



# KENYA



NEWSLETTER - 2016 SUMMER



## THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE **LEARNING HUB**

Dear Friends, Parents and Students,  
I couldn't be more proud of introducing the Summer edition of the Kenya newsletter for 2016. The first photos celebrate the official opening of the Learning Hub that took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January. What a memorable moment this was: Our association Make a Difference aims to inspire learning, innovation and action. Our goal for the Learning Hub is to unlock the potential of a group of vulnerable children, but not only. We hope that this beautiful learning center will ignite learning for people of all ages. The project to build a school for orphan children was ambitious and, as in most large projects, there were moments when it wasn't all plane sailing. There were obstacles that led to set backs but thanks to the unwavering support from so many of you we never lost faith.

The satisfaction of finally welcoming 53 students to the Learning Hub was immeasurable. This is the perfect opportunity to say an enormous **thank you** to all the wonderful people who have believed in this noble project and have "walked by my side" over the past few years to realize this incredible dream.





## **OBJECTIVE: A TRAINING HUB** **CULTURAL EXCHANGE FOR TEACHERS**

With the school finally open we were able to start another educational project, this time for the teachers. The aim is to offer an exchange program for teaching staff so they can extend their teaching experiences and widen their horizons by learning from other teaching environments.

Katie Alcock (from the UK) and Bridget Ewen (from New Zealand), at present teaching at BAPS here in Milan, were the first to inaugurate this amazing cultural exchange. The experience for both teachers was life changing. Katie has



taken on the responsibility of keeping up the strong bond that has developed with the African teachers, whilst Bridget has decided to return to Africa as a full time volunteer. Her work will initiate in Uganda and

then continue to Kenya where she will work at the Imani children's home. «I sponsor a child in Uganda and I've been dreaming to meet him for a long time», she explains. «I'm so excited to lend a helping hand». Just a drop in the ocean, she minimizes. But a drop can make the difference in a number of children's lives.



## **A THIRD QUALIFIED TEACHER** **JOINS THE LEARNING HUB**

Her name is Tabitha Akinyi Oyoo and she joined the Learning Hub's staff after working in Ethiopia at the beginning of May. Tabitha, 26, has a degree in Early Childhood Education (first Class Honours) and a passion for teaching. One of her objectives is: «To work in an intellectually stimulating and meaningfully challenging position, that promotes continuous learning and fosters high quality service delivery». Welcome dear Tabitha!





## LILIAN'S AND LOISE'S LETTERS TO OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of April Lilian and Loise, at present employed at the Learning Hub, returned the invitation and arrived in Milan for three weeks. Lilian and Loise were welcomed by the whole

school community and immediately joined the teaching staff to observe and teach in classrooms of all year levels. Here below are the thank you letters from the girls.

**LILIAN : "I HAVE LEARNT SO MUCH. YOUR METHODOLOGY HAS BEEN BOUGHT BACK TO KENYA"**



**LOISE: "THANK YOU FOR THE BOOKS. WE HAVE RECEIVED SUCH A WONDERFUL WELCOME"**



My trip to Italy was the best opportunity I have yet to experience as a teacher. The welcome was very special from everyone at BAPS and BES. I learned so much during my three week stay, but just to mention a few, the system of education is one to admire and one I would wish for my children back in Kenya. The educational research clearly stood out for me. I learned that by adopting a child centered approach, by observing and understanding the children more, it was so much easier to get them involved in their learning. A learning that is more interesting to them as opposed to me choosing what I think would interest them. I also got tips from the Reception and Year 1 classes on how to inspire the children and engage them in creative writing. Having the children research different projects in the same class was also an eye opener for me.

As we speak I have already started to implement some of the good practice I observed during my experience at BAPS/BES hoping it will yield good results.

I take this occasion to extend a warm welcome to all the families and teaching staff of BAPS/BES to come and visit us here in Kenya at the Learning Hub.

Warm regards,  
Lilian

It's the 5<sup>th</sup> of April, the plane has landed at Malpensa airport, in Milan and the first thing that hits me is the chilly weather, and I am thinking "they said its warm this is nothing close to warm". Fast forward, we arrive at the school the next day in the morning to a very warm welcome, I must say I was a tiny bit worried about the reception from the members of staff and the children, but from the word go everyone treated us like they already knew us and to make us comfortable: a big thanks to Angy, Katie and Mr Z for all the extra time they spent with us. The children were simply amazing, on their best behavior, asked their questions very politely, the amount of curiosity they showed and the interest in our school in Kenya was truly incredible. A very special thanks to the year 7 and 8 students for spending time with us and donating books to our school, we are indebted to you. It was so interesting to watch the children doing their research on the iPads and coming up with amazing answers, we hope this is something we will soon be able to do here in Kenya. We cannot say thank you enough to Debbie, Mariann and Luca for giving us this opportunity to visit Italy and take time out of your busy schedule to spend time with us.

