

# Richard Long & Co

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## “CHALK WOULD BE A MIRACLE”



The new dormitory with toilets and showers for 160 girls

The Maasai certainly know how to celebrate. At our recent visit to the Mara, Pola, Nigel, a fellow trustee, and myself were invited to the opening of the new dormitory at Mara Rianda Primary School.



The whole school, local community, heads from other schools, local politicians and dignitaries, the pastors and the beautifully attired ‘mamas’ were all in attendance. We were adorned with Maasai clothes, together with a beautiful dress made for Pola.

Speeches were made, and we were showered with gratitude and gifts. I was given a very prestigious shield and spear, which I did manage to bring home. A calf was cooked and a special Maasai soup made. Nigel was the only brave one of us to taste this, and he survived. The gratitude and praise for the dormitory, and the charity for funding the building of it, was immense and very humbling.





Nigel and Dominic Grammaticas, of Governors' Camp, were presented with shuka's (blankets) and rungu's (beaded sticks) by Peter the headmaster. None of what the Charity has achieved over the years could be done without the enormous support from Governors' Camp.



A young pupil was nominated to cut the ribbon and the new dormitory was officially open.

No Maasai celebration is complete without singing and dancing by the boys and girls.

The boys gave a demonstration of traditional Maasai dancing in their traditional dress.

The girls' choir sang beautiful songs to everyone. One in particular was about the importance of educating girls.



Nigel with Ambrose and urgent supplies

Nigel, who is a building surveyor, has been advising Ambrose on the construction of the dormitory. As is often the case there were a few problems which needed to be addressed. Thanks to Nigel for his patience and diplomacy in this!

The dormitory is for 160 girls, comprising of two large rooms, a matrons' room, toilets and showers. Extra sinks were needed and during our trip to Narok we went shopping and bought more sinks!



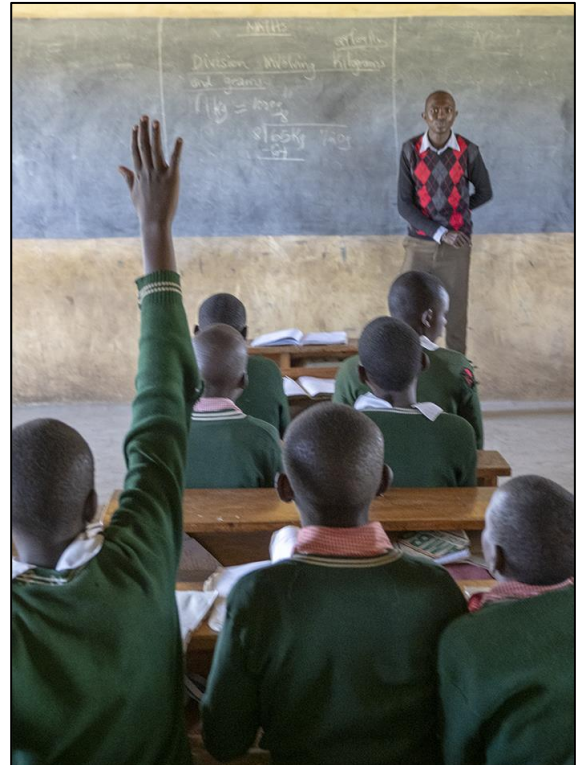
A generous donation was received for the 80 bunk beds and 160 mattresses in memory of Christine, a close friend of the donor. It is very difficult for us to receive the gratitude of the community when projects such as the dormitory are due to your generosity and support. It really is appreciated and life changing.



We recently had an email from one of our past students who was supported at secondary school by the Charity. Gideon left secondary school in 2012. He received further support which enabled him to go to university, although this was not funded by the Charity. He graduated and qualified as a teacher and is currently teaching at a secondary school. He wrote to us *"Thanks a lot for your help through Mara Rianda Charitable Trust, may almighty God bless you all."*



Pupils at Enkereri School



Felix is another student sponsored by your generosity and we were privileged to see him teach at the community school. He is hoping to go on to further education. It is always touching when past students come up to greet us and tell us what they have been able to achieve.



Greeting at Enkereri School

We visited Enkereri Primary School and met with Jacqueline and the other teachers and the committee. It is difficult to convey the difference the support given by the Charity has made to this small school and community. You will recall that we have funded most of the cost of building this school. Enkereri School needs bathroom facilities for the boys. A generous donor has already agreed to pay for these, and they are currently being constructed.





Delivery to Olpurkel School

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.

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.

Yours sincerely

*Richard*

**Richard Long**  
**TRUSTEE AND DIRECTOR**  
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There are so many students needing support for secondary education. If you are a UK tax payer a bursary to support a child at secondary school can be funded by a monthly standing order of £30 for four 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 I shall send you a standing order and Gift Aid form.



Playing Football at Olpurkel School



*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)*