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# ***THE CLOTH AND THE MUD***

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*Newsletter of the FABULOUS AFRICAN FABRICS organization, supporting orphans and vulnerable children at the Good Samaritan Children's Home in Nairobi, Kenya*



## ***NEW FAF MAILING ADDRESS***

As of this date, FAF's new mailing address is in operation! You may contact us here with your correspondence, *Newsletter* suggestions, contributions (other than direct Global Giving contributions), and other matters.

**40 Monroe Center NW #312  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

## ***GOOD SAMARITAN HOME RECEIVES GOVERNMENT APPROVAL!***

We recently learned that Kenya's Children's Welfare Department has approved the Home's probationary charter until April 2016! The Home had struggled in recent months to provide all the documentation necessary because of their limited staff, but now the Home's paperwork is in order.

The government Welfare Department, however, did mandate a number of staff changes as part of its approval process. order to comply fully with government requirements, the Home must hire the following staff: a Matron, Nurse, Counselor, Pre-School Teacher, and Chef. The Welfare Department further recommended two of these posts, the Nurse and Counselor, should be resident at the home.

At present it's uncertain how the Home will secure the funds required for this staffing. All available funds are presently committed to recovering from the fire damage earlier this year, and keeping the 129 children receiving services, and supplied with uniforms and meals.

We hope to receive a news report from the Home before our next newsletter at the end of this year, updating us on what progress the Home is making with new hiring.

## ***FAF NEWSLETTER WELCOMES NEW EDITOR***



Roger Ellis, long-time friend of Laura and a FAF Board member, takes the helm of *The Cloth and the Mud* with this issue. Roger has lived in Grand Rapids, Michigan for the past forty years and has previously edited newsletters for the International Amateur Theatre Association. Kudos to Roger!

He welcomes any book reviews, news snippets, photos and other items. Please send these items to him at the Grand Rapids headquarters address listed earlier.

## ***FUNDING UPDATE***

At the recent Board meeting September 12, Laura reported on recent budget activity between January and August of this year. Her work was made easier this time with the help of FAF’s new Bookkeeper, Jan Sheffield, of Grand Rapids, Michigan! Kudos to Jan! High points of Laura’s report follow:

- **GLOBAL GIVING** was able to disburse a total of \$2,350 to the Good Samaritan Home between April - August 2015. A big HOO-RAH to GG for their help.
- This year, **88% of your contributions to FAF went directly to the Good Samaritan School!** This compares VERY favorably with some of the worst-rated charities in the USA, many of whom report that 90% - 98% of their contributions are used to support themselves! You can check-up on the charitable impact of nonprofits by visiting the website: <http://www.addictinginfo.org/>. Simply enter the name of the charity in the top right search box of the homepage to see if they’re listed among the “top ten worst nonprofits” this year!
- The **Anthony Salazar Fund** has received \$2,500 in contributions this year.
- The total amount of contributions received to-date in 2015 is \$7,038.
- The total amount of money FAF sent to the Good Samaritan Home this year amounts to \$7,893.
- Garage sales between June - September this year raised a total of approximately \$760!!!
- Laura, Lucy and others are planning on a fundraising “Jubilee Sale” in Spokane November 6 & 7. The last one raised more than \$500. Good luck to y’all!!!
- And with all these facts in mind. remember.....

***GLOBAL GIVING BONUS DAY = OCTOBER 7!!!***

This is a HUGE bonus day for FAF, so be sure to make a contribution!!!

## ***TERRORISTS CONTINUE TO THREATEN KENYAN TEACHERS***

The seemingly unending horror stories reported each day about the incredible number of refugees and immigrants flooding Europe, often eclipse the desperate situation still confronting children and teachers in Kenya. The problems are especially acute the farther one travels outside the capitol—although we need to remember that Nairobi itself has been hard-hit by terrorists in the past couple of years.

Teachers have been abandoning their schools in the city of Mandera, approximately 650 miles from the capitol, in the wake of kidnappings and murders. Less than a year ago, Shabab killers dragged 28 people—many of them teachers—from a bus bringing workers home for Christmas, and shot them dead by the side of the road. In April, only 150 miles from Nairobi, other Shabab thugs stormed the university in Garissa and killed 150 people, most of them students.

