

**Building Updates**

There has been more construction on the school site, with the foundations laid for the new classroom block. The first rabbit hutches have been completed. The rabbits will be used for meat and to sell for an income. The rabbits will be looked after by the agriculture students as part of their curriculum.

The first hutch will hold approximately 12 rabbits to begin with.



Construction of rabbit hutches

There are also thousands of bricks on the school site which have been made by hand. These are being used to begin the next classroom block.



The view from the quarry onto the main school site gives you an idea of how much construction has occurred over the years. The newly completed dormitory, which was funded by South Dartmoor Academy, is in the foreground, and the classroom blocks and laboratories are behind. There is land beyond the class blocks and to the right out of frame.

The progress has been astounding, and it is not until it is seen in its entirety that you have a 'feel' for the school. There is still much to do, including plans for a new kitchen and a girls' dormitory.



Above – classroom foundations

Below – the school site

**Operation Imprezza**  
 HELPING THE EDUCATION OF AFRICA'S FUTURE

***Our Mission is to enable students, both boys and girls, who would not otherwise have any access to secondary or decent primary education to succeed.***

## **Past Student Stories**

*The following are a few stories of past students of Imprezza and how their lives are now;*

### **Jorum Omuyoma**

Jorum is a former student (8<sup>th</sup> from the left) who is working at Rusinga School. He has been able to put his siblings through school and hopes to be able to give some support back to Imprezza in the future.



Jorum Omuyoma (arrowed)



Catherine Kavisa Musyoki



### **Catherine Kavisa Musyoki** (written herself)

I was born and raised in the Kawagware slums and in a family of six children. I once didn't believe I would be writing this in an office where I am addressed as a Personal assistant to the director and a front office operator in Equip group of Companies.

When I Met Catherine Omanyo I was desperate and I almost had given up in life reasons being it was frustrating to wake up and go looking for water while your fellow students were going to school and yet came home to sleep with an empty stomach with no hope to go to school. It was normal to us who lived in the slums. Luckily, Kate was sent from Heaven, I was among the students she pulled from home and sponsored to go to school. It was hectic because she had to counsel me and others who had different challenges and make us understand the importance of education. Some of us had low self esteem, others were struggling from drugs addiction and poverty and there she was becoming a mother as well as a teacher to us. But yet she managed, she chose me to be a class prefect in Form 2, this was a challenge, at first so much was expected of me, including my academics and I learned a lot. When I reached Form 3 I was transformed completely, I was now a school head girl; I was responsible and had learnt a lot from Kate Omanyo. I viewed life in a different perspective and all along she was kind enough and took me after finishing my exams to her fashion shop where I worked and paid my college fee. I could write forever but the bottom line is if you are out there and your probably in a worse situation than I was, but lucky to have someone to share with your issues make use of that opportunity its never easy out here. The world is cold and education and skills is the only way to survive..Take control of yourself and shape your character, it defines you and tells a lot on what you become.

I always believed I can never change my past but I was in charge of my future.

**MUSIC AROUND THE CLOCK**

**24HR MUSIC MARATHON**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TAKE PART, OR KNOW ANYONE WHO MAY BE INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT ALISON ON**

**[events@operation-imprezza.org](mailto:events@operation-imprezza.org)**

**SEE BACK PAGE FOR FURTHER DETAILS**

## Stories from the Community

Catherine and Rose Omanyo are always busy in the community, helping the vulnerable wherever possible.

On my visit last September I assisted with the treatment of 'jiggers' at the school. Many people came from the local community to be treated. One group of children stood out at that time. There were five young children and they were severely infested in their hands and feet with jiggers. Catherine discovered that the children had come with a woman who was mother to two of them and aunt to the others. (The sister had died so she had come to take care of them)

Catherine insisted that the children had further treatment as they were so bad. She went to the hut and found that the children were sleeping on a mattress on the floor, but unfortunately the goat was also roaming around inside the hut and urinating on the mattress, which was covered in mud. Catherine was quite distressed by this as the woman was on a raised bed out of the mud. Catherine took the children herself to receive further treatment.

We recently discovered the woman had left all the children to fend for themselves. They have been staying wherever they could and coming to the school and bungalow for food. They are starting at the primary school this month and Catherine is looking for permanent accommodation for them.

