



# KENYA



NEWSLETTER - 2016 WINTER



## SOLE AND OLIMPIA IN AUGUST AT THE LEARNING HUB THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING



**Dear friends, parents and students,**  
Make a difference has so much to be thankful for this year. The official opening of the Learning Hub has given fruit to a number of memorable moments from when it officially opened in January. I would like to share but a few with you in our Winter Newsletter. One of our association's priorities is to help young people create meaning by helping others. Volunteering makes you happy, it increases self-confidence and instills a sense of purpose. We start teaching the importance of giving to our students from a very early age. What joy therefore that in August two of our ex-students Sole and Olimpia Castelbarco, who are studying in grade four at Parini and 12<sup>th</sup> IB at Hockerill College, decided to help out at the Learning Hub. Here inside is an account of their experience.



## SOLE VISITS THE LEARNING HUB I WILL NEVER FORGET



*My amazing experience has come to an end. My heart is filled with overwhelming feelings and memories. This has been one of the most beautiful and inspiring experiences I have ever had in my life. I was a bit apprehensive at first but the children welcomed me with their wonderful songs and one child said "welcome, welcome to our class".*

### **The daily routine**

*Teacher Tabby explained to me the children's routine and then showed me the other classrooms and introduced me to the other children. By mid morning I started to work with a group of 7 children, aged from 5 to 7. They are wonderful children. They immediately*



*asked me to read them stories and teach something to them. And so I did. I was amazed by their eagerness to learn/study as opposed to most of my peers who find these activities boring.*

### **So sweet, so polite**

*Soon after, I learned their names and started to be more familiar with them. Shirleen is a very nice and polite little girl.*

*Maxwell, the young boy with artificial legs, is always smiling and playful. Ahmed is a very little boy always lost in thought. Slim Rooney with long eyelashes is a joker. Faith is a very sweet but lively little girl with lots of little plaits who was always biting her shoe. And, finally, my two favourites: Kefati, with the most incredible toothless smile in the world and Bahati Angel, the little girl I was most fond of because she was just like me: a bit shy but willing to open up with time, a very scrupulous and sweet child.*

### **The world is so unjust**

*I reflected on how the world is unjust. So many opportunities for us, whereas these children deserve so much more. I feel however relieved as I think that the new school we are supporting is helping them to have access to a high level of education. On the last day of school we staged a kind of Sports Day. The children participated in a number of games and sang a number of songs about love.*

### **Precious gifts for me**

*I was deeply moved by Bahati's way of looking at me. When for example they sang "I love you, you love me, we are a happy family", she looked at me in a way I'll never forget. I'll always treasure these memories and emotions. I will always keep the plastic ring that Maxwell made for me with his little fingers. I will keep these feelings, the memories of their smiles and their wonderful acts of kindness in my heart.*

## OLIMPIA'S EXPERIENCE

## SINCERE SMILES AND VISIBLE JOY TO TREASURE

*Zawadi. Zawadi in Swahili means gift, a precious gift. Zawadi is the name of a wonderful little girl of eight, one of the students at The Learning Hub our school. The short, but very intense week which I spent at the school gave me the possibility of helping the teachers but above all through this experience I received so much. The genuine smiles of the children, the joy permeating from their eyes, the gentleness they radiated in thanking us made this an unforgetta-*

*ble experience. A little boy called Japheth said one day "the Learning Hub is my second home". Having given this small contribution has not only enriched me but has also made me aware of the reality these children live. These children are born without parents, a home or the certainty of being able to go to school. The Learning Hub offers them a family community and the assurance of an education. Our help is precious for them just as their disarming smiles are for us.*



## SKYPE WITH THE LEARNING HUB

### MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

Christmas songs, season wishes, smiles and many waving hands: on 2nd December for the first time BAPS skyped with the children at the Learning Hub. Together with their teachers, the Kigiwetenga orphans sang songs about their country, whilst the BAPS children waved their hands and Christmas stars up high to say hello. Merry Christmas to all the children around the World



Kenyan Backstage  
**This is how  
a show  
is prepared**



## 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER: THE SECOND MAD PARTY IN MILAN THE SPECIAL GUESTS THAT HELPED US MAKE OUR PARTY A SUCCESS

A special thank you to Federica Fontana, Alessandro Cattelan, Karina Manchhour, to the band SAX N' CITY and dj Niki Winspeare who entertained the guests until late. A special thank you to Mr and

Mrs Fimognari, Fabrizio Barzanò, the Mischiari family and Con-falonieri family Last but not least we would like to thank all the people who made a difference.



