



Kupenda Asks All of Their Supporters to Work For, Hope For, and Pray For the following:

- A long-term, peaceful, and sustained resolution to the political conflict and recent violence in Kenya
- Sustained funding for on-going Kupenda works and projects needed to assist the children in need
- Wisdom and direction for Kupenda as we expand to meet the growing needs of children with disabilities in Kenya and beyond

Kupenda is accepting donations and child sponsorships to support our mission and the children who depend on us. Sponsoring a child costs only **\$200 a year** (less 55 cents a day). Most of the children sponsored by Kupenda stay at the Gede boarding facility or some higher level deaf schools and non deaf secondary schools that have boarding facilities. Boarding fees cover the cost of food, housemother salaries, and facility costs like electricity and water. When you sponsor a child, you ensure s/he receives everything covered at the aforementioned school. Your tax-deductible donations can be mailed to:

Kupenda for the Children
 PO Box 473
 Hampton, NH 03843

THANK YOU!!

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“The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.” (Psalm 33:5)

Children Growing Beyond Primary Education

By: Leonard Mbonani

It has been over six years since Kupenda for the Children started sponsoring children with special educational needs. To date, the organization has **increased sponsorship to 111 children** spread across different learning institutions in and outside the Malindi district with a majority at Gede Special School. The Marafa boarding facility is another program coming up very fast for both hearing impaired and cerebral palsied children, with 17 children already enrolled in classes. With Kupenda’s support, children can afford access to education, boarding, and medication. Children who were previously malnourished, unable to walk, feed themselves, or swallow hard food are now able to do all these daily living skills on their own. **Kupenda has brought hope where there was once no hope.**

The success of these children now brings about a new issue for Kupenda. This is actually a great problem to have. **The children we have been supporting are leaving primary school to go onto higher education, which is more expensive than primary school.** For these children to have had



Leonard and some of the children supported by Kupenda.

completed primary education is an amazing accomplishment! The first children to be sponsored in the year 2000 have grown up with some having sat for the class eight national examinations (finished primary school). Those who passed joined either secondary schools (high schools) or vocational centers. Fees in these institutions are higher than special primary schools*. Additionally, most of these learning institutions are located up-country, over 500km away from the Malindi district making it expensive for parents to travel to these institutions.


We are also experiencing some children looking into education beyond secondary school. Anthony Joma Maina is the first to benefit from Kupenda’s assistance for College education (see his article in this issue). Children who never made it in the examinations or are not able to take their exams

due their cognitive abilities have little option but to go back into society with no skills to make them self-reliant in a society that still holds negative attitudes towards people with disabilities. For these children; Kupenda would like to develop a long-term plan for small sheltered workshops in various institutions for the children to acquire self-help and occupational skills that would make them self-reliant at the end of their schoolwork. **Building of a special secondary school in the district should be given a thought** for it will increase the number of children with disabilities joining secondary education.

Leonard

**For those of you who sponsor children who will soon be entering education/training past primary school, we will provide you with the option to continue sponsoring them at the higher rate and will inform you on what it will be. If it is too high for you we will seek out other sponsors to assist in supporting them.*

To Support our Cause, Contact us at:
Kupenda for the children
 PO Box 473
 Hampton, NH 03843



Please contact Cynthia (Cindy) at cynthia@kupenda.org if you would like to contribute to a specific need mentioned.

Big Things in Store for Kupenda Cynthia Bauer, Founder



Kupenda for the Children is growing more and more everyday. We now fund a Kenya Director, Secretary, Occupational Therapist, three special needs teacher's aids, and the locally involved church. **We also now support 12 special needs schools** through the provision of school fees, furniture, construction, and education materials. It is estimated that **over 500 children with disabilities in the Malindi district of Kenya receive assistance through Kupenda** in

the form of education, therapy, and/or medical intervention.

Many lives have been changed but **so many are still waiting**. Some of the projects we would like to fund include: corrective surgeries, constructing special needs classrooms, special needs teacher salaries (the schools are severely understaffed), vocational tools, transportation, a volunteer/research center, workshops on disabilities and many other activities that will improve the lives of children with disabilities. However, **we do not know from month to month where funds will come from**.

The US-side activities (keeping up with child sponsorship, reports, website content, grant writing, Kenya communications, budgeting, correspondence with supporters, etc.), which take place

mostly in a small office in my house, have **all been accomplished without paid staff**, including myself. I still try to do environmental consulting work and teach at a local college to keep afloat financially. However the increasing demands of Kupenda have made us realize that we need to start investigating the possibility of paid staffing in the US.

