



FRIENDS OF MEISORI SCHOOL, Kenya

Raising funds to provide direct practical help

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Annual Accounts Narrative for Friends of Meisori School 2009

Summary

2009 represents the second full year of operation for the charity, and at the time of writing, we have ten students in secondary education and six more beginning in February 2010.

The total funds raised in 2009 were £14,963.78 and the total expenditure was £2,298.69 leaving a bank balance of £16,008.12 which is in a Community Account at Barclay's Bank in York named as Friends of Meisori School.

We have welcomed new friends to our charity and we have said goodbye and thank you to our secretary Wendy Horsman who is moving to the Netherlands. Our new Secretary is one of the four founders, Beryl Little.

In September a group of Trustees visited Meisori Primary School and then went on to visit the seven High Schools where our students are boarders. These schools are mostly in the Tugen hills to the west of Lake Baringo and some are situated in very remote areas. This annual trip is made to ensure that we keep in close contact with all our students and also to ensure that our donors' money is being spent on precisely what we want it spent on.

Donations

Our regular donors are the friends and family of the four founders of the charity and their ongoing support is the bedrock of the project. Our donors come from Anglesey through Bristol, Poole, Hereford, Lincolnshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, London, Sheffield and York. Without them there would be no Friends of Meisori School.

During 2009 a group of members of the Counterslip Baptist Church in Bristol joined our charity and they deposited funds for the maintenance of a project that they had previously completed which supplies Meisori School with fresh water. Also during the year they raised other funds that have been ring-fenced for a spending decision that they will make. The total of these funds amount to £3,615.43.



A number of presentations have been made this year and have resulted in spreading knowledge of our charity and also in the receipt of funds.

We received two separate donations of £600 from York Minster and also ongoing support from some individuals from within the Minster Community.

Huntington Methodist Church Women's group have made a number of donations following presentations.

Other friends have donated sums ranging from £5 to £500 on a one off basis during the year and that has made a huge difference to our balance.

HMRC responded to our Gift Aid claim with £913.96 in July and a claim will be made once again by the end of January.

Expenditure

School fees accounted for £2,005.35 for the current ten students, of which eight were starting their first year and two were starting their second. £1,543.35 of this expenditure was in 203,172 Kenya Shillings from existing funds in the Barclay's bank in Nairobi.

When the group of Trustees visited all the schools and students in September we took school supplies and gifts for them at a cost of £255.34.

The bank charged £35.00 to send money via the international transfer system.

All administration costs are paid by the four founders of the charity and all money donated goes towards the education of the children from Meisori Primary School.

A request has been made for a statement from the Barclay's bank in Nairobi which had 10,139 Kenya Shillings (about £77) in the account. There are costs and charges to be accounted for from this amount and these will be noted in the 2010 accounts.

The coming year

It is our intention to open a reserve account for the charity with £10,000 to so that any sponsored students currently in secondary education would be able to finish their schooling should the charity cease to exist. This is in line with guidance from the Charity Commission.

The charity is currently registered with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) but because the annual income has now exceeded £5,000 it is necessary to register with the Charity Commission, and an application has been submitted.

Six new students will start their first year in February, making a total of sixteen students from Meisori Primary School who will be at secondary school.



A group of Trustees will go to Kenya again in September and visit each one of our sponsored students in their respective schools. This year we will be taking friends from All Saints Church in Littleton, New Hampshire, whose congregation has chosen our charity for outreach donations.

We are now in touch with Mr Lekae, the headmaster from Meisori Primary School through email, and that will hopefully make a great difference to the speed and reliability of communications.

Dennis Little
Treasurer
11 January 2010