Asante Sana,  
Loise



# THE ENDLESS LIST OF INITIATIVES TO FUND RAISE FOR THE KENYA PROJECT THAT ALL HELP TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The ingenious and tireless work of the Student Council during all of the scholastic year organizing a multitude of events (see the table here below) certainly brought its fruits. An amazing Euro 2.989,52 was raised.

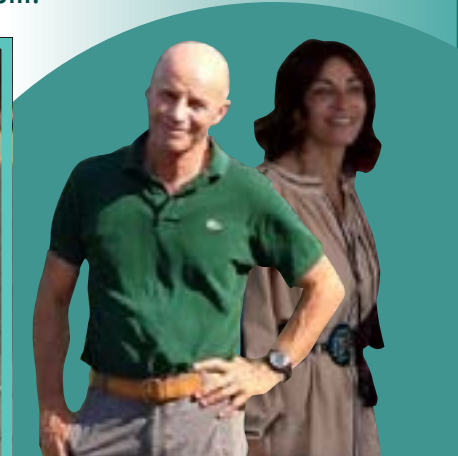
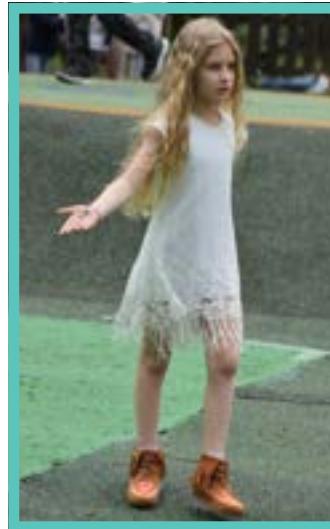
The BES and BAPS community gathered all their Es-selunga vouchers which enabled us to provide the Learning Hub with a video-camera three notebooks 15" Intel 13, three tablets with attachable keyboards and a maxi-pack of coloured paper. Numerous have been the mini-projects proposed and implemented by lots of children from all the year levels (Y1 to Y5) that

together raised Euro 62,50. The British School of Milan also joined forces with nearly Euro 600 to support two African students at St. Dominics. The BAPS/BES traditional Summer Fête produced an astounding Euro 6.882,92, part of which will be destined to the Learning Hub in Kenya. A sincere thank you to two special friends, Laura Avanzi and Klaus Schuler who celebrated their birthdays by donating to the orphan children of Imani instead of receiving gifts.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all of you: together we have collected a great sum!

## FUNDRAISING BES 2015-2016

HALLOWEEN .....	210,00
BAKE SALE .....	430,00
PAJAMA DAY .....	758,94
CANDY CANES .....	224,30
BOOK DRIVE .....	212,00
CRAZY HAIR DAY .....	459,77
CASUAL DRESS DAY .....	694,51
<b>Student Council's Total</b> .....	<b>2.989,52</b>
Year 1-5 Students' Self-Initiated Actions	62,50
<b>Total Amount</b> .....	<b>3.052,02</b>



## GREEN "UNIFORMS" DONATED BY A BES FAMILY

Many thanks to the Tudisco family who provided our children of the school in Kigiwetenga with their first school uniform: a bright green T-shirt with the bright coloured logo which is shown here in the picture with Ginevra and Jacopo Tudisco.



**A MODEM AND 40 TABLETS  
ARE BEING ORDERED FOR US\$ 5.000**

**KIO KIT: A REVOLUTION FOR EDUCATION**

African technology for Africa. Preparations are being made to introduce the Kio Kit (Kio means mirror in Swahili) at the Learning Hub. The project consists of a modem, 40 tablets and a wi-fi router that provides an Internet connection even in areas without electricity. This will enable the students of the Learning Hub to be aligned with their western peers. The device, more or less as big as a brick, has been sold in 54 countries in the world including the US and Europe.