As a result of our growth and impact, it has become impossible for us to do all that needs to be done in our current capacity. We hope that we will be able to have the following staff in the US and Kenya one day, in order to meet the increasing demands of Kupenda activities. These include: Executive Director, Managing Director, Administrative Assistant, Child Sponsorship Program Coordinator, Bookkeeper, Fundraiser, Volunteer Coordinator, and Web Developer.

We have been given a reduced rate office space by OASIS which will be paid for by PRAZMedia for the first part of our lease. This provides us with a centralized location and a place for people to work when we are able to get enough funding for staff. This is only a first step but it is hopefully the first of many.

In the end **the thing that matters most is that we are able to assist the children God has brought before us**. I am often worried and anxious about how we will do this but luckily, it's not about me.

If you are interested in the details of any of the aforementioned projects please visit our website and look at "sponsorship opportunities".

Cynthia Bauer



It Wasn't My Wish. By: Terezia Zawadi

I am an 18 year old girl and a former student of Ngala Memorial Girls Secondary School, Watamu. **I am physically handicapped but I wasn't born this way**. My disability started when I was 5 years old in 1994. A big tree fell on my both legs. I was hospitalized at coast general hospital and the doctors failed to save my leg and it had to be amputated. When I was in class seven in the year 2002 at Gede primary **my father divorced my mum and married another woman**. Life started to be cruel to my mother, as she had to feed and educate the six of us. As a single parent, mum couldn't afford to pay my school fees. Being the fifth born in the family of six children with a handicap **I knew that I was the odd one out in the family and society**.

Towards the time for mock exams I was sent home to collect school fees. I knew exactly what I was going to collect...nothing...because sometimes I missed even pocket money and fare for transport. **I stayed at home thinking of how I was going to pursue my studies and prepare my future life with no hope for funding**. It was a very painful period. This is how I developed stomach ulcers that are a problem to date. My mum gave me hope that I would go to school.

It was on a Sunday at around 12.00 noon at St. Antony Catholic Church when we saw Mr. Mbonani (Kupenda Kenya director) coming towards us. It was a surprise because we had never seen him at that place. After exchanging greetings with my mum, I couldn't believe that he had come to bring good news to me. He explained that **there was a person, through Kupenda, who was willing to sponsor me**. I was very happy like the day Elizabeth had a baby, John, in her old age. From that time, Kupenda has been paying my school fees through primary and secondary school.

I wish to heartily express my heart felt gratitude to the individual sponsor and to the organizers of Kupenda. This kind group helps the needy who are rejected by the society. Kupenda makes disabled children like other kids in the society.

My dream is to become a special education teacher because of what I have witnessed at the Gede special school. It's my sincere hope that this dream might come true. May the Almighty Lord give Kupenda more funding and give the sponsors long life to save children with disabilities in the society. I truly believe Mark 9:37 in which Jesus says "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me..."

Thank you from the Head Teacher of Gede Primary School

By Martha Karo



Madam Karo

May I take this opportunity to thank Kupenda for the Children for sponsoring most of the children at Gede special school. **The school has an enrollment of 105 children and out of this number Kupenda sponsors 85.** In addition to providing for children's school fees, Kupenda has also provided funds for the expansion of the dormitory, built classrooms, and pays the sala-

ries of the physical therapist and a special needs teacher aid. I greatly thank Cynthia Bauer (president of Kupenda US) who works around the clock to find funding to assist children at the school. I also thank those who heartily sponsor these children. It requires somebody with a big heart full of love to assist a child one has never set eyes on. I believe and trust God has a wonderful reward for each one of you.

Life at Gede has become so sweet and comfortable because of the funds we receive from Kupenda. The children are jovial, charming, always wearing smiling faces, jumping up and down like younger and healthy kids. Their tummies no longer complain; not knowing whether there will be a meal or not. **Gone are the**

days when children had to be sent home because there was no food at the school, to homes lacking the same. If one happened to have come to the school at that time, he/she would have been met by gloomy and miserable looking children with no hope for tomorrow.

Thanks to Kupenda, now **children at Gede special school are the pride of many. Gede has become the children's home,** they belong to one another, they are very well cared for, even those who need special diets are catered for and those with chronic health conditions (e.g. epilepsy) are assured of medication. **The fears of insufficient water and electricity threatening disconnections are over** because of our responsible friends at Kupenda.

Kupenda, you are a good friend and I ask God to grant good health, wisdom, and strength to all who work tirelessly to make Kupenda succeed.

At this point I would like to congratulate Cynthia Bauer and Leonard for putting their heads together and coming up with a wonderful organization: an organization that has **brought hope to the hopeless, love to those who never knew love, a home to the homeless, food to the hungry, light to the darkness, and happiness and laughter to the neglected.** May God bless you abundantly and shower you with His strength to enable you to find other children with disabilities who are yet to enjoy the goodness of Kupenda. Long live Kupenda and may God bless you!

