying** students into the project next year, mixing our orphans with children from more traditional family environments. The fees will also bring much needed revenue to the project to help meet our operating costs. Not to mention the academic

advantages we can give our students with science classes.

WEBSITE

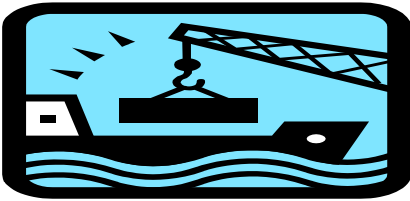
www.african-equity.com

The website is up and running. More and more people are contacting us as a result of the website. It's a great way to grow the profile of the organisation. Contributions or suggestions are most welcome. More photos/info will be added in coming weeks so keep an eye on the site.



NEW LOGO

We are very proud to be sporting a new logo. Designed and developed by Chris Goodall and his team @ Fuehl, chris@fuehl.com.au. They have also designed, developed and continue to manage our website.



CONTAINER SHIPMENTS

For some months we have been collecting goods for shipment to Africa. The containers (which we actually purchase to use as a permanent storage facility on site), will be going quarterly. We have received a massive amount of items at the collection centre (51 King St, Thornlands). We now have a crew of volunteers who are available to collect items if required. Goods can also be dropped @ Cavian Realty (opposite the train station in Shore street, Cleveland)



We are always after good used clothing items/household equipment and educational resources. As the momentum builds with Equity, more and more individuals and organizations are finding that they have contacts/links that they are using to support Equity. There are amazing resources in and around our homes and workplaces that can be utilized. One supporter has linked with a company that has donated written off goods to the value of \$150,000. Another lady has provided access to reams of copier paper that is otherwise dumped because the outer packaging is damaged. Fisher and Paykel kindly donated all of the tables and chairs from their cafeteria as well as 160 staff lockers after the closure of their Cleveland plant.

Returned goods, seconds or run out stock items are a good resource.

These goods will never appear in the Australian marketplace and will add so much benefit to others. Get your thinking caps on and start looking around. If it's just lying around doing nothing -send it where it will be used!

DID YOU KNOW THAT (IN KENYA):

- **1/39** MOTHERS **DIE** GIVING BIRTH
- **8%** OF CHILDREN **DIE** BEFORE 1ST BIRTHDAY
- **12%** OF SURVIVORS **DIE** BEFORE 5YRS
- **85%** DO NOT GET ANY REAL EDUCATION
- **6%** OF KENYAN CHILDREN ARE **ORPHANS**(2.5M)
- **26%** CHILDREN(5-14YRS) WORK TO **SURVIVE**
- **48%** OF POPULATION UNDER 18YRS OLD(19M)

KENYA

REPORT

Weston and Violet Gitonga, the on site directors, report that despite the economic difficulties, the children at the orphanage are all healthy, happy and in good spirits. They are excited to see all the construction progressing and are looking forward to the next container shipment arriving. (We have managed to fit in a few goodies for the children –including a trampoline/pool table and a dart board). Weston says the unseasonably cold conditions in Nyahururu (its 2400 feet above sea level and freezing cold at night-not what you expect when you visit Africa) are compounding the health issues faced by the poor. The blankets and warm clothing items in the next container will provide some welcome relief.

The worldwide economic downturn is truly global and is felt the most in the poorest nations. Despite the orphanages own desperate needs, Weston has been providing food and emergency relief out in the greater community. He has also organized a mobile open-air medical clinic which has been setting up at various locations in the district to deliver medical care to the most needy. He has been assisted by a team of volunteer doctors visiting from California. Weston tells how heartbreaking it is to see children dying from lack

of basic nutrition and health care. It is one of the goals for the project to open a medical/dental surgery in the township. We already have the majority of the equipment sitting (in Kenya) in containers but we still require the funding to procure premises and cover start up costs (approx \$120k is required to start the clinic-it will be self sufficient/profitable from inception). Another initiative that is underway is the garage business. African Equity has funded the leasing of premises and provided a full complement of tools to run a complete vehicle servicing centre. This business will provide employment and much needed revenue for the orphanage as it moves toward the holy grail of financial self sufficiency. Vocational training opportunities will also be available for our own students as well as providing cost effective maintenance for our own project vehicles. African Equity, through funding by a private sponsor, has arranged for Steven Kamau (manager of the Garage initiative) to visit Australia in August. In addition to achieving a lifelong goal (visiting Australia and seeing the sea), Steven will be getting valuable management training while here.

