



## Construction

### Who?

There are two Project Partners involved in Year One of the Building Strand of the **ace Collaboration**. They are:

- ❖ Grandson's Street Shelter in Mombasa
  - ❖ Yale College of Wrexham Construction Students
- Who are each group, and what will their participation be?

#### ❖ Grandson's Street Shelter in Mombasa.

This group will be our hosts for the whole of August 2008. They are a fantastic group of young people, who have all lived on the street for a variable amount of time. The boys and girls who seek refuge at the centre are aged between 8 and 17 years old. Some have lived there for one week, some have had the benefit of Grandson's for last four years, however, all of the young people have been significantly damaged by their experiences. They have ended up as "street children" for a variety of reasons. Some of these may be: physical or sexual abuse from someone at home, the death of a parent mainly through HIV and AIDS, the family is no longer able to support them. If this is not enough, many of them suffered further abuse when living on the street, the majority of this is through prostitution and corruption. Grandson's is one of the few organizations in Mombasa that can support these young people's psychological need.

#### ❖ Yale College of Wrexham Construction Students.

This group of young people will be the ones putting in the graft for most of August 2008. They are an equally fantastic group of people who will be giving their time to do all the brick work on the Grandson's Site. In three weeks they have to construct the buildings for the dining room and kitchen for the Young people at Grandson's to be able to prepare, cook and eat food within a healthy and safe environment. All of these young people are aged between 18 and 22, and are learning brickwork for a trade.



## Why?

This is a very good question. What are we hoping to achieve?

There are two strands to this answer. The most practical answer is that the Young People of Grandsons are in desperate need of some decent quality to their life, and a dining room and kitchen seemed like a good place to start. This would fulfill a need.

However, once we look at the ripple effect of fulfillment, we can see that this project spreads a lot wider than just putting up a building. The second strand to the answer would fulfil many needs, both of the Young People at Grandson's, but also of the Young People willing to engage in the project from the UK.

It is true that Charity begins at home: our argument would be that, by giving - you receive. We have engaged eleven young men on a building studies course who have totally committed to this cause.

They have done this in the following ways:

- ❖ Agreed to give up nearly 4 weeks of their summer holiday next year, weeks they will not be earning an income.
- ❖ Agreed that during those weeks they will totally commit to complete the building of a dining room and kitchen in a field, without [as yet] running water, in a village North of Mombasa.
- ❖ Agreed to camp for the duration of the work, in the field!
- ❖ Agreed to take part in some Youth Work with the young people while working on the project.
- ❖ Agreed to raise £1,200 each towards the running of the project.

They should be applauded for their commitment so far. We hope that their lives will be enriched by the whole experience, and that they will gain a huge amount of personal development over the duration of the project. It is hoped the experience will stay with them for a long time.

Some of young people from Grandson's will also be expected to help with a small element of the building project.

## What and Where?



What is it that we are actually trying to build?

Grandson's Street Shelter is based in Mombasa, just outside of the City Centre. It is a three storey building, with very few facilities. However, it is more of a home to the Young People who seek refuge there than anything they have run away/ been sent away from. It provides basic meals, basic accommodation, basic education and an excellent counselling service for any young person wishing to engage in the program. However, the Young People are free to go and many of them return to the street.

Some young people though stick with the program, and are, eventually ready to live within a community again, and want to have a better future for themselves. At this point the young people are taken to Grandson's "Farm" just north of Mombasa. The staff and Young People are very proud of their "Farm" and hope one day they can provide a totally holistic service for their Young People and the local community.

However, the "Farm" at the moment is a very large field consisting of one dormitory, which can sleep over 40 people, three goats, a maize crop, and not much else! What it does possess though is a huge element of HOPE. Their vision is totally child centred, and one of sensible provision for every element of need all young people deserve.

We hope to provide the Grandson's Farm with a much needed Kitchen and Dining Room. At the moment all cooking is done over an open fire.

## **How?**

After a long meeting with a Kenyan architect we managed to have concrete plans of the building, costings of materials, costings of machinery hire, labour and contingency.

The basic break –down of this is:



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- ❖ Total cost of materials are: £26,000
- ❖ Total cost of the building project: £32,000
- ❖ Total cost of buildings, plant hire, and running of project for one month in Kenya: £40,000.

We have a commitment from Yale of £12,000 from their own fundraising events.

If this amount frightens you, please bear in mind that one bag of cement costs £5.00 from our Kenyan supplier – Rome wasn't built in a day.

Thank you for reading this proposal. Our motives are genuine, and we if we succeed with only the Construction element of the project we will hopefully touch the lives of approximately 70 Young People, and potentially change their lives.

Ann Ruscillo

Project Manager

### **Contacts**

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