



Vision Africa – Celebrating 10 years

Vision Africa – Give a Child a Future is celebrating its tenth anniversary.

In honour of the occasion, we bring you “The Kumi Collection”. Kumi is the Kiswahili word for ten and over the coming year we will look back over ten years of working with disadvantaged children in Kenya and look forward to the bright futures ahead for children currently being supported by the projects with which we partner.

Over the course of 2012, we are planning many events to be held both in Kenya and overseas to raise awareness of our work and also raise funds in fun ways. We have come up with ideas like

- Kumi Kuisine dinner parties where we provide hosts with a pack and they invite ten guests who each pay £10 to attend. The pack contains a DVD of five short videos to be shown throughout the event which will introduce people to the work of Vision Africa and share success stories of children whose lives have been impacted by a Vision Africa project
- Kumi Kwiz events which use the quiz we have prepared to raise funds in a fun way
- Kumi Olympics for schools, Sunday Schools and youth groups to learn more about Kenyan sports and sporting heroes and compete in their own mini-Olympics.
- Kumi Kulture art exhibitions which will include artwork and photographs taken by children at various Vision Africa projects throughout Kenya. This will let people find out what is important to the children and what they like about their environment.

Information about these events can be found on our special website that has been set up for our tenth anniversary celebrations www.vision-africa.org/10years.

On there you will also find a word from our founders about why they started Vision Africa, photographs from the last ten years and success stories like the one below.

A Happy Ending For Grace

When I received the news on Saturday, I knew exactly what our success story for this week had to be!

Little Grace was found in a local market when she was just two weeks old back in January 2008. All wrapped up, she had been left at the petrol station during the night and was found in the morning by a passer-by who took her to the police station.

Grace was the first new baby to come to the St Andrews Baby Unit after it opened in November 2007. For the first two months the matron, Lucy, and her team had been working with some of the younger children from Kandara Children’s Home to get used to their new surroundings and set routines in place. With Grace’s arrival came the start of preparing formula and changing nappies. Within a few months there were many more



babies requiring the same care.

Over time, we watched Grace grow and enjoyed the moments of her first steps and her first words. She became the big sister of all the others in the baby unit and was among the first from the St Andrews Baby Unit to join the ECD (Early Childhood Development) centre that Vision Africa set up in the same compound as the baby unit and Kandara Children's Home. She became good friends with two of the girls who used the baby unit for day care and also joined school at the same time as her – Hope and Joy. The three names Grace, Hope and Joy don't quite convey how much mischief these girls could get up to though! They were often found giggling together...especially when they were supposed to be taking an afternoon nap.

Grace's mother was never traced so she became eligible for adoption once all the relevant papers had been posted with the courts. Last week we received the wonderful news that a family had been found for Grace and today is the start of her new life. She will join her foster family for three months and if all goes well they will proceed to adopt her and give her a happy home in a family unit.

Although the goodbyes will be hard today for the team that has cared for her since she was two weeks old and for her brothers and sisters at the St Andrews Baby Unit and Kandara Children's Home, this is the happy ending we have been waiting for in Grace's story. This is a true success story for Vision Africa and the St Andrews Baby Unit.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported Vision Africa over the last ten years and hope that you will find a way to celebrate our anniversary with us this year.