**MaD PARTY**  
Can you make the difference?  
DJ Set Niki Winspeare  
Special Guests Federica Fontana - Alessandro Cattelan

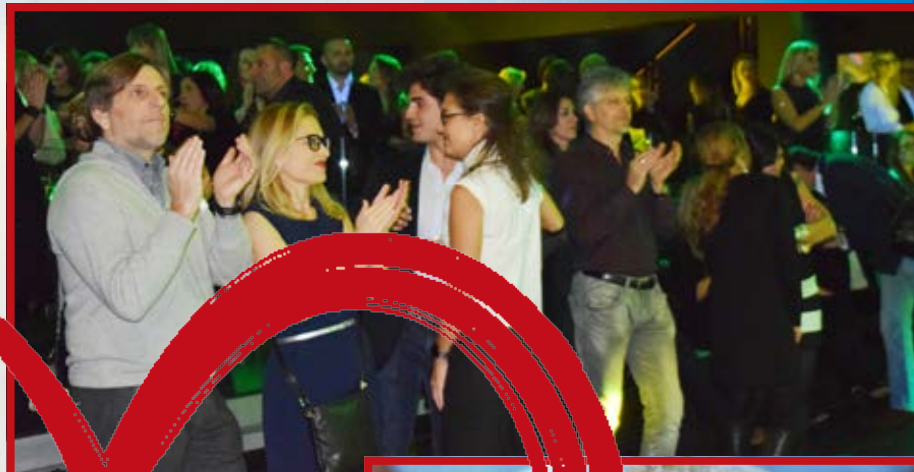




## 29TH NOVEMBER: THE SECOND MAD PARTY IN MILAN

# WE HAVE RAISED NEARLY 30.000 EUROS THANK YOU!

On 29<sup>th</sup> November to cover the current expenses (teachers' wages, maintenance, etc..), we organized the second edition of the MAD Party, at the Club House in Via Valtellina, Milan. Thanks to Giovannaarena's support and to many other generous benefactors, we were able to raise nearly 30.000 Euros. 500 guests attended the event.



## ANGIE, RECEPTION 3, DESCRIBES HER WEEK IN KENYA A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE

I have recently returned from a life changing experience in Kenya, where I had the privilege of meeting and getting to know each of the orphans at the Imani Children's Home in Kigewetanga. Although they have been born into a situation that in our eyes is extremely sad, they are the most joyful, smiley, happy and caring children I have ever worked with. From the moment that they heard the car horn outside the big gates, they all came running to greet us. They were expecting me, because they immediately called me "Teacher Angie" and couldn't wait to see me at their school the following day; the school that is paving the way to a better future for them.



They are very eager pupils and seeing the spark of curiosity and pure excitement in their eyes reminded me that they are children, just like our children, and they too have dreams and aspirations: to be nurses, doctors, teachers or veterinarians. These dreams are all possible for them now with the education that The Learning Hub provides. It is all a result of your kind donations, and I can be a testimony and say that you are really Making a Difference!



### Future in their eyes

The Learning Hub is the school that the association Make a Difference along with a multitude of generous

benefactors have founded in Kenya in order to provide these children with a life changing education. The children find themselves in a class with around 15 children, where they follow an integrated Kenyan and British National Curriculum, providing them with a very high quality of education. I was amazed at how well they are doing with their English and overall academic achievements.

### How lucky we are

I flew out of Milan on the evening of the 29th October with Marco, who is a film maker and came to document this amazing project. After a brief stop off at Rome, we flew direct to Mombasa, where a car was waiting for us to take us to Watamu, approximately two hours away. Immediately looking out the window as we drove through the city, it was a completely new world. The landscape is stunning and the huge baobab trees were beautiful. Debbie met us outside and she kindly welcomed us into her home for the week. I honestly feel like I lived a month compressed into a week. I met so many amazing children, helped them at school, provided training for The Learning Hub teachers, saw zebras, lions and elephants, learned to dance and sing Kenyan style and most importantly realised how lucky we really are. We are working on setting up iPads for the children to use to support their learning and are continuing to help the teachers provide the best learning experience possible for these children.

