

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

9 December 2020



“CHALK WOULD BE A MIRACLE”

“Chalk would be a miracle” has always been the by-line for the charity. However, in these unprecedented times the Maasai are now thinking “Visitors would be a miracle”. The effect of Coronavirus is being felt throughout the world. Words like ‘unprecedented times’, ‘furlough’, ‘lockdown’, ‘social distancing’, ‘self-isolate’ have become all too familiar in recent months. After the initial shock of the pandemic our thoughts turned to our Maasai friends. In Kenya the borders have been locked to overseas visitors. This has meant that hotels and camps have had to shut, which has

meant that local staff have had to be laid off, which has meant no income, which has meant that it has been extremely difficult for families to buy food.



With your generous support we have been able to send over £18,000 to buy emergency supplies, including face masks, soap, hand sanitizer, maize meal, rice, beans, sugar, tea etc



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

Printed on recycled paper



Over 80 most needy families in the Mara Rianda area and Enkereri have been identified. With the unfailing support of Governors' Camp these supplies were distributed. It has been wonderful to see these beautiful people, with their masked faces, socially distancing and receiving the desperately needed essential supplies. They have each received six deliveries so far and hopefully more can be made.



Awaiting the arrival of supplies

Some people in the Mara Rianda community have tested positive for Coronavirus, but thankfully to our knowledge there have been no deaths from the virus in the area.

We understand that the medical centre, which we funded the building of, is seeing increasing cases of malnutrition in children. The medical centre sends out community volunteers to advise on the importance of hygiene. This is so difficult as so many families live in manyatta's (An enclosed circle of houses) without access to clean water.

The Mamas (the term used for Maasai ladies) still have to travel to a local stream or river to access water or even large puddles. So there is no running taps whilst hand washing and singing 'Happy Birthday' three times. (For those supporters not from the UK this was part of our initial advice in managing the virus).



Drinking water being collected from the nearest source

Like many of you, Pola and I have been able to work from home and are very grateful that we have everything we need and much more.

The Kenyan Government closed all schools in March and they will not reopen until January 2021. Fortunately we have been able to use this time to carry out repainting and maintenance work at both the Mara Rianda and Enkereri primary schools.

There is concern that some teenage girls may have married during this time, frequently without choice, but following their father's wishes which is custom. Dowries are paid by the groom to the bride's parents and during this time money is scarce.

We have also been able to have new desks made and delivered to Olpurkel where there is a very small rural primary school. Frequently some of the students are taught under a tree.

Layna Justice Sedera, the head teacher at this school, was a former pupil at Mara Rianda Primary school. We did not know him at that time but from our frequent visits he certainly knew Pola and I and the work of the charity.



Desks being delivered

My son, William, is a film maker. I would invite you to watch a short film (9 minutes) he made showing Enkereri, Olpurkel and Mara Rianda Primary schools as well as an inside view of a manyatta.

Thanks to modern-day technology, he shot this film on his iPhone. Please see -

<https://youtu.be/GPfcNbl3b8o>



Olpurkel Primary School



A generous specific donation was recently received to purchase some much needed equipment for the Maternity Centre, and here is Patience being weighed on the new scales.

We have also been able to provide a haematology analyser, oxygen equipment and suction equipment as well as an oil filled heater. When the temperature drops below 20°C our Maasai friends find it very cold!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our local community workers Julius and Francis (one of our former students) for being our eyes, ears and untiring helpers. They both work for Governors' Camp who very generously allow them to help the charity.

We were so very sad to hear that Josephine, one of our former secondary school students had died from what is believed to be malaria complications. After finishing her education at Maasai Girls Secondary School Josephine became an excellent teacher at a preschool local to Mara Rianda. Sadly, she had only recently had a baby boy called Stephen who is now being looked after by her family. We and the community are immensely sad.

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. In addition food supplies are also being provided. Should you wish to give any support please make cheques payable to The Mara Rianda Charitable Trust.



Josephine and Stephen

With Gift Aid your donations will be increased by 25%. If you are interested in providing support or assisting a child with secondary education, please let me know and I shall send you a Gift Aid and Standing Order form.

I am very pleased to tell you about an exciting new project. We have received a substantial donation from a very generous person to fund the building of a dormitory for 80 girls and 80 boys at Enkereri Primary school. Work has just commenced on building the girls dormitory.

I look forward to sharing some photos in our next newsletter.

It is over 17 ½ years ago that I first visited Mara Rianda and it is astonishing to see what has been achieved over the years through the generous support from so many people. Not only have we changed the lives of so many people in Kenya but they in turn have touched the lives of all who have supported the work. Thank you.

During our last visit I was able to have the following photograph taken of me with the two people who were the catalyst in starting this amazing charity -



Nigel, Richard and George

It was George Murray, the manager at Little Governors' Camp, who back in March 2003 during my last night around the camp fire asked me 'Have you been to the school?' and when I said 'No' he said I shall get the driver to take you in the morning. On the left is Nigel Hollingsworth, one of the charity trustees. When I told Nigel about the school he gave me £20 and said 'I want you to buy a box of chalk and take it to the school' A place 4000 miles away that I had only been to once. (By the way it's now 39 times!). Before doing so Nigel also told me to write to all of my business friends and tell them what I had told him. He said, 'If it is to be you will be amazed'. It was and I am, and I know so many of you are as well.

Whatever your faith or belief, Christmas is a very special time of year. Pola and I are constantly encouraged by your interest, support and prayers and this we will never take for granted. May I conclude with my personal Christmas greetings and thank you once again for your interest and support, it is literally life changing. 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.

Yours sincerely

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)