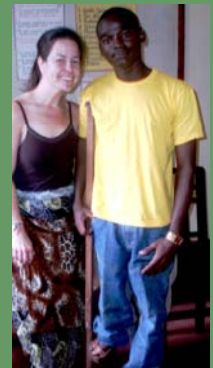
Martha

Kampala University Kupenda Club for the Children. By: Anthony Joma Maina

I am 22 year old student of Kampala University, attending through Kupenda sponsorship, and majoring in broadcasting. One of my legs is very short due to a doctor's mistake when I was very young, forcing me to depend on a special crutch and experience a great deal of ridicule by Kenyan society*. **I saw my star begin to shine the day I heard of Kupenda for the Children.** (*You can learn more about Anthony's personal story in the film "Breaking the curse" found here: http://current.com/items/76442522_breaking_the_curse)

I took the initiative to begin a Kupenda club at my University after realizing that so many kids with disabilities in Uganda need the same attention that Kupenda gave me the first day I met the founder, Cynthia Bauer. **I want to do for other people with disabilities what Kupenda has done for me.** The world needs to know that some kids, who require special attention, die before they meet someone willing to even smile at them. The club kicked off in late November 2007 with more than 20 members, who are students of Kampala University. The biggest challenge that I went through was convincing the University administration of why I wanted to start the club, and the benefits the club has for the institution. Some students made fun of it saying that I would not manage to run the club, being disabled and with no job. One thing was certain- **I wanted to meet as many handicapped kids as possible and tell them that there is a reason to live-** because someone somewhere cares about them.

The club has the following objectives: 1) Visiting the children with disabilities, who are not under any special care. 2) Inviting disability specialists to our meetings to offer their ideas on what can be done to avoid more disability complications. 3) Disability awareness rallies. 4) To demand equal rights in terms of employment for people with disabilities. I dedicate my sincere gratitude to all the people who have taken the responsibility to help children with disabilities live a better life. **I truly believe that God has used my disability to better enable me to help others.** I believe "God makes us strong only for a while so that we serve each other and in serving each other we become free".



VISIT US ON THE INTERNET AT: [HTTP://WWW.KUPENDA.ORG](http://www.kupenda.org)

**Equipment Donations
Make a Big Difference.**

**By: Edwin Koffa Abio,
Occupational Therapist**

May God bless everyone who has supported the physically handi-capped at the Gede Special School. **The Occupational room now has special therapy equipment surpassing what we could have hoped for.**

God touched the hearts of many who donated both the equipment and materials with **special appreciation to Clare Fagg, an occupational therapist in the UK who organized the collection and delivery of the equipment to Kenya.** Our supporters have painted the children’s faces with joy, high self esteem and confidence despite their impairments. **We still need to find a way to fund expansion of the therapy room to safely store this equipment** and have room for the children’s exercises.

The equipment donated serves both rehabilitation and recreation therapeutic purposes. This indoor and outdoor equipment has really increased the relationship between the occupational therapy department and the children. The children never want to leave it as it will **help the children prosper and will cultivate the talents and skills needed for life and for recreation.**

Today the Gede Special School has the capability for all sorts of rehabilitation, namely orthopedic, occupational therapy, physical therapy, recreational therapy and sensory integration.

Therapist’s Reason for Giving.

By: Clare Fagg, Pediatric Occupational Therapist

With 20 years experience of working in Social Services assessing for equipment and 5

years with the Health Authority it got me thinking. In England, a large amount of equipment is condemned purely because a new model is brought onto the market and the older equipment is then difficult to recycle, although there is absolutely nothing wrong with it. By contrast **seeing the children on the “Kupenda” video showing so much strength and determination to manage with so little, I felt I had to do something.**

I contacted Kent Social Services and the Maidstone Health Authority, wrote to churches friends and family for any toys blankets equipment for the disabled. I asked the school next door if they had anywhere I could store the equipment and in response they arranged for a container to be housed on site and as a charity donated £1000 pounds towards the cost of shipping; we were on our way. After hundreds of phone calls, trips to collect equipment, sponsored walks, runs etc. we were there. The container left England and after

some very hairy moments at the Kenyan port and a lot of hard work from Koffa, the equipment finally arrived. **The cheers from Julie, Koffa, and some of the children at Gede school, made it all worth while.** I have to say my instincts at the time were never again but who knows!!!! I would like to say special thanks to my husband, parents and Jill Sharpe, for convincing me that I could do this, to the McGuigans for the splinting equipment, my uncle Lawrence, The White Hart, the Archers, All saints Church in Whitstable and Loose and all my family and friends for there generous donations, without which it could not have happened.

For more on this story please visit the events page on Kupenda’s website.





Kupenda for the children

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