

# Richard Long & Co

LICENSED INSOLVENCY PRACTITIONERS

CASTLEGATE HOUSE  
36 CASTLE STREET  
HERTFORD  
HERTS SG14 1HH  
TEL: 01992 503372  
FAX: 01992 503373  
DX 57904 HERTFORD  
email: [addressee]@richardlong.co.uk

19th December 2008

## “CHALK WOULD BE A MIRACLE”



## Happy Christmas and a big Thank You

**for your support and continued interest in the Maasai community at Mara Rianda**

Following the most generous support we have completed the building of the new classroom block of five classrooms. We have been able to order 50 new desks but they were very poorly made with some already breaking in places. We need another 200 at a cost of £20 each. An alternative carpenter has been located and when we are able we shall use him to build the next order. However we do have a small problem with the children picking at the putty surrounding the glass windows. One classroom had been painted before the plaster had fully dried causing problems.



There is no electricity at the school but following a generous bequest we were able to install solar lighting in some of the old classrooms. We have some residual funds to start installing lighting in some of the new classrooms. As and when we are able we propose to complete the entire new block with lighting.

The building of the much needed two new sets of latrines has also been completed, but regrettably we are now informed that the old latrines are full and cannot be used so the school is still in need of more latrines. 500+ pupils and just 10 toilets.



also at: 381-383 CITY ROAD, LONDON EC1V 1NW TEL: 020 7454 1110 FAX: 020 7833 1701 DX 400206 FINSBURY 2  
email: [addressee]@richardlong.co.uk



Unfortunately the pump fitted to the bore hole has needed to be replaced; it lasted only three years. The problem was caused by the amount of silt in the water. The cost of the replacement and its installation was nearly £3,000. We have rearranged the plumbing and filtration and hopefully the new pump will last longer. Some of the taps are broken and the sinks we installed are becoming blocked. We are trying very hard to give the school and community ownership and a sense of responsibility, but the Maasai do not live in homes with windows, or have the luxury of sinks with taps. They live in mud huts, no bathrooms, no kitchen, no running water and definitely no glass windows.



The twelve boys and one girl at Sosio Secondary School are doing very well. The pupils in Year 8 at Mara Rianda Primary School are anxiously awaiting their results. Hopefully we shall be able to send at least another eight pupils to secondary school when the new school year starts in January. We pay for all school fees, books, pocket money and basic essentials.

We also pay for transport to take the children back home. However we ask that their family show some responsibility and buy the school uniform and pay for the return trip from the Mara to school. However we were told by one boy he was always late returning to school as his mother did not have money to pay for his return trip. Another boy asked if we could provide a new school uniform, the children have been at secondary school for almost two years and are in need of a new uniform.

It would not cost much for us to supply all children with a new uniform, or pay for their return journey, (which we are now doing for the boy mentioned), but would this be a wise decision?

We are in the position to provide further bursaries for pupils to attend secondary school from January 2009.



If you are a UK tax payer a bursary can be funded by a monthly standing order of £26 for three years. With GiftAid your donations will effectively be the full amount required to fund one child for four years of education.



If you are interested in assisting a child in this way please let me know and return the attached standing order and GiftAid form. Financial support is constantly needed, most welcome and always greatly appreciated.



In addition to the major projects there is always a need for new books, sports equipment and general school supplies. The charity does not pay for our travel and accommodation costs which are met externally. Should you be able to give any further support to the school would you please make any cheques payable to The Mara Rianda Charitable Trust.

The school desperately needs assistance in improving its kitchen facilities. When food is available two mothers cook the children's lunch on an open wood fire in a corrugated iron hut. It would be wonderful if we can assist in improving this extremely basic facility.



I have been asked to pass on enormous thanks to everyone who has supported the charity. The school is so grateful to all who have generously given.

We are often presented with medical needs and we feel that we cannot ignore them. A mother asks us to help her epileptic son. A student in year eight about to take her final exams mentioned she was very concerned about her mother as she was very ill. We offered to visit her. She told us that she had fallen off her house whilst on the roof carrying out some repairs. She was experiencing pain in her back and chest. She has taken herbal medicines they have not helped. We feel we cannot hear stories like these and just walk away.



In addition I am pleased to report that we have been able to offer assistance to Aitong Primary School, which is also in the Mara, in the tapping of water from a spring. I hope to have more to report on this in my newsletter next year.



This October a small group of people who support The Mara Rianda Charitable Trust joined us, at their own expense, on our visit. We were greeted at the airstrip by some parents with a traditional Maasai dance. Everyone was greatly touched by what they saw, but most of all touched by the generosity of the people. We were all showered with gifts, necklaces, bracelets, beaded tunics.

These wonderful people living in little mud huts with no bathrooms, kitchens, glass windows or running water are the most generous people we have come across.

As usual I do apologise if you feel this letter is an intrusion and should you not wish to receive any further letters then please do let me know. Finally I am often asked how we travel to and from the Mara. It is by small aircraft and I thought you might like to see the problem we encountered when we were due to leave this time. A much better excuse than leaves on the line!



May I conclude with my personal Christmas greetings and thank you for your support and continued interest in the Maasai community at Mara Rianda.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Richard'.

**Richard Long**  
TRUSTEE AND DIRECTOR  
THE MARARIANDA CHARITABLE TRUST  
Charity Number 1102255  
Company Number 05035681