



Eyes for East Africa (UK)



Registered Charity No: 1053222

Honorary Ophthalmic Consultant: Mr Roger C Humphry MD FRCS FRCophth

Supporting Dr Helen Roberts and the Kwale District Eye Centre in Kenya (KDEC)

Contact – Eyes for East Africa (UK), 19 Dunmow Hill, Fleet, Hants, GU51 3AN

www.eyesforeastafrica.org

Winter 2006 Newsletter

New Trustee



Abigail Dodds is a new Trustee of Eyes for East Africa. She has been a frequent visitor to Kenya, and has been involved with some novel fundraising ideas for KDEC.

She is married to a surgeon and has two young daughters who have also made visits to KDEC.

It's an Eye Pod!



KDEC are very pleased with the arrival of their new tuk-tuk, which has been named the Eye-Pod! Tuk-tuks are three wheeled vehicles often seen in Thailand and India. The arrival of the Eye Pod has made the journey to the eye centre much easier for many patients.

The eye centre is situated 800m from the main highway along a dusty road. This walk has been an obstacle to receiving treatment to many elderly or infirm patients. The new tuk-tuk has overcome this problem by providing a shuttle service between the eye centre and the main road.

There are plans to build a shelter at the main road, and provide uniforms for the drivers. The drivers play an important role checking that patients have their eye drops and understand when to return for follow-up.

The Eye Pod service has been running since September and has transported around 300 patients and helpers per month, covering a distance of 600km (370 miles) each month.

Many thanks to the generous UK donor who made this valuable new service possible.



Patients are delighted to board the Eye Pod to take them to the main road

Sophie's 4th Birthday

Sophie Dodds, daughter of new trustee Abigail Dodds recently helped raise £230 for EFEA (UK). Sophie knows that "Dr Helen's Hospital" as she calls it relies on charitable donations in order to function. With this in mind, the family decided to host a special party to celebrate Sophie's 4th birthday.

In preference to bringing a gift to the party the family asked on the invitations for a donation to be made to EFEA (UK). Thirty-five friends came to the party and everyone had a good time.

In recognition of the fundraising success achieved at the party, Sophie was presented with a certificate from Dr Helen Roberts MBE, Medical Director KDEC. The money raised has been used to purchase, via Eye Give, the restoration of sight in both eyes with follow-up and educational assistance for two children, and also sunglasses, sunhat and long sleeved clothing for two albino children.



Sophie Dodds receiving certificate of thanks for raising £230 at her 4th birthday party.

Jazz Concert

Once again, the Salisbury Big Band is staging a charity concert in aid of EFEA. Their last charity concert in Jan 2006 was a huge success raising over £3,000 for KDEC. Please go along and support it if you can.



A Concert

Featuring Vocalist

Angela Jackson

Tuesday 23 January 2007

Doors open at 7.30

Concorde Club, Stoneham Lane
Eastleigh, nr Southampton, Hampshire

Tickets and dinner reservations
from the club

£9.00

Tel 023 8061 3989

www.salisburybigband.co.uk
www.theconcordeclub.com

'Eye Give'

'Eye Give' is the ideal 'alternative' gift idea for Christmas, birthdays, Anniversaries or special occasions. You can make a gift selection via the website with prices ranging from £5 to £300. A card will be sent to you for you to give to the gift recipient.

For more information about the 'Eye Give' scheme visit:

www.eyesforeastafrica.org/eyegive.htm

Patient Story

Mama Mwanasha Kibibi was identified as being blind during a screening clinic under a tree 23kms from Kwale District Eye Centre. She is married but her husband was planning to marry a second wife because his first was totally dependant on him. She was unable to walk around unaided, so she hardly left her home, and her three grown up children lived away from home.

Mwanasha had long since accepted that she could do nothing about her blindness. Her husband did not know that there was affordable and accessible treatment for her condition. He preferred to spend any money on a new wife – a costly business in Africa. Mwanasha had to accept her husband's decision. She was totally dependant on him.

