

Richard Long & Co

LICENSED INSOLVENCY PRACTITIONERS

CASTLEGATE HOUSE
36 CASTLE STREET
HERTFORD
HERTS SG14 1HH
TEL: 01992 503372
FAX: 01992 503373
DX 57904 HERTFORD
www.richardlong.co.uk

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“CHALK WOULD BE A MIRACLE”

I believe in Miracles, this is a line from a song, and something my wife Pola often says. This past year I feel that it is so true. Since January with your enormous help and support we have been able to:

- Build a new primary school at Enkereri:-
 - Comprising of four classrooms.
 - Provide water harvesting for this school.
 - Pay for one teacher
- Commence building a maternity unit at Mara Rianda village, comprising of two birthing rooms, recovery area, a lab and an office.
- Build five new classrooms at Mara Rianda Primary School.
- Send ten more children to secondary school.
- Assist in paying for Kennedy, the teacher at the preschool at Mary's manyatta.
- Begin talks for building a new primary school at Olpurkel which is Frances's village in the Transmara, on the other side of the Mara River to Mara Rianda.



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ASSOCIATION

also at: 381-383 CITY ROAD, LONDON EC1V 1NW TEL: 020 7454 1110 FAX: 020 7833 1701 DX 146646 ISLINGTON 4

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At present very young children have to walk a long way and cross the low bridge over this river to attend Mara Rianda Primary School. Tragically some have drowned trying to cross this bridge when the river is very high. Frances an ex-pupil from Mara Rianda was supported by us at Sosio Secondary School for four years. He is now assisting us in talks to build a school at Olpurkel on the other side of the river.

This has been an exciting year. In February we were joined by two supporters Adrian and Stella and we had the privilege of seeing the opening of Enkereri Primary School. The whole village came out to welcome us. They dressed Pola and Stella in Maasai cloths and showered us with gifts and thanks. We were treated like royalty. But of course the thanks must go to you for helping make this possible.



We have previously provided a birthing couch and other items of maternity equipment. These are at the medical centre and are being well used. During our visit the maternity unit was in the process of being constructed. We were able to speak with the medical officer and have been given a list of equipment they would like. They want a further birthing couch and cot, a scanner and other equipment.



It is extremely sad to report that in the last few months one of our Secondary School pupils Sylvester Naimodu has died and also Ben the husband of the school treasurer at Enkereri. Whilst the cause of the two deaths is unknown what is known is that the local medical centre desperately needs more resources. We are looking to see what can be done.

It was a joy to see the children that had graduated from secondary school in December 2011. They are now assisting as volunteers at Mara Rianda Primary School for two terms as a way of showing their gratitude for the help they received from the trust and their sponsors. Some are now looking to us for assistance for further education. This is something that needs more thought and discussion.





James also graduated from Sosio Secondary School in December 2010. He is now working at a local camp in the kitchen and would very much like to train as a chef. He has asked if we can help with fees. We are looking into this before making a decision. We are awaiting further details of the course from him.

Susan, our first girl to graduate in 2010 is at college training to work with young children. We were able to meet her fiancé and they married in April. It is wonderful to see many more girls not only finishing their primary education but also going to secondary school. Such a change over the last nine years.



Our pupils and head teacher at Maasai Girls School



Jonathan continues to thrive and do well at Narok University. We were able to meet with him and have lunch on our very busy day in Narok we visited five secondary schools. We were also able to meet his mother at Mara Rianda Primary School. It is amazing and extremely humbling to see how over the last nine years we have been able to change so many lives. Thank you.

It is wonderful to see young children leave primary school, graduate from secondary school and now look to train to help their community. We feel like proud parents of each one of them.



We cannot do this work without the help and support of so many people especially the Grammaticas family and Governors' Camp as well as Deloitte in Nairobi who look after all our local finances for us. We thank them all for the time and support that they generously give and most importantly you the supporters. Without your continuing support none of this could have been achieved.



We are looking to provide further bursaries for pupils to attend secondary school from January 2013. Last year we were able to provide 10 bursaries and we hope to provide at least 12 next year.

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 attached 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 as well as assistance with capital projects. Should you wish to give any support 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.

Finally should you ever wish to come and join us in the Mara to see firsthand the work we are involved in please let me know. September is normally the best time to join us as this is the time of spectacular migration.



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Long". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Richard Long
TRUSTEE AND DIRECTOR
THE MARA RIANDA CHARITABLE TRUST

Charity Number 1102255
Company Number 05035681

www.mararianda.com

*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)*