Things are progressing well with the clothing manufacturing business. A shop has been opened in the Nyahururu Township and a full time tailor is employed. A number of industrial sewing machines have been generously donated through AE (with talk of a few more coming) and they will be arriving in Kenya in the next container. Revenue, employment, vocational training will again be provided by the expansion of this initiative.

BREAKING NEWS: A Brisbane company has just donated 17,500 blank caps/hats which can be embroidered/branded by the sewing business for sale /use in Africa.

“THE WORLD IS FULL OF WILLING PEOPLE;

SOME WILLING TO WORK AND OTHERS WILLING TO LET THEM”

Robert Frost



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

The Nyahururu orphanage needs a short sharp injection of capital to help provide the hard structure and equipment to make it self sufficient. We need 100 foundation members to each contribute \$20 each week for 1 year only. It takes a fairly small change in someone's shopping /lifestyle habits to cover the \$20. That small effort will have a massive positive impact on someone else's life. Rather than looking for a spare \$20 each week, try considering giving something up for these kids in need. Satisfaction guaranteed (and it is fully tax deductible!). Contact chris@african-equity.com for a membership form. This is our primary source of much needed funding. Remember **100%** of every dollar gets there and is effectively managed to the full benefit of the children. **No money is wasted on administrative or fundraising costs. All running costs including administration, promotion and management are funded by a private sponsor. No expenses for directors are re-imbursed.** In the next year we need to construct several new dormitories as we expand to our goal of 1000 children (currently 530). Funding is also required for the development of our infant care (abandoned babies) program.

Support options-please consider

- **100 club \$20** a week for 1 year (\$1040)
- **Buy a cow \$500** will feed a lot of children!
- **Rice \$110** A 100kg bag is used in each meal
- **School pack \$75** stationary/uniform

GET INVOLVED

Since our launch a number of new people have volunteered their support. There are a number of different ways to get a greater involvement in the running of the organization. Help is needed in the areas of administration/sponsor liaison/event coordination etc....

Some people have started their own initiatives in support of equity. A local lady has been supplying wool to an energetic group of retirees who, in turn, have knitted dozens of blankets/scarves/ jerseys etc for the children in Nyahururu.

There is incredible value in networking and getting access to new workplaces and community groups often results in terrific benefits for the project.

If you want to know more please call...

PUBLICITY

African Equity has been getting good support as a result of articles about its project. The courier mail(Sunday mail) will be running a story in late July. They have also organised a senior journalist to travel with us to Kenya in October to do a full article on the project. This will be of great benefit to the organisation.

GALA/FUND RAISER

-We are currently planning our first annual night out. **28th November** @ Vino's restaurant on the Brisbane river has been circled and we would welcome input from anyone interested in helping out. Ph [Virginia](tel:0400881845) 0400 881 845

virginia@javica.com.au

TRIP...



Planning for the next African Equity trip is underway. This is an amazing opportunity to go on a fully supervised trip of a lifetime. Getting to see Africa @ ground level as well as the whole safari experience is a life changing event. The next visit is scheduled for the **2nd-12th October**. Stopovers are available in Singapore or Dubai. Up to the challenge? Call Chris on 0412 159 202 for more info... (Approx \$4k all inclusive per person)



BOARD OF DIRECTORS-



Chris (director) & Virginia Anderson

Pastor George (director) & Angie Gebran

Alan (director) & Janice Lucas

Adam & Sue Marini