



AMURT CHILDREN'S HOME

August Greetings !



August 2013

TERM II CLOSING DAY CULTURAL PROGRAMME AT ANANDA MARGA ACADEMY KIEMBENI

The ambient on 7th August was congenial and the school hall charged with excitement of the children who participated in the term's closing day cultural programme.

Parents were impressed with the variety of talent expressed. They were surprised to see that of the entire school of 450 children, everyone had a role in the presentations. No one was left out.

The guest speaker, Representative of Bamburi Ward, Mr. Riziki Fundi, was also very pleased with the imaginative show and later spoke to the parents praising the school and its role in the community. He expressed his regard for the policy of accepting and educating all children regardless of their academic ability; he pointed out that it is a defect to "sieve" children which some

schools do in order to show a high result for their institutions. Ananda Marga Academy aims to bring out the best in all the pupil, even slow learners, which Mr. Riziki supports.. He also urged the parents to strive for the higher education of their children.

The theme of the cultural event was What makes up a good society? Three actors from Class seven creatively linked the nine presentations. One actor posed as a graduate student who was conducting a research on what elements make up a good society. He meets up with the second actor from Ananda Marga. Through seeing the children's performances, the grad student got ideas for his assignment. A third actor also joined in order to point out that animals also have a place in Kenyan society; they further tourism naturally, but also have rights. The last presentation had to do with lead-

ership. Good leadership is a major requirement towards making a good society possible. A moving tribute was made to Nelson Mandela by classes seven and eight.

A video of the event & project is being produced, so that our friends may hear some traditional music of Kenya as well as see the dances and costumes. Below are photos of (a) some animals waiting to act (b) a traditional wedding presented by KG two and Md. Josephine; (c) a Luhya dance presented by girls from class five led by Mary; (d) an active song about our foods in Kenya led by Md. Grace. (e) poem about education and relationships.



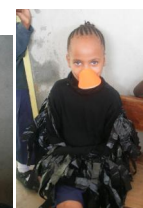
(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)



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AMURT Children's Home welcomes a volunteer from Spain

Itziar Arechederra—from the north of Spain has been a volunteer with the European Voluntary Service for over seven years. She served in the Canary Islands where her assignment was to help refugees from Morocco. She also worked with refugee children from sub-Saharan Africa in Ma-



One Universal Family is fostered through volunteerism

drid for an organization Karibu Madrid.

Itziar came to Nairobi in April of this year and was interacting with children in a school in Huruma slum, where she happened upon the Ananda Marga School there (see trip article on the next page). And through Didi Girija, Itziar came to know of the children's home and projects at Kiembeni.

Itziar now plans to spend

three months in the children's home and school. She brings lots of energy and creative ideas... So far Itziar's involvement has been in training Standard One pupils in movement and choreography for the Cultural Programme, in which they acted out animals such as lions, elephant and giraffe with a background of African music. She has also spent time with the girls downloading music, making bead jewelry and teaching Spanish dances.

El Flamenco, La Salsa y La Samba as taught by Itziar



One intriguing thing about the Flamenco—from the girls' point of view—is that dancers wear heeled shoes and wide dresses.

They are receiving instructions every afternoon during the holiday, and one of the aims is to perform a combined Spanish dance performance for some visitors who will come in late August from Njoro,

Kenya.

Itziar's mother, brother and aunt will also visit in September, so there may be other performances, which the girls look forward to.

Here is what some girls have to say: Winnie: I like the Salsa beat, and the sound of the Spanish music. I'd like to make a cultural programme—it is fun.



Egglah Rukia: The dancing makes me feel like I'm doing something different from our routine. I like to learn more and more!

Marita Shitoko: I love dancing in high heel shoes.

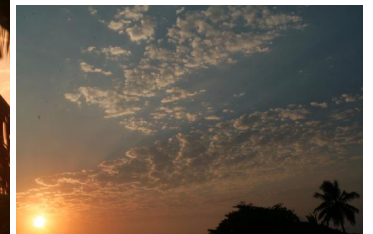


Photographs of the Kiembeni environment

Itziar likes photography and some of the striking photos on this page are hers.



It is enlightening to see one's own environment from the fresh point of view of a visitor

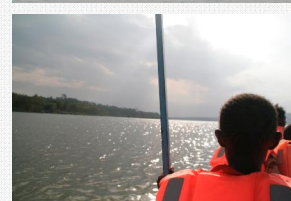


Huruma school in Nairobi conducts excursions

Huruma, a crowded residential and small business area of Nairobi, lacks play space and green areas. It was with gladness that the children of Ananda Marga School Huruma took excursions in the month of July. The KG three, lower primary and Std. Four visited Bomas Kenya, Giraffe Center, Mamba Village and the animal orphanage in Nairobi. The upper primary children were given the opportunity to visit parts of Rift Valley: Lake Navaisha and Mt. Longonot. Here are some highlights of the kids' trip through photos.



Children have an affinity to the natural world. Here a baboon enjoys a sunny day at the animal orphanage. The children enjoy watching him.



The Great Rift Valley



About the Children's Home and Schools: How you can help

AMURT Children's Home provides a home-like environment to orphaned girls of the Mombasa region.



Assist children to grow up well

The girls grow up in a family-like atmosphere in which they share

responsibilities and learn problem solving. They are not shielded from the normal Kenyan life, but allowed an opportunity to develop their inherent capacities so they can contribute to the larger community. After primary education, the girls are encouraged to proceed to secondary schools and get their secondary certificates, and further on to colleges for trade training. Currently there are three girls in primary who will require sponsorship before they embark on secon-

dary education in 2014-15. There are also two girls in secondary schools who require sponsorship in order to continue their studies. Our primary schools at Kiembeni and Huruma also have students from destitute families. We can provide details of how you can assist a poor student making sure they have their required books, uniform and tuition. All donations go fully to the child. Fee free to write to: Didi A. Giitika, agiitika@yahoo.com Telephone: +254-734 671992



We live in community and community sustains us.

AMURT Children's Home and Ananda Marga Academy are projects of **ANANDA MARGA MISSION**, an organization founded in India in 1955 by P. R. Sarkar. Through the practice of meditation, the mind and heart are expanded and awareness of the oneness of the universe—including all living things—is created. For further information on the educational ideas, you can go to gurukul.edu