

Of course a project like this has many supporters.



We are two amongst others such as individuals like



- Dr Bruce Dahlman, the midwife to this project,
- USA based groups who funded the building of the primary school,
- Comfort the Children, school garden project
- Cherry Orchard Primary School, Birmingham, give equipment and books
- Theatretrain & Attitude Dance Wear, Cambridge, support the dance group
- St Giles' Church, Cambridge, UK support the Girls accommodation and secondary school bursaries
- Anglia Ruskin University, UK, Mission Maasai Project and host UK Charity for donations
- Azuri Technologies Ltd (Cambridge) - solar lighting for Secondary School ..and numerous individuals through both small and large donations.

Education is what makes a difference in this world for the individual and the community and ultimately for the world. Join us to make a sustainable difference in this small but very needy community.

More information about the project and nested projects is available at

<https://sites.google.com/site/namunchaschools/>

where you can make a donation through the Anglia Ruskin University Charity website using a debit or credit card. If you wish the donation to be used for a specific project please let me know via <mailto:arthur.hibble@anglia.ac.uk>

*Thank you
Charlotte and Arthur Tulinus Hibble*

August 2013, Cambridge UK

NAMUNCHA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PROJECT

"Hi, we are from Namuncha, a Maasai community in the Rift Valley 100km north west of Nairobi. At the turn of the century our community built the first tin and wood school house. Now just over 600 of us crowd into 8 classrooms that now make up the primary school.



Some of us walk up to 5 km across open bush to get to school, gathering firewood on the way to build the kitchen fire for lunch."



Welcome, join us and be our friends, we need help but we also share our hope and inspiration for global health and education.

They say Africa gets under your skin and it does, but more importantly it is the Africans who get into your heart. Kenya and specifically the Rift Valley is our common human ancestral home. This is where we all began and to where we return and invite you to join us.

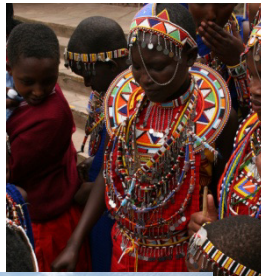
Namuncha is a poor pastoralist community whose currency is animals which are only now recovering in numbers and strength after the dry years. All Maasai know and understand the need and reason for change, moving on to fresh pastures, and this is how they have survived. They know the way forward is to educate their children and themselves. The school they have



with help built so far has been a community and therefore a personal investment.



The school provides education, feeding and community development. It also offers fun, play and importantly for them traditional Maasai song and dance. A couple of teachers have built on the tradition and have written texts that convey messages about education, health, personal hygiene, sustainability and against female genital mutilation and early marriage. Through the confidence of performance the children talk to and with their elders and parents, persuading them to live in a way that provides for a better world for both Maasai girls and boys.



The success of the school has resulted in increasing numbers of pupils and pressures on accommodation. Satellite schools are now being developed to reduce the pressure on the rooms and travel distances. This in turn places pressure on the staffing levels. The government supplies 9 teachers including the head, the community pays for another 7, and these cover both primary and the new secondary levels.



An old container with a photovoltaic panel on the roof is the IT room. Here the children learn how to use modern technology educationally. There is no internet connection. The modern and the old meet head-on in Africa. You are more likely to have a mobile phone than running water or sanitation.

The teachers often travel some distance so during the week they stay in accommodation provided. Some are old, a row of tin huts, some are new, a purpose build duplex building, but so far only one.



This is dedication and commitment.

These inspirational people have created the environment and enthusiasm that has ensured that many of the pupils are now attaining high marks in the national exam that allows them access to secondary education.



Secondary education in Kenya is not free, it has to be paid for, and if the students are successful they have had to

to move to a school in Narok or Naivasha. Last year thanks to a generous donor one of the girls started studying at Naivasha. The fees and other expenses are currently just over £1000 per year for 4 years including boarding, a sum usually well beyond a Maasai farmer and his family.



The community has set up a bursary committee that finds small pots of money and distributes them according to educational attainment, vulnerability and family commitment. They also know the need to promote the education of girls and for once being female is an advantage.



The next big project is to build a secondary school.

This now underway. Three classrooms have been built and are now roofed and secured with doors.

The floor is still dirt, the walls not yet plastered and the windows are unglazed. However, classes are happening.

In addition to walls and windows they need classroom furniture, teaching materials including textbooks and of course funds to help local families pay for the very modest local fees.

