

ONE MORE DAY MUSIC LEARNING & RECORDING CENTRE:

LETTER FROM THE DONOR

Hi everyone!

My name is Mrs Mackenzie Crook aka Fifi ,from United Kingdom. I am a musician by profession, a member of a famous Choir in UK and I sing and teach Music in UK. I remember like it was yesterday,in the year 2006, my choir was invited to Kenya for a Music festival to raise money in aid of thousands of children in Kenya who had been robbed their parents by HIV/AIDS and labeled HIV/AIDS orphans. The Charity trust that had organized the festivals and paid for our travelling was the **KIJANI KENYA TRUST**,a British registered charity and in Kenya,working in areas of HIV/AIDS and conservation. The mega concert was aimed at bringing together National and International musicians for a Music Festival to raise funds. It then Became Kijani International Music festivals. It attracted Musicians from allover the world including famous Kenyans Musicians.



Through it,I was able to travel to Kenya 3 times with my choir. During our second visit,the festivals took place in Nanyuki,in an international Hotel Known as Mt. Kenya Safari Club,now Fairmont International Hotel Nanyuki and so many children from orphanages were invited together with well wishers. One of the orphanage was given chance to present some music and poem and,this stole my heart. This is how I met Hellen,Now Dr. Hellen,who by then was the head of this particular Nanyuki children`s Orphanage.

We sat and discussed many things with the orphans she had brought together with her and oh,I got so impressed and attracted to this lady and her work and so were many musicians. Her work fitted so well with the theme of the Kijani International Trust and we later paid a visit to the orphanage together with Kijani Trust Directors. The orphanage was full of HIV/AIDS orphans ,some soo little,some too tiny and she was using baby formula to keep them alive. Luckily,none of the was infected by the deadly virus.

The 3rd time of our visit the festival was held in Nairobi. I was also able to meet so many children from slums and orphanages who had been orphaned through HIV/AIDS. At one time,we were treated to a tour through the slums and schools within the slums as well as orphanages in Mathare,Kibera,Kayole and many other slums. It broke my heart to see and witness the suffering children and families were going through,most of them living in destitution. I was totally convinced that I needed to do something instead of sympathizing. We were also taken for tour in animal parks and I still could not comprehend how the families and children managed to live each day...the game drive was not interesting to me...I was suffering and amerced in dep thought.

When we went back to UK,I and my husband from Trinidad talked in detail over it and we decided to help through Music,start a foundation where we started collecting donations e.g books and school supplies,clothes,foodstuff and cash money. We decided to build and equip Music centres in various orphanages and schools in Kenya. The first one we unanimously agreed was to be in Nanyuki,where Hellen was. We Named it **THE CURATIVE MUSIC FOUNDATION LTD.**

At this point,I realized I had lost Hellen`s Contacts and I had to use friends,internet to trace her. After a long search,I was successful , I found her but this time in another Organization she and friends from Kenya and Czech Republic had started and was doing much bigger things. It had such an appealing name:ONE MORE DAY FOR CHILDREN FOUNDATION, this marched our mission and vision so well. The story about the President,Mr. Jiri,how he travelled to Kenya and how he met with my sister Hellen and they started this mission of love,inspired me more.Apart from taking care of the HIV/Aids orphans, this new agency had gone further to rescue tiny girls from traditional Masai in dry North from FGM,Child Marriages,lack of education and abject poverty and rehabilitated them through education empowerment,skills and training.

We discussed with her in length and planned another private visit,this time alone with donations .Before that,due to long drought and starvation that had hit the area where the new shelter was, I and my foundation had to send food donation to One More day Girls` Safe House through shipping company.In 2012 we launched the Foundation and opened website.

I then visited Kenya,I had a nice tour driver by the name Moses who drove me through the busy Kenya roads. I Was able to meet Dr. Hellen with her Board in Nairobi,had a very fruitful meeting that totally cemented my trust in working with OMDC. The following day I and part of the Board travelled to Nanyuki and its this time I was able to visit some of the cases within the Masai community the organization was helping and the New Girls` Shelter in Doldol. I was impressed with the development that was going on there,funded by different donors whom were

displayed and I was much at home when the pretty rescued girls presented a number of Masai traditional dances and poems. Those voices.....they were soo nice and the moves too. So talented too . They had also made some artifacts from beads. I knew,this was it. There were talents and there were willingness to heal.

When I went back and presented the videos and photos to my Board,they were convinced the first music training centre was to be at One More day Girls Safe House. We had to invite Dr. Hellen to UK in 2018,for one month to help us in fundraising for the project and to create awareness on the OMDCF work and activities. This did work marvelous,since then all the fundraising events we have held have been successful. The project cost is Ksh.3.7 M which we have raised

This year we started implementation and we thank God everything is going on well and we receive periodical reports and photos. OMDC Board also has assisted a lot to ensure the contractor signed the contract,legally binding through the free legal service by the OMDC Board chairman William,who is a lawyer. The process is exciting and funds are so well spent and government inspector report after every phase is never late.

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BUT WHY MUSIC?

Music is versatile,it helps with mental health thus promoting emotional healing from the past abuses and trauma,through music,the Survivors in the shelter will be able to express themselves,the can learn too,they can use music to change the community negative practices,through Music they will be happy to forget the past and be happy,they can also use Music to reach other girls and children in vulnerable situation for them to run away for help.

Music to the Shelter can also be a source of income,the centre will be open to the choirs and musicians from the schools and community to record music for sale,thus making some payment to OMDCF. The Centre can also open up communication in the region. OMDC can use one of the room to start a media centre,a Radio station with its own Frequency,thus bringing in Government,NGOS,FBOS,Local Leaders and politicians to communicate messages to their people through the One More Day Radio Station. I saw there was none at all and this project places the organization in a very good position.

We plan to travel to Kenya early next year,2024 to hand over the project to the Board and also equip it with some music training instruments.

Special thanks to my choir Director Mr. Ken Burton,it was because of him I travelled to Kenya and Learnt about One More Day for Children Foundation. Also to the SDA church UK,most of the funds have been donated by the church members and leadership.

I conclude with a Bible Verse,**Leviticus 25:35** **“The truth is we have been called to feed,shelter and cloth the needy! So God is compassionate!”**

To me and my husband,this is a Legacy project donation to One More Day for Children Foundation,in the best interest of the children and the community at large. I recommend this organization in Kenya for any donor who wish to share their love with needy children in Kenya, or wish to partner with an organization,a true and transparent organization....OMDCF is that organization!

Thanks

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