(Angie, Reception 3 Teacher)



Reception children at work

### Dear friends, I'm writing to you to say

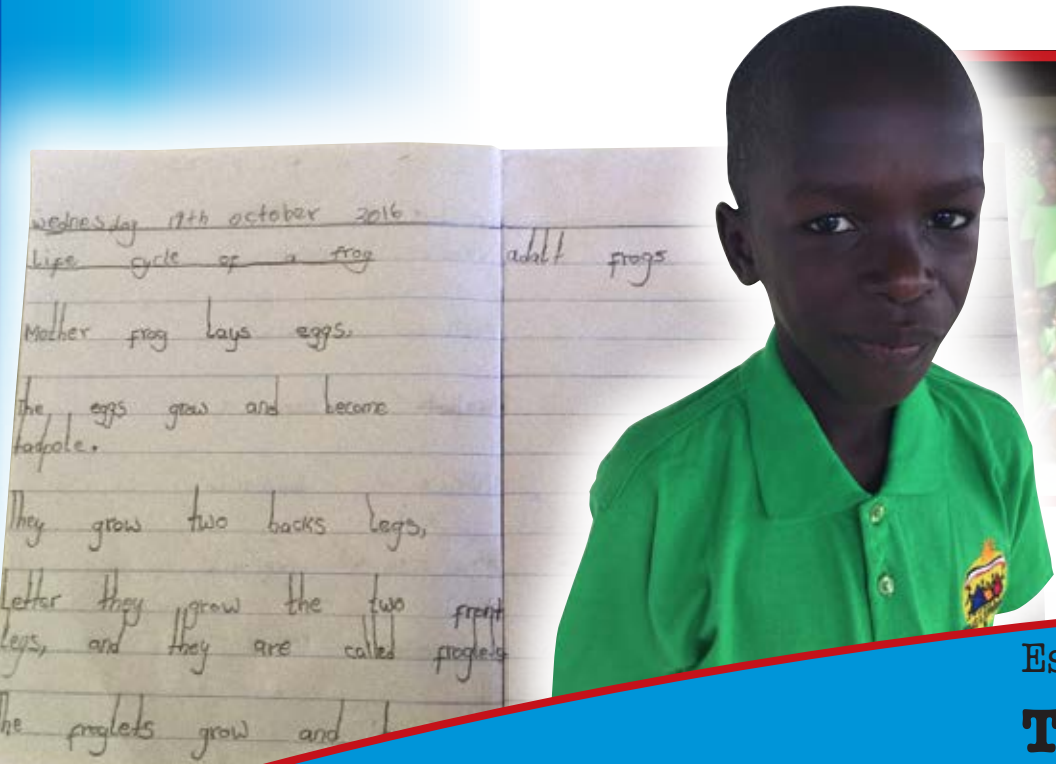
All the Reception children created Christmas cards in English for their friends at the Learning Hub. In these photos you can see some creative moments in Reception 3.



## LOISE AND TABBY'S ACCOUNT "THE CHILDREN HAVE GROWN IN SO MANY WAYS"

*I remember clearly the first two weeks of school. I gave the children a variety of reading material, later I would ask them to retell what they had read in their own words. I realized that they did not understand most of what they read, since they didn't speak English, most of*

*what they read did not make sense. Fast forward, October 2016, we had a discussion and read on the life cycle of a frog, I then asked each one of them to describe what we had discussed in their books, below is one of the write ups. Nothing is impossible with these children!*



Esselunga Vouchers

### Technological and School Material

**Mr Day Jones donated an iMac**



**ESSELUNGA**



## LET'S GIVE AFRICA A FUTURE A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO EACH AND EVERY ANGEL

Through these years of fundraising, we have encountered many generous people who have contributed, each according to their possibilities to helping children who only have the only fault of being born in the wrong continent. These children need everything: in Kenya, only 50 per cent of them manage to go to school. The schools are overcrowded - with more than 90 students per class. High schools are expensive and enrolments drop to 39 per cent.

We would like to thank all the angels, who, in all these years, have supported us. Thank you parents of BAPS and BES for collecting the Esselunga tokens (8.481). We have been able to get educational equipment. A special thank you to COVEME and EURHOPE that for the fourth year running has given a donation, to CRISTALFARMA that has donated for the second year running and to STEP, that have joined us this year.

Thanks to all the BES, BAPS students and to all our supporters who, with their drive, have sponsored the education project of the St Dominic's primary school students.



### Important information

For the classes and families that wish to continue to give a donation to sponsor their child in Kenya, this is the time of year we ask for your contribution

Make a Difference  
UNICREDIT BANCA IBAN  
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If on the other hand you are presently sponsoring a child but no longer feel you can continue this commitment for the 2017 scholastic year, please let us know as soon as possible. Unfortunately we will not be able to take over the sponsorship and therefore the child's education will no longer be sustained

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## Wishes you a Happy Christmas

To give a child the possibility to go to school is the most precious Christmas gift you could make, for the child and for yourself



Seasons Greetings!

Debbie Chilver