

# Richard Long & Co

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## “CHALK WOULD BE A MIRACLE”



Children outside the new dining hall

## Thank You

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

Pola and I returned to the Mara Rianda Primary School in September with a few supporters of the charity. One couple had visited two years ago and we were delighted that they were able to return with us. On our arrival at the school we were overwhelmed to see the welcoming celebrations organised by Peter, the Headmaster. It seemed that the entire school and community had come to join in the celebration. Headteachers of other Mara schools, councilors and local politicians had been invited. We were greeted with music and dance and showered with presents. We felt so unworthy and would sincerely have loved those who have contributed so generously to make this possible to have been there.

We were relieved and excited to see that the kitchen/dining room had finally been completed. The kitchen is now being used and the children are now able to eat in the dining room, especially on rainy days.



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The new latrines have almost been completed. There are a few design problems which we trust will be modified.



You may remember that we were able to help a young girl to have an operation last autumn. She had had a distended abdomen. We have seen a remarkable transformation in this girl. She is thriving and doing very well. She followed us about in the school and was constantly smiling. Your support is changing people's lives in so many ways.

On this trip a young boy, about nine years old, came up to tell us that he was experiencing difficulty passing urine. We suggested he visit the clinic in Mara Rianda. More complicated conditions are referred to the nearest hospital which is about two hours away. However, he and his mother came to find us at the school on another day. Neither of them speak English and Pastor David acted as interpreter. This boy reiterated his difficulty and pain and discomfort. We are uncertain what his condition is and what his needs are. Should he need surgery it could prove to be very expensive. We are constantly challenged as to the best use of our funds.

Tumpus, the young man with epilepsy is doing very well and growing in strength. We have been promised funds for a further year's supply of medication. The family are so grateful.

It was fantastic to see that the houses that had been burnt down were in the process of being rebuilt. Some had been completed and some businesses were up and running.

We have a great relationship with the people in Mara Rianda. We love to visit the local market. There are a few stick built stalls, some display their wares on sheets on the ground. There is limited choice of fabrics, clothes, second hand shoes, ugali which is a maize flour, potatoes, spinach, bananas, CD's and beads and snuff!! They are always really pleased to see us.





We were able to take some more dolls and toys to the school. One of our supporters brought a parachute. We had great fun showing the children and teachers how to play parachute games.

Three hundred and fifty school bags were made by a sewing group and given to the younger children. They loved them.

We periodically receive text messages or emails from Jonathan, who is now at university. He appears to have settled and seems to be doing well. We were unable to visit him on this trip as Narok is about three hours away.

We had seven pupils graduate from Sosio school at the end of November. We have not been able to promise support for further education for them. This has been really difficult for us as most of them would love to continue and either go to university or college. However we have had some interest expressed in possibly supporting a particularly high achiever. The pupils take their exams in November and receive the results in February. We hope that our pupils will volunteer at the primary school for one term as a way for them putting something back into the community. We would like to thank you once again for your interest and support. It is literally life changing



Headmaster with the school's first computer provided by supporter

In February there was a Canadian film crew at the school who produced a story of the work we have done. It has been broadcast by CNBC. You may wish to watch it to see how some of the funds raised have been spent. Please see [www.whatthefuture.tv](http://www.whatthefuture.tv) or either of the website links shown below.

We are in the position to provide further bursaries for pupils to attend secondary school from January 2011. Last year we were able to provide 11 bursaries. If you are a UK tax payer a bursary can be funded by monthly standing order of £26 for three years. With Gift Aid 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 enclosed standing order and Gift Aid form.

Support is always welcome and greatly appreciated. There is always a need for new books, sports equipment and general school supplies. Should you be able to give any further support to the school please make cheques payable to The Mara Rianda Charitable Trust.



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.



Mara Rianda Primary School pupils dancing

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

Yours sincerely

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

[www.mararianda.com](http://www.mararianda.com)  
[www.whatthefuture.tv/vids/WhiteMenCan'tJumpPart3of3.html](http://www.whatthefuture.tv/vids/WhiteMenCan'tJumpPart3of3.html)

And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6 v8 (NIV)