



KCEP Newsletter

Kipepeo Community Empowerment Program

March '13

KCEP



'Kipepeo stands for informed, empowered and self sustainable community. We inspire before we expire. This

is a local community participating in empowering projects for the less fortunate individuals/families so as we achieve our goals and objectives we are changing the world and making it a better place to be in. Lets make the world smile' Jesse Anjichi, Founder/Member KCEP

Community Microfinance

Community microfinance continues to play a vital role in poverty alleviation in Emuhaya district. Kipepeo in its quest to empower the community, uses cohesively the microcredit method to enable members of the smaller groups of 10-30 people to acquire soft loans from their own savings to establish small business that, coupled by the entrepreneurship trainings, will make these businesses be transformed into future enterprises that will drive development in the villages. Through this method, KCEP was competently awarded a contract to monitor and supervise 38 of the district poverty eradication funded groups in the whole of Emuhaya District. This has enabled KCEP to scale its reach of microfinance and business trainings to over 50 groups in the community with the membership of 1200 people. Most of the groups are composed by women who are the sole providers of families in the villages. To strengthen the groups capacity, KCEP visits the groups on monthly basis, educating them on leadership, group management, conflict resolution, business and entrepreneurship, record keeping, activities development, savings and loaning, the importance of loans and the frequency of savings, social development and the welfare of the groups.



Above: Jesse Giving a motivational speech to empower the microfinance

French Language



Above: 1st French class

On Saturday the 9th of march KCEP begun free French lessons! French is the second most common language in the world. We think it is very important to further improve our languages making it easier to interact with the European people.



Left: OVC Excursion

OVC Excursion

On Saturday the 23rd the OVC scouting group set off on their first excursion. The destination was the caves named 'Mzunguti'. We had a total of 8 children and 2 KCEP staff. The KCEP staff was Wycliffe Alusa and Tyrone Estcourt. The aim of this excursion was to introduce physical activity, knowledge of the local environment and group leadership. The children saw such things as the natural rock caves, beautiful views and a view of Lake Victoria. The kids really enjoyed this excursion. They enjoyed being active and seeing new things. They worked together well with the older children showing their leadership skills by making sure the group stayed together and helping the younger ones overcome challenging obstacles. Kipepeo staff and the OVC are looking forward to their next excursion.



Above: Westernport Secondary College

Fundraising

On march 21st a group of young students from Westernport secondary college in Australia hosted a fundraising for KCEP successfully raising more than \$300 from coin donations. A big thank you to Casey McDonnell, Renee Owen, Tayla Goold, Ben Jansz, Brad Scanlan and Sam Grimme from all of KCEP! We would also like to thank Shannon Estcourt for all fundraising work she is doing in Australia. A lot of time and effort is going into the things she is doing with amazing results. Already succeeding to take 3 street boys back to school with plenty more to come within April.

Kipepeo Kindergarten



Kipepeo Kindergarten is a community nursery school initiated and managed by KCEP. KCEP's residence is strategically located in the heart of Kima, a small shopping centre making the location of the kindergarten key with extensive catchment area for the kids to study in. Apparently the kids who attend are children's of the people who do small businesses, poor and needy in one way or another. Their needy background is expressed by the guardians and the kids too. Some kids are orphans, have single parent or are vulnerable, leaving under the care of their old grand parents. But with this centre we believe that we shall be able to offer them a smile, hope and future through educational background and space for growth.

More volunteers are always welcome, please contact us if you are interested!

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Computer training

The march computer training attracted 24 students who came from different locations. The standard of the computer students are getting higher and the majority of the students are achieving high marks. One of the students even got employed in a local High School to teach computer and two of the top students have now chosen to volunteer and assist in further teaching of computer.



Note from the project

Dear Friend,

I bet you're the adventurous one. You've got a passion for giving back, and a seemingly inexhaustible supply of wanderlust. You're an adventurer; a trailblazer! **Following your own path necessarily to volunteer abroad is a key stepping stone to the change we want.** www.kipepeo.yolasite.com

If you've got your heart set on the volunteer experience of a lifetime and don't have a buddy to join the adventure, then a Kipepeo Community Empowerment Program is the perfect volunteer abroad program for you.

Tons of volunteers enroll on their own with the knowledge that our programs are the safest and most immersive around. The beautiful thing about volunteering internationally with Kipepeo is that even if your fellow volunteers aren't your old friends, you're never really going it alone. In fact, chances are, **you're about to meet some brand new, soon to be "old friends."** Just see what Tyrone, a current long term Kipepeo volunteer, had to say about enrolling solo:

"Joining Kipepeo solo was at first a bit nerve racking, but the minute I arrived at the airport I was greeted by a very excited Julius waiting for me. Not at any point in the so far three months I have been here that I have felt alone, the members of Kipepeo are always so friendly and welcoming. Other international volunteers have come and gone but I will never forget them, I find myself making new friends every day. I have found myself creating my own projects as long as still contributing to the current projects. The work I am doing here is very moving and I can feel myself changing and becoming a better person. Currently I'm volunteering alongside a group of local volunteers and two international volunteers, Claudia from Spain and Gerald from Austria. It's very fascinating learning about three very different cultures at the one time. Although we have been together for such a short time I feel like I have made some lifetime friends. I couldn't be happier with choosing Kipepeo as my program, I feel that I am really making use of my time here and I'm doing what I really want to do. I look forward to the seven more months I have left in Kenya, I know at times I will face some difficult challenges but I can always rely on the Kipepeo family to support me through anything."

As a Kipepeo volunteer, you'll spend your days working alongside new friends and groups in the community, and afternoons and evenings engaging in immersive cultural activities, capacity building trainings, French lessons, and Kiswahili lessons with your fellow volunteers. Not to mention the amazing friends you'll find in each member of the Kipepeo Team — an incredibly warm and welcoming local team in your project of choice.

Go ahead—enroll solo, and join the family!
Best,

Julius Khamati Kuya
Project Coordinator

KCEP updates

Kipepeo has established a women's empowerment program dubbed as Kipepeo Sisters Empowerment Project. This project is aimed at creating space for young ladies, girls and women in the communities of Emuhaya to realize their potentials through;

- Creation of forums at any level, community, schools that can bring ladies together to share their aspiration, discuss any pertinent issues that affect them positively and negatively, engage in debates on any topic of their choice.
- Enabling girls and ladies to identify their potential, skills and to utilize them effectively for their growth.
- Understand it is their choices and not their role.
- Initiate their projects, activities and to pursue them confidently without dismissal and discouragement.
- Discuss openly health issues and how effectively they can utilize health facilities.



Above: Volunteers Julius, Tyrone and Moses showing off their new uniforms



Above: OVC enjoying a game of soccer

Below: OVC overcoming fears and



Below: Official launch of Kipepeo Kindergarten



Below: Moses giving counseling to the street boys



Above: Welcome back to school Bernard, Joash and Michael



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