



Capstone Ministries

Child and Family Restoration Outreach

“The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone” Psalm 118:22

A prayer letter from Dan and Patty Schmelzer, Kisumu, Kenya

May, 2011 Volume 6 Issue 5

“Scouting and Rehabilitation”

*“The integrity of the upright guides them...”
Proverbs 11:3*

There are many opinions on human change. Henry David Thoreau said, *“Things do not change, we do.”* Francis Bacon said, *“Things alter for the worse spontaneously, if they be not altered for the better designedly.”* But my favorite is *“If nothing ever changed, there would be no butterflies.”* I do know one thing for certain, human change is difficult and it is seldom a straight line.

For almost 10 years Patty and I have been working with children who are both vulnerable and



damaged. Rehabilitation and restoration are two words we use to describe the process of change that takes place within the heart of the child as he moves from the street to his home. That process takes prayer, love, consistency, determination and faith. To be sure, when working to effect change in someone, one positive characteristic always needs to replace a negative one. If you leave a vacuum, the chances increase that positive change will not last.

Scouting activities are all about positive characteristics, community service, and mental perspectives. This is what drew us to make scouting a full time part of the rehabilitation process at our Transition Center.

The key to having a positive and successful scout program is having a good scout trainer and leader.



In Livingstone we have both. Livingstone first volunteered with Capstone during the 2010 Capstone Camp. He works full time as the District Scout Trainer in Western Kenya. All the boys eagerly await Sunday afternoon when he spends 4 hours engaging our boys with various scout activities. The boys instinctively respect him. He has become like a big brother to the boys.

Every year, we have always had a few boys who have regressed and run back to the street from the Transition Center. Since we have started the scout program, not one boy has run back to the street. That’s change we can believe in. YES WE CAN!



Next month: Local farmers growing moringa trees to support Capstone.

Praises, Prayers and Recent News

1. Pray for our expanding Moringa income generating project. We have empowered several groups to grow moringa. They receive a % of the profits, use the plant for their family and spread the word on this nutritious tree. We have partnered with SWAP (Safe Water & Aids Project) groups and a few other local farmers. We hope it will double our output by the end of 2011. More in the June newsletter.
2. In February we hired two new staff, a welfare officer and an operations supervisor. Thanks for your prayers. Benedict and Berline are just what we had hoped for.
3. Pray for the 7 boys as they return to the Transition Center: Dennis, Titus, William, Derek, Moses, Daniel and Collins.
4. April did not bring us much rain. We pray May will be better. Local farmers need the rain.
5. We have applied for a grant through LWML Kansas District. It will provide much needed office equipment for our new office in Nyalenda. It is walking distance from our house and helps us with daily operations and record keeping.
6. Pray for successful registration as 501(c)(3) in the states.
7. Patty will travel in May to visit with her Mom and to attend the Rotary International Convention in New Orleans.



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Capstone Ministries

650 West Las Palmas Avenue

Patterson, CA 95363

E-mail: Capstoneministries@gmail.com

Dan and Patty Schmelzer

P.O. Box 3962

Kisumu, Kenya 40100

Patty's Post It

In Kenya, schools break for the months of April, August and December. During the April break, while all the boys were at home we did some housekeeping at the Transition Center. A fresh coat of much needed paint was put on the inside of the house. We hired the father of one of our restored boys to do the work. Ezekiel also repaired some "potholes" in the cement floor of the outdoor dining area. By the time I'm typing this all of the boys should be back at the center and getting ready to resume school.

The stories we have heard so far regarding their home visits have been encouraging. One child in particular has a very touching story. Dennis didn't have anywhere to go during the break. None of the family members could provide a place for him to stay. As Dennis was beginning to realize that he was going to be left alone at the center he started sharing about an Aunt that he had never mentioned before. We agreed to take him to the Aunt's home hoping that Dennis was telling the truth about his long lost Aunt.

We found a lovely lady and her husband with 8 children of their own. The heartbreak of this story is the Aunt and Uncle's home and business was destroyed during the 2008 Post Election Violence. They are living at their home property again but in a makeshift tent. The Aunt was initially very concerned about where Dennis would sleep; they were already spilling over with children. She confessed that they have been blessed by loans from local business people to rebuild their business. They hope to complete a new house within a year. "Food is not the problem" she said, "I just don't know where he'll sleep" As they talked more and the Aunt and Uncle realized Dennis was the only boy without a place to go. They decided, "He's small and we'll just make it work." Two days ago the Aunt rang to one of our welfare officers as they prepared for Dennis to return to the Transition Center. She praised his behavior and the change she has seen in him. Her heart was touched when Dennis thanked her for letting him stay.

What touches me the most about this story is LOVE. The family didn't feel they had enough to offer Dennis. However what they did have to offer was most important; it's what sustains us and makes the human heart thrive through any situation. Dennis experienced "faith, hope and lovebut the greatest of these is love." 1Cor. 13:13

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