



Kenya Newsletter April 2014

Free Community Medical Camp



Down in the slums, quality medical care has always been a problem to access, especially due to poverty, ignorance, poor planning among other issues. Projects Abroad Kenya joined hands with other organizations in the medical field in holding a major medical camp that was held at AIC church Bondeni in Nakuru.

The medical camp which was put together by Gaplink, a local NGO, offered free treatment to all common ailments, doctors, nurses and other medical practitioners from private and public hospitals and health care centers worked hand in hand with the Projects Abroad volunteers. The volunteers were especially helpful in guiding the patients to the right stations, distributing drugs and some were outside playing with children who had accompanied their sick parents.

For the medical volunteers this was a great learning opportunity from the local doctors as rare and tropical disease are also seen in such camps and volunteers get a chance to witness or get in their diagnosis and treatment. Volunteers were also able to give their input by either helping in treatments or sharing ideas with the local health workers.

The day ended as a big success, this due to the great input in organizing and planning that started over two months ago. Projects Abroad Medical Coordinator Carol Mungai, who was part of the committee that put together this day, was happy to see all Projects Abroad give a hand in making the camp successful. For most people who benefited from the free treatment, this might probably be the only professional and proper medical services they have received in a while and so many lives might have been saved on this day.

Renewing Hope, an effort by two volunteers to provide education to the needy



Rodgers Opiyo and Sharrif Adams both founders and directors at Hope children are a happy lot after their long term prayers were finally seems to be getting answered.

Like most orphanages and slum schools their startup of starting was no different, they rented a small piece of land that had a few buildings on it that they converted into classrooms. Slum children were invited to attend classes for free and a meal per day was later introduced to ensure the children's daily attendance. Later they started to collaborate with Projects Abroad Kenya who has been providing volunteers for them. This has come with so many blessings since the volunteers provide teaching assistance with no pay helping the center save money on paid teachers, besides some volunteers have raised money back at home which they have used in buying books, school uniform, desks, food and even sponsoring children in primary and secondary education.

This was the case when Australian and American volunteers Amy and Teresa raised some funds in helping the placement. Amy has focused on sponsoring students to go to a boarding school as a new beginning. Together with her father they will sponsor two children. Teresa's focus is improving the placement by buying them land and building new classrooms. To see their ideas materialize, they have set up a blog and they are also developing a website where donors can access information and make donations. In the pipeline are plans to get small and big organizations to offer donations to this course. Teresa has also been talking to her former school who are interested in helping out and maybe in future have a sought of exchange program with Hope.

At the moment Amy and Teresa have already identified 18 needy children from the center whom they will educate up to the highest level. With the help of Rodgers and Sharrif, they have been visiting there homes in the slums, trying to know where they come from and a little bit of their history and most importantly getting the consent of their parents. Amy has been giving extra lessons to one of the children who seem to be struggling in order for him to pass his boarding school entry interview. Besides this, the two girls have been tirelessly working on logistics and lying out structures that will ensure the long term success and of this program.

Planting Trees for a Greener Tomorrow



Projects Abroad Kenya Conservation volunteers were at it again planting trees at Naivasha; this time in collaboration with Nakuru Home of Hope. This has been an ongoing exercise with previous tree planting occasions being held at local primary schools in Nakuru and Naivasha.

In effort to protecting the Environment and increasing rainfall, the Kenya Forest Service has called upon Kenyan to increase the forest cover by planting more trees. Tonny Kipkurui, the Projects Abroad conservation Manager, has been guiding the volunteers through the trees planting process by first managing a tree nursery and also talking to Primary School heads in the neighborhood in allowing the volunteers to give short presentations on tree planting and conservation efforts.

These are some of the good efforts that Projects Abroad has been doing in helping and positively influencing the community. Tree planting will continue and with a dream of planting over 10 000 trees and teaching more people on the importance of trees.

Kitted out in our Projects Abroad t-shirts we began the day by meeting Farrah, the coordinator of the tree planting project we were participating in, who explained to us the importance of helping to re-build an area severely damaged by deforestation and doing our bit in combating the harm we are inflicting on the environment.

Our first job was to drive down to the tree nursery to load the seedlings into a truck. A night of rain made for an interesting drive but we made it! With over 1000 seedlings ready to go to their new homes, we made the journey to nearby Navaisha, where the children of Nyamathi Primary School awaited our arrival. At the school we were greeted by hundreds of smiling faces eager to join in the day's project, along with an audience of parents who had come to also help. The older children helped us to unload the trees and take them to their readily prepared site. The Head teacher spoke to the children and the parents about the significance of this tree planting mission, helped along by "class four" who, fantastically, sang a poem about the environment. Time to get our hands dirty! We each took a seedling and in the next few minutes the Nyamathi School had 10 new trees. A small step to make a big difference! We left the rest of the development in the capable hands of our happy helpers and after lots of waving and photos with the children we made our way to our next stop - the Nelson Health Clinic. With help from the staff and the other volunteers we spent the afternoon digging and planting hundreds of trees. All of the Projects Abroad volunteers who took part in this wonderful day (Timo, Karl, Maruto, Sorine, Tonny and Sam) worked very hard to make it a success, and both the school and the clinic expressed their heartfelt gratitude. Hopefully we can continue to help these local areas to rebuild and protect our environment and encourage others to do the same. Like class four said, 'it's up to US!'.

Eleanor Scull

