

# Richard Long & Co

INSOLVENCY · INVESTIGATION · ASSET RECOVERY

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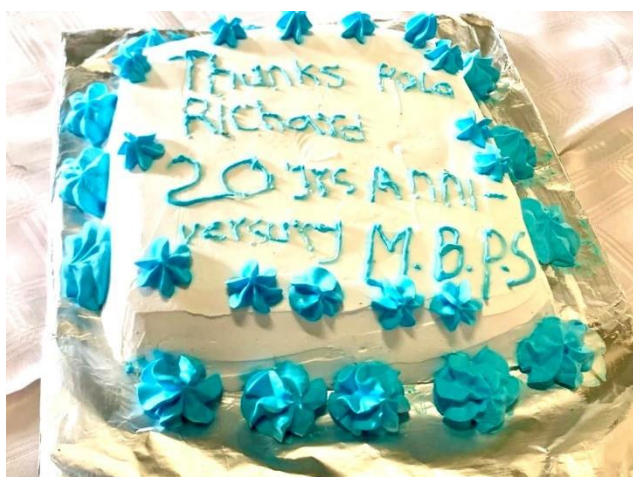
15 December 2023



*Surprise party 14 March 2023 at Mara Rianda*

## **“CHALK WOULD BE A MIRACLE” TWENTY YEARS OF MIRACLES, TWENTY MIRACULOUS YEARS**

It was March 2003 when I made my ‘Once in a lifetime’ trip to the Maasai Mara to take photos of wildlife. Twenty years later to the day I visited Mara Rianda school. Usually when I arrive there are students waiting to greet me, this day there was just a handful outside and the school committee.



The meeting with the committee was to be held in the dining room. As I entered I was greeted with loud shouts and whistling from the entire school. To my immense surprise they had arranged a big celebration with songs, dancing and cake!

The Kenyan tradition on eating celebratory cakes is that someone will feed you with it but keep moving the spoon from left to right and up and down. Great fun if you are watching.

It was on my second trip, with my son Jamie, to deliver the ‘Chalk’ and a truck load of school materials, that a student gave me the following bible verse *‘In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps’ (Proverbs 16:9)*. So true, I could never have foreseen or imagined this 20-year journey. It is with your help and support that the Mara Rianda Charitable Trust has been able to support these beautiful and wonderful people.



From chalk to fences, water, classrooms, dining rooms, dormitories, school supplies, the maternity centre, medical clinic and the four year secondary school sponsorship of 190 students to date. Not to forget the amazing £32,000+ of food supplies and hygiene parcels we were able to provide during COVID. All this through your wonderful generosity. I could never have envisioned this.



In fact in the early days after chalk, fence and water Pola and I thought that might be enough and we can holiday somewhere else! I had no knowledge or experience of the Kenyan education system, how to build a school let alone a medical centre. Some 42 trips later I look back with awe and wonder.

My hope has always been that the community would sustain what we have enabled them to achieve. It brought tears to my eyes when a group of the trust sponsored student beneficiaries asked to meet with me.

Pola, Nigel and I met with six former students. They have formed a committee and together with a group of about 30 former students have pledged to save each month and after a year to begin to sponsor students at secondary school. Secondary school education is not free or compulsory and has to be paid for.



These young boys that we supported at secondary schools over the years have now become extremely successful men, with excellent jobs and are serving their community. This would never have happened without your generous support or indeed the great support of Deloitte Kenya and Governors’ Camp.

Here is a summary of what some of them said to us:



**William Sasiet:** Studied at Sosio Secondary School graduating in December 2011. During 2012 he joined Mara Rianda Primary School as a volunteer teacher. In January 2013 William joined the Excel Institute of Professionals to study for a diploma in Accounts. He finished in 2016 and is studying to become a Certified Public Accountant of Kenya (CPA). He plans to join University for a degree course in accounting next year.

In December 2020 he married Pauline Lengeny, a primary school teacher and has a son Ethan Lempiris Sasiet. William is now working at Imarisha Sacco Society (Credit Union) in Narok town.



