



REHEMA TRUST
(Registered Charity No: 1175562)

Donor Update
December 2022

As I mentioned in a recent email, the end of 2022 produced a surprise visitor to Ashtead – our very own Edward Wata – whose visit was timed around the opportunity to attend a special award ceremony in London, hosted by The Mount Moriah Organisation. Edward was awarded for his humanitarian work within his community and he publicly thanked the UK supporters of **Rehema Trust** – in other words yourselves! - and **YAWOSUP** for equipping him to do this work.



Edward last visited Ashtead in 2011 and, needless to say, we made the best use of his time here to arrange a series of good visits and meetings, and a few of you were even able to meet with him in person. Fortunately, he found himself back home, enjoying the Kenyan sunshine, just before our recent cold weather, although he was still seen wearing a coat indoors occasionally during his visit!

In 2011, Edward visited Barbara's Mum, Joan, but was unable to do so this time. A week later, on 13 December, Joan died peacefully in her sleep at the age of 97 in a nursing home, where she had been so well cared for, always retaining a keen interest in her daughter's legacy.

Looking back over this year, the reputation of **Barbara Academy** was further enhanced by a group of senior pupils ranking 8th out of 35 local schools in a Ministry of Education Assessment across the whole curriculum. The photos above also illustrate another achievement at **Barbara Academy** – the top Nursery Class pupils graduating to the Primary School, proudly wearing the full regalia, but also adding plenty of colour to the occasion!

As illustrated below, adoption of the new curriculum (CBC) for most pupils has meant the inclusion of some more practical subjects – **Home Science, Agriculture, Poultry Keeping and Water Treatment** - the intention being to equip the pupils for every aspect of their future lives and not just the academic pathway.



I am pleased to say that, at the end of this year, our **General Fund Income** came into line with our **BA Operating Expenditure** and I am very grateful to those of you, who helped us to achieve this increased income. However, with inflationary pressures in Kenya continuing to impact some of our core expenditure – in particular the essential **Feeding Programme** and **Transport Costs**, we shall be facing the same challenge next year to match income with expenditure. Happily, there are encouraging signs locally that the level of **School Fee Income recovery** and other aspects of parental support for the school are slowly improving.

We therefore felt able to pay a small cash bonus to all members of staff – in lieu of a pay rise – and to offer a small gift to our **Grade Six Pupils** to acknowledge the achievement of completing their primary education and to wish them well in the future.

Following our helpful face to face discussions with Edward during his visit, we shall also be looking to raise new income for our **Project Fund** to further expand access for pupils to **IT Equipment** and improve the range and quality of **Classroom Equipment**. Some progress has been made towards improving the **Ratio of Text Books : Pupils in Each Class**, but we are keen to achieve more in this key area.

I was delighted that Edward Wata's visit coincided with a planned visit to **St Giles' C of E Infant School** here in Ashted to explore ways in which we could develop links between the two schools, involving both pupils and staff. Our meeting with the Staff went so well that, much to the delight of the pupils, Edward was invited back the following day to take part in the **Morning Assembly**. We shall continue to work closely



with the Staff to develop opportunities to learn more about the very different environments, lifestyles and opportