

jitegemee

\jee-tay-geh-máy\ v [Swahili : sustain yourself] : empowering street children through **education**.

December 2007

Dear Friend,

It is hard to believe that 2007 is almost over. The year has flown by us here at Jitegemee, so packed with activities that we have hardly had time to take stock of all that that we have done.

We recently held our first graduation ceremony for our vocational students, who have grown over the past three years from a group of shy street kids into a proud work force of carpenters, tailors, welders, beauticians, and mechanics. This year, we also launched our first internships for high school students to help better prepare them for the future with daily work during their school vacations at the local hospital, the district court house, the Ministry of Information, and other institutions. As a sign of just how many of Jitegemee's kids are fast becoming responsible young adults, we enrolled our first high school graduate, Mulei Kivuva, in college at the Kenya Institute of Management.



Students take part in trust-building exercises during their trip to Tsavo National Park

Jitegemee itself is growing up as an organization. This year, we began the challenging and rewarding task of raising the funds to purchase the sprawling one-story building and grassy compound that we currently occupy in Machakos. So far, we have received gifts or pledges for roughly half of the \$80,000 we need to buy the building and renovate it for our expanding needs. We are grateful for the support of our lead donors in this effort and we appeal to others who are interested in learning more about directed giving opportunities related to the purchase and renovation of the building.

On top of mentoring and supporting our 60 primary and secondary school students and 75 vocational trainees, our program director, Mike Kimeu, and our dedicated staff of three teachers still had the energy to take 121 kids and group of their guardians to Tsavo National Park for our annual overnight trip. The kids look forward to these trips all year, as unique learning and bonding experiences. This year at Tsavo,

they got the opportunity to see wildlife and to learn about conserving the environment for Kenya's zebra, giraffe, elephants, and hippos.

It goes without saying that none of this work could have been done without all of you. The generosity of our donors, large and small, has given us the support to build this life-changing program for street and destitute children. Your donations go a long way, since we have no paid staff in the United States and spend less than five percent of our annual \$50,000-plus budget on administrative overhead. Your \$500 check would pay for a student to attend high school for a year, or support five kids in elementary school. A \$100 check could also help us expand our library, pay for our daily lunch program or get us just a little bit closer to achieving our dream of purchasing the building that houses our school. With your help, next year will be as fruitful as the last.

Asante sana (thank you very much) and Mwaka mpya mwema (Happy New Year),

Farah Stockman
Executive Director

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