**Felix Sopia:** After high school education at Sosio Secondary School Felix attended Bondo Teachers Training College. The charity contributed towards his fees at Kenya Institute of Management where in 2021 he attained a Diploma in Project Management.

Felix was first employed by the Narok County government in the Physical Planning Department and then transferred to the Finance and Economic Planning department.

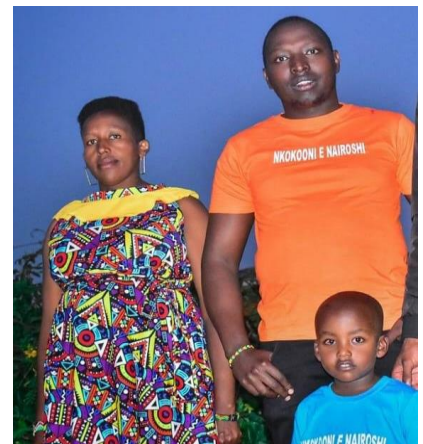
In December 2016 he married Everlyn and now has three children (two girls and one boy) Lynn Naisimoi, Ian Metian, and his youngest is Ashley Nemayian.



**Joseph Leperes:** After being supported at Sosio Secondary School from 2008 to 2011 Joseph returned to Mara Rianda Primary School as a volunteer teacher. In 2012 he joined Koyiaki Guiding School to study for a Certificate in Tour Guiding and Operations. He finished December 2013 and then joined Kenya Wildlife College in Nairobi to pursue a diploma in Wildlife and Tourism Management.

In April 2019 he married Lydia, a primary school teacher, and has a daughter and son Siano and Somian. Joseph now works at the Mara North Conservancy as a Liaison manager

**Peter Leperes:** Another beneficiary of the charity. Peter was supported at Sosio Secondary School from 2009-2012. He then studied at Bomet Teachers Training College in 2013-2015. He is now a teacher at Nkoilale Primary School and is married with two sons.



**Jonathan Ololoinyio.** A former Sosio Secondary School student who left in 2008. Through the very generous support of a sponsor Jonathan joined the Maasai Mara University to pursue a Bachelor of Education Arts (Geography, History and Government) as teaching subjects.

He is now part of the Kenya Teacher's Service Commission and is currently the vice principal at Talek Boys Secondary School. Jonathan is married with a son and daughter.



We are very pleased that to date we have been able to support 70 girls with their secondary education. Unlike many years ago, when the girls had to miss a week's education every month, they are now frequently achieving much higher marks than the boys.

**Sylvia Nampaso:** After her secondary education she went to Bomet Teachers College where she obtained a Certificate in Early Childhood Development. Sylvia then went to Narok Teachers College to obtain a Diploma in Early Childhood Development. She is now a teacher at Nkuya Primary School.

In 2015 she married Harrison, our former Community Officer who is now a manager at Governors' Camp. They have two sons and a five year old daughter called Sandra.

We continue to look to see where we can assist in the community. Mara Rianda Primary School has asked for help in refurbishing an old dormitory for boys and installing some showers and toilets.



Enkereri Primary School still desperately needs help with accommodation for teachers. It has the two very nice dormitories we built for the children with showers and toilets. Conversely the teachers, who give so much to help the children learn, have extremely poor mud and dung accommodation. When it rains they leak and the inside gets wet. These are far worse than a poor garden shed in the UK. The teachers do not have a choice where they teach, central government send them wherever, which can be 100's of miles from their home. They are given no support for their living accommodation.

Nigel, Colin and I are delighted to inform you that Dominic Grammaticas, of Governors' Camp, has become a Trustee of the charity. We believe that Dominic, in conjunction with Julius, our excellent Community Officer, will give the charity a greater presence in Kenya.

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 or contact me for bank details.

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.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Richard".

**Richard Long**  
**TRUSTEE AND DIRECTOR**  
**THE MARA RIANDA CHARITABLE TRUST**  
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*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)*