Treating jiggers was one of the most difficult things I encountered while in Kenya. I remember particularly this group of brothers and cousins as they were so badly infested.

Catherine sent me a recent photo of Kelvin, Richards's brother, and said they were all jigger free, which was wonderful news.

Lesley Smith



Left - Richard during treatment for jiggers  
Right - Kelvin (Richard's brother) jigger free

## Operation Imprezza



The children at the bungalow over Christmas

In January we heard that Catherine had rescued a young girl called Florence from an abusive marriage. She was married at 14, one and a half years ago. She had been badly abused and had no one to turn to.

*Catherine writes, 'Someone took her from that home and brought her to our bungalow, Remember her in your prayers!!'*

*Hopefully she will be able to settle and move on in her life. Her brothers sold all their land to educate her other brother and left her to survive. It will be well with her. At least she now has somewhere to call home.'*

Catherine Omanyo



Florence

## **Medical Issues (Updated)**

In the previous newsletter we mentioned some of the serious medical issues currently at the school. These illnesses are ones which could occur anywhere in the world. A major difference in Kenya to the UK is that unless you are able to pay for treatment then none will be given. The various medical treatments have taken a large chunk of funds recently (around £3,000)

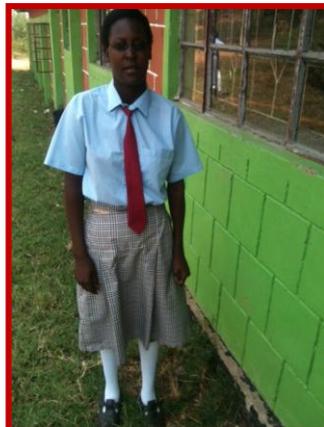
We are still raising funds to assist the most urgent cases. These include:

- Helon, the boy with the benign tumour, has regained hearing but still needs further treatment which we hope will cure completely his condition.
- The third student who was recently diagnosed with epilepsy but refusing treatment has thankfully agreed to now take medication. She has been to the Aga Khan Hospital to be assessed. We are so pleased as this is a big step against the beliefs of witchcraft.
- Sarah, the student who was badly injured when she was knocked down by a matatu, is making good progress. She was fitted with new teeth and her wounds are healing.

At the moment medical issues have to be prioritised as they arise. For example the student who had the serious road accident needed treatment that could not wait. This meant that other students who may have been waiting to see a doctor will maybe have to wait a bit longer if their condition is not life threatening. This may seem unfair or harsh at times but we only have a small amount of reserve funds to use in emergencies. This makes the life and death situation in the community so real when emergencies arise. We are so grateful to people who are willing to respond in times of urgent need. The response really does save lives. If you feel you could help maybe with fundraising activity to raise funds specifically for these urgent medical concerns please do get in touch with one of us.



**Helon back at school and smiling!– he still needs further treatment.**



**Sarah back at school after her collision with a matatu. She will need further treatment, but is making good progress.**



**Judith is one of the students who has received help from the money donated for medical issues. She has been receiving treatment for epilepsy.**

### **How You Can Help**

- **Donate online** at [www.operation-imprezza.org](http://www.operation-imprezza.org)
- **Donate via Believe** at <https://believein.org.uk/operation-imprezza/>
- **Make a cash donation** to one of the Trustees or Operation Imprezza collection boxes around South Devon, (if you know an establishment that would be willing to have a box on display, please get in touch)
- **Set up a standing order** – contact our treasurer Lesley Smith [lesley@operation-imprezza.org](mailto:lesley@operation-imprezza.org) for details
- **Send a cheque** payable to Operation Imprezza to 14 Elm Grove, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 8SA.

*Thank You*

# Music Around The Clock

## 24hr Music Marathon

25th - 26th April 2014  
(12 noon - 12 noon)

Conference Suite,  
Torquay Utd Plainmoor  
Football Ground

in aid of



*Self-sustaining, equal-access  
education in rural Western Kenya*



Tickets £5 and under 12's £1

Entry throughout the event.

Tickets available on the door or from:

The Whistlestop Cafe,  
Teignmouth Train Station

Torquay United  
Football Club

email: [events@operation-imprezza.org](mailto:events@operation-imprezza.org)