



NEW WHITE HOUSE ACADEMY
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Report for 2014

The year 2014 brought us a number of triumphs which we were able to celebrate with great pleasure. The New White House Academy is now the best school in all classes and subjects in the entire district.



We were also able to achieve some major successes on the sports field: our girls won the handball championship and travelled from one end of the country to the other. They reached National Level and won their games against secondary school students. We also have a good football team; their training in the second half of the year is showing an effect.

Our students also demonstrated that they are the best in the district when it comes to drama as they were awarded certificates for these subjects in all categories. But in spite of the many certificates and the reputation which the school has now gained, we receive no support from the Government. Our District Education Director, Mr. K. Machora, is trying to help us and make the members of the Government aware of us. He even took 2 of our kids to a big event, where they met the Governor and the Senator.



Unfortunately they are so busy; we still hope that one day they find time to visit. There are more than enough difficulties. Everything is becoming more expensive all the time. Everybody is suffering very much because of this. The people who are the poorest of the poor are real survival artists as they always find a way of surviving. But with even the best will in the world, they can no longer pay even a part of their children's school fees.

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And we don't have the heart to send the kids away, as our association was founded to help the poorest of the poor.

The extreme weather conditions of this year have also contributed to the fact that nothing could be harvested. At the beginning it was extremely cold and then suddenly it was very hot. The persistent wind contributed to drying everything out. Water has to be brought from far away and is therefore very expensive. At school we have to buy the precious water which is brought to us by trucks and stored in tanks. The huge rain water tanks and the gutters on many buildings are of little help, as it rarely rains.

We too struggle with inflation, of course. Although the "Kenyan Children Help" association has many wonderful child sponsors we are happy and grateful that we have found additional helpers. The "Bildung gegen Armut" (Education against Poverty) association has financed a classroom for us.



Members of this association know that a school education is the aid which is needed in African countries. Ultimately our children should take not only the peaceful coexistence of the various tribes and religions into their later life but perhaps even play a part in changing the structures of this beautiful country.



In the month of July I was invited to witness the Udo Lindenberg Panikpreis award in the most lovely little city of Calw in the Black

Forest, Germany, where I was able to talk to the audience. It was not only tremendously beautiful but the many unbelievably wonderful people I met were unforgettable.



The warm welcome overwhelmed me.

Wandering round the rooms in the house where Hermann Hesse was born also left a lasting impression. Gaby, who is in charge of the Watato wa Kenya Association is always trying to help us. She has her heart in the right place. She took the opportunity to organise some sponsorships for us. The Panik family is something quite



special; I love them, it's quite rare to meet such wonderful people! And seeing what the "Kids on Stage" do, to continuously promote us and



telling everywhere about our school in Kenya, is just extraordinary.

There was yet a further highlight to tell you about. The Ehlon Foundation, which has already helped us from time to time when we were in need, helped us with a donation and has also just taken over 7 further sponsorships. Long-term help of this nature is invaluable.

But in Kenya, many things are strange – to put it mildly. Laws are passed and then immediately amended. And quite often meetings of the school principals are taking place and each of these meetings costs money, of course. And these meetings always take place at different places in the

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country and sometimes even in Tanzania as it is cheaper and safer. Even the holiday schedule was changed; the Christmas holidays are supposed to start in the middle of October and last until 6th January.

We took the opportunity of celebrating the graduation of the kindergarten children for the first time in the New White House Academy. And also to award certificates to the best children of each class and to also thank the teachers and the subordinate staffs. All of them are needed to ensure that things run smoothly; an occasion like this improves staff morale.

The fundraising event for a new classroom and a new dormitory took place the following week. Our most wonderful Mr K. Machora was naturally the guest of honour. Everyone gave as much as they could, but even the



donations from the Massaihilfeverein Mengkofen (Mengkofen Masai Aid Association) and Flo and Angela from Toronto, were not sufficient for the dormitory. But we were at least able to build the classroom. We therefore now have a small kindergarten, a pre-school and classes 1 – 8. We were also able to carry out the

repairs which were urgently needed.

We have changed our security staff several times. We also installed a new gate which can be secured with a strong lock. The safety of our 217 children is very important for us and we don't want to leave anything to chance.

Our area is relatively safe but we must always be on our guard; opportunities can create thieves. People's poverty can lure some people into an opportunistic act.

But in spite of all the care we have to take, we remain optimistic and particularly thankful for all we have achieved in a relatively short space of time. We still have many dreams, one of which is that we will succeed in having our own secondary school here on our site. It seems important to us that we can continue to look after our children (who are now growing

up to be young people) until it is clear which occupation can give them a secure future. Our aim is that they can take care of their lives and of their families, themselves. And we teach them as many things as possible, not only the syllabuses.

We would also like to purchase the site on which the school stands. It would make things a lot easier for us if we no longer had to pay for the lease. Depending on the rate of exchange, this now costs us between CHF 8,000 and CHF 10,000 each year. The owner says he is willing to sell the



land to us for 4 million KES. Another dream is, to have a borehole one day. Water is life and if we manage to have enough water, we even could start planting vegetables.

We try our level best to help the needy children. And they do their best to pay back by learning hard and give their best in all categories. We also urgently need a computer class. Nowadays it is important that children learn how to use these at school.

Our kids make us proud, the teachers do a great job and even though we have so many challenges, we don't give up. We just try harder to continue to help the needy ones.

Very many thanks indeed to everyone

And please continue to help us!

A. Biberstein

Annedore Biberstein
KENYAN CHILDREN HELP

