

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives, £5 at a time

Mara Riante Nursery School, Kenya

We are delighted this month to be providing a hand up to the Maasai who live in the Mara Riante area of Kenya's world famous Masai Mara Game Reserve. This is a community that High Five Club Trustees Cheryl & Manny Mvula have worked with extensively over the past 4 years through their social enterprise Tribal Voice Communications, and one that the High Five Club has supported previously.



You therefore know that this is a very active community that has already brought about significant self-development in their own area, and one that the High Five Club is fostering a long-term partnership with.

Background



The Kenyan government has really marginalized the Maasai tribe and given little or no support for health and education facilities in rural areas. Education provision, particularly for the youngest children, is down to the parents themselves to provide. This is a big challenge for a community like Mara Riante that live hand to mouth, and many Maasai children never get the opportunity to go to school. Instead they are forced to stay in the village

to help look after their family's livestock and do household chores such as fetching water and firewood.

Over the past 2 years the Maasai of Mara Riante have built the first nursery school in the area with the support of the High Five Club and one of our corporate sponsors Roffey Homes, along

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives, £5 at a time

with income earned by the community from their village's cultural tourism activities – an initiative introduced by Cheryl throughout the Masai Mara to end the deep rooted exploitation of this iconic tribe by the tourism industry (see the Pro-Poor Tourism page of www.tribal-voice.co.uk).

As the school has developed, increasing numbers of Maasai elders have seen the value of education and wish to also send their children there. With just two classrooms the school has unfortunately had to turn many children away.

High Five Club Support

In response, we have joined hands with the Maasai to part-fund the further development of this community-owned and run nursery school. We have provided 250,000 Kenyan Shillings (£1,951.80) to Mara Riente to expand their nursery school still further so that 40 more Maasai children can be enrolled at the school and overall classroom sizes can be reduced - thereby improving the quality of the learning environment for all children at the school.

The community themselves have contributed the greater part (350,000KS = £2,732.52) out of their own village tourism income. Our collective money (£4,684.32 in total) has been used to build one new classroom, two toilets and two bathrooms for the teachers (male and female), along with much needed text books, sixteen 3-seater school desks, 3 teacher's desks, chairs and cupboards. It is unbelievable how far these funds have gone!



As a result of these recent developments Mara Riente Nursery School now provides quality education to 147 Maasai children aged between 3 and 6 years (50% girls and 50% boys), has 3 sturdy stone-built classrooms, 3 teacher's houses next to the school, toilets for both teachers and pupils, bathrooms for the teachers and a rainwater harvesting system that provides clean drinking water during the rains. Those parents that can afford pay a small school fee each term that contributes towards the payment of the 3 teachers' salaries, all of whom are trained and

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives, £5 at a time

qualified, with the village tourism enterprise paying the balance. A truly sustainable school development!

The High Five Club is thrilled to be able to give the Mara Rianté community a helping hand in working towards their ultimate dream of providing quality nursery education for all children in their community. Our contribution was funded our own monthly High Five Club memberships, supplemented by some of the monies from our very generous 'educational projects' benefactor, along with a surprise donation of £506 from High Five Club members Tim and Sarah Hewett who asked guests at their recent wedding to contribute towards this school project in Kenya instead of buying them gifts. A BIG thank you from Mara Rianté Nursery School to everyone involved!

For further information contact Dr Cheryl Mvula on Cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk

Photos Taken at the Opening Ceremony of the New Classroom



The children welcoming guests at the Opening Ceremony

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives, £5 at a time



Parents outside the new classroom

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives, £5 at a time



HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives, £5 at a time



HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives, £5 at a time



The teachers new toilets and bathrooms

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives, £5 at a time



The teachers accommodation block