***A hardwearing tablet  
that can be re-charged with solar energy***

The technology developed by Brck Education (a young enterprise founded in 2013 in Nairobi, thanks to a crowd-funding that raised 172.00 US\$) enables to connect an entire class in a few minutes. The Kio Kit is sturdy, easy to use and reliable. The tablets are water and dust resistant and have an autonomy of 8 hours. The devices can be recharged in four hours from the mains (if available) or by solar panels. Each device is complete with headphones and has been designed es-

pecially for schools, even if it can be used in all sectors. Although there are numerous didactic contents (literature, mathematics, history) that have been developed for the Kenyan curriculum, it is also compatible with numerous android Apps available on the market and used by schools in the both Europe and the US.

***Africa ready to make  
an incredible jump forward***

According to the UN, there are currently 410 million students in Africa (destined to become 800 million in 2050). Only a very limited number of these students have access to Internet. When this hurdle will be exceeded this continent will have an incredible cultural and economical development. Thanks to generous sponsors, Make a Difference will be able to buy a complete kit with 40 tablets for 5.000 US\$.

It is with great pride and pleasure to witness that not only the children at BES but also their friends in Kenya will have the opportunity to receive and education which is a model of excellence.



**THE NEW FURNITURE  
BRINGS JOY AND HAPPINESS**

The new furniture for the Learning Hub has finally arrived. You can see a photo showing the excitement of the children as they unpacked their new chairs. "Beautiful", said the teachers. "And a big thank you from everyone!"



## **A STUDENT IN MIAMI IS THE WINNER OF THE MILAN MAD PARTY LOTTERY A STAGE TO THE US CONSULATE FOR ALBERTO THANKS TO CAREER PATHS**

It is over a year ago that the first fundraising MaD Party was held in Milan. One of the lottery prizes was kindly offered by Career Paths; first Educational Family Office in Italy. This company based in Milan, helps families and students to define formative paths and careers. Through their contacts with universities and companies in Italy and abroad, qualified staff help students outline their abilities enabling them to choose their studies in line with their ambitions to enter the working world. Winner of this prize at the party was

Alberto Nolli, currently a university student in Miami. Alberto is now completing his work experience at the US Consulate in Milan thanks to Career Paths and has written: «May I thank you for this wonderful opportunity. This experience has not only been an insight to what could become a work opening but it has also connected what I am currently studying with the working world. This work placement has required a lot of responsibility but has in turn given me an incredible motivation. Thanks to all of you».



## **LEO LORENZO AND MARZIO DONATE 500 POUNDS TO THE LEARNING HUB THE MONGOL CHARITY RALLY**

Leonardo, Lorenzo and Marzio, who will soon be graduating in Engineering, are going to experience a cultural and adventurous trip, the Mongol Rally, which also has a charitable purpose. It is in fact aimed at raising funds that will be partly donated to the Learning Hub in Kenya and partly to the Onlus Cool Earth (a non-profit association to save the Amazon rainforest). The Mongol Rally is a car rally that begins in Europe and originally ended in Ulan Bator, Mongolia. To avoid punitive costs and taxes associated with vehicle imports and disposal, the rally now passes through Mongolia and ends in Ulan Ude, Russia. The rules of the Rally are simple: 1. You can only take a small vehicle 2. You're completely on your own 3. You've got to raise a £1000 for charity. Leonardo Caprio was one of the 9 students that formed the first pioneering BES class in 1999. The three enterprising young engineers explained their project to the BES Middle school students in March. They were also present at the Summer Fete with their Fiat Panda dated 1999 which raised more funds. Mission accomplished. Enjoy your trip and a heartfelt thank you!







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# WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME AN ANGEL?

*Often we take our wellbeing and comfort for granted. Many of us don't realize that, not so far away, there is extreme poverty and neglect. We cordially invite you to give the possibility to more orphans (some of whom are HIV positive) a better future.*

## WHAT DOES AN ANGEL GAIN?

A sense of pride in helping to provide a start in life for children who otherwise might not have such an opportunity. Recognition in the new school's roster of Angels. Regular reports on the school's activities and achievements. The chance to visit and see first hand the smiles that light up the faces of this future generation.



## AFRICA'S FUTURE IS THROUGH EDUCATION

In our small Nursery School we are able to provide a high quality, extensive and stimulating curriculum in English for the younger community of the Imani Children's Home. Education rather than un-unconditional charity can help Africa realize its full potential. All donations however big or small can make the difference.



## Important Information

For the classes and families that would like to sponsor a child in Kenya (Euro 300) and would like more information, please contact us at [milano@makeadifference.it](mailto:milano@makeadifference.it)

Make a Difference  
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# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

On behalf of Make a Difference  
I look forward to inspiring action  
and changing lives with you

*Debbie Chilver*