One day there was a knock at the door and a voice calling 'hodi' meaning 'is anyone there, may I come in?' Mwanasha did not recognise the voice and was alone. As she went to the door, she tripped over a bucket of water, which was in her way. The water, and Mwanasha went flying. The voice at the door entered the house unbidden and picked up the elderly lady. She was not badly hurt, but it was obvious to the owner of the voice that the lady was blind. The voice belonged to a community-based worker from KDEC.

He had heard that there was an unhappy, blind woman living in the village and was following directions to her house. He explained that he could help her and that affordable eye care was within her reach.

The decision was not up to her and it took 4 long months for Mwanasha to convince her husband to give her permission to go to KDEC. Her husband just thought that it was a ruse to prevent him taking a second wife. The community based worker called upon members of the village health committee, who know KDEC can cure blindness, to persuade the husband to give his permission.

Four months after she had fallen over a bucket of water, and with her husband's blessing, Mama Kibibi had sight restoring cataract surgery at KDEC and returned home being able to see.



continued from previous column

The community based worker, who had become a friend, visited every day for the first 3 days to ensure that Mama Kibibi put in her drops correctly. He also went with her for her first postoperative visit at KDEC.

Mama Kibibi resumed her normal life. Her husband became well fed and well looked after again. He did not have to spend money to find himself a second wife. Mama Kibibi now helps our community-based worker. She goes with him to people who are blind due to cataract and explains how she had her sight restored and her life returned to her.

World Sight Day (WSD) at the Kenya Coast

This year's WSD activities were held at three schools in the area: Waa Primary School in Kwale District, The Mombasa Academy and Braeburn International School, Mombasa.

In total 1,000 staff and students attended. The aim of the day was to create awareness of avoidable blindness and to promote the Vision 2020 program (right to sight).

Activities during the day included wearing blindfolds in order to experience what blindness is like. This created an understanding of the need to help members of the community who are themselves blind. Students commented on the fear of walking long distances whilst blind, and were pleased to hear about the new tuk-tuk service at KDEC.

The children played games whilst blindfolded including hopscotch and throwing and catching balls.



Blindfolded hopscotch game at Mombasa Academy

Students also tried to write whilst blindfolded.



Blindfolded students at Braeburn International School, Mombasa

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At Braeburn School, students organised a collection, and raised Ksh 18,953 (approx £150). This was presented to KDEC to enable poor patients to undergo treatment at the Eye Centre.

Donations

Please send your donations to:

Eyes for East Africa (UK)
19 Dunmow Hill, Fleet, Hants
GU51 3AN, UK

jim@eyesforeastafrica.org

Making the most of your donations to EFEA

Standing Order: If you would like to make regular monthly donations by Standing Order to Eyes for East Africa (UK) please ask Jim Crow (address above), for the necessary details.

Gift Aid: Donors are reminded that EFEA (UK) can increase the value of most donations made by UK taxpayers by 28%, if donors complete a simple form under the UK Government Gift Aid Scheme. Higher rate taxpayers can benefit by reclaiming Income Tax on the difference between the basic rate of tax and the 40% rate for any donations made from personal income. These benefits are of great value to the Charity and if you have not already done so, please ask Jim Crow, at the address above for a gift aid form.

Wills: Have you thought about leaving EFEA (UK) a legacy in your will? We hope you have. At present less than 5% of the adult population include a charity in their will. Please think about us.

The Payroll-Giving Scheme: One of the easiest ways of making donations to the Charity is through the Payroll-Giving Scheme now being adopted by many employers. Not only do donors receive tax benefit at source for such payments, but the charity also gains an additional 10% benefit from the Government. For more details please contact Jim Crow at the address above.

Thankyou!



Merry Christmas

to everyone from Dr Helen Roberts, the staff at the Kwale District Eye Centre, Jan and her helpers at the Diani Beach Charity Shop, the trustees and consultant of

Eyes for East Africa (UK)