Dozens of public schools have closed in the wake of this violence, as reported in a *New York Times* lead article on June 4: “Education in Kenya Suffers at Extremists’ Hands.” Nyagaha Nicholas, head teacher at Mandera Academy, commented: “We are afraid, but we are supposed to be here. The place is not secure at all.” And Wilson Sossion, secretary general of the Kenyan National Union of Teachers, told the *Times* correspondent: “We have advised teachers not to go back. They are subject to attacks.” The situation is a little better at private schools where the pay is much better for teachers, encouraging them to stay in their posts.

Outside of the major towns north and east of Nairobi, a nomadic lifestyle dominates. Parents have never been enthusiastic about sending their children to schools, because their help may be needed with raising animals. But with recent severe droughts the past few years, that picture has changed. “Pastoralist parents started sending their children to mobile schools,” explained Abdulatif Haro, head of Kotulo Ward, a subdistrict of Mandera town. These mobile schools move with nomads and provide basic education.

But many of these mobile schools have also closed because teachers refuse to return to the dangerous areas. “Parents are taking their children

out of the mobile schools,” Mr. Haro explained, and wealthier parents send children hundreds of miles away to Nairobi for their schooling.

In such conditions, we can better understand the importance of private institutions like the Good Samaritan Home that offer a safe place to live for many young Kenyans. We can only hope that the government continues to organize its police and armed forces more effectively to counter the threat of Muslim extremists throughout the country.

Many Nigerian teachers love their work and their pupils, but hold few illusions of the grim situation that confront them daily. As head teacher, Nyagaha Nicholas, remarked to the *Times*, “Other teachers want to leave, but I am not likely to go. I’ve been here long. You can die anywhere.”

## ***AND SOME SMALL BITES . . .***

- “. . . I have my FAF hat and have received many compliments when wearing it . . . One person said I look very stylish wearing it!” This from Nancy Wheeler Tetzlaff in Lansing Michigan whose daughter, Amy Tetzlaff, has been a FAF member since our organization began!



***Preschool Children at Good Samaritan***

- Special thanks go out from FAF to Connie Jones and Gabe Konrad who recently retired from our FAF board! The last round of book sales at Gabe’s Bay Leaf Books in Newaygo, Michigan, netted FAF \$93 last summer!

## ***BUILD OUR BOARD!***

This year we've lost several of our FAF Board Members due to retirement, and we need your help! Can you “step up to the plate” and help us out by volunteering some of your time to administer FAF affairs?

FAF Board members meet only a few times each year, but on those occasions we conduct important business that keeps FAF running efficiently year-round, scoring an important impact at the Good Samaritan Home. As Kris Wetah from the Home reminds us: *“Through your support, GSCH has managed to make a positive impact in the lives of thousands of orphans and vulnerable children in the Mathare Slums and beyond. Together we have achieved.”*

What do our FAF board Members do?

- Receive quarterly reports from our Accountant C.P.A., Jan Sheffield, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- Decide on the allocation of funds for ongoing expenses & special projects of the Good Samaritan Home when sending funds to Kenya.
- Plan ongoing fundraisers in the local area, and review the fundraising plans of other FAF fundraisers around the world.
- Assist the Good Samaritan Home with proper accounting procedures, Kenya government requirements for maintaining their official registration, and other matters.
- Gather & supervise *Newsletter* content and E-mail announcements to members & friends, assuring that all FAF members are kept up-to-date with information about our many events and activities throughout the year.
- Help our organization to grown & prosper by inviting friends and family to become members and help our fundraising efforts.
- Planning long-term strategies for our organization.

Who are our present Board members? **Christine Coggins**, President; **Jill Hamilton**, Past-President; **Patricia Callan**, Vice-President; **Betsy Knox**, Secretary; **Laura Salazar**, Executive Secretary & Founder; **Kiri Salazar**, Membership Chair; **Roger Ellis**, *Newsletter* editor; **Sheba Onchiri**, Kenyan Advisor.

If you can find the time to help us out, please contact our President, Christine Coggins, at: [ccoggs65@gmail.com](mailto:ccoggs65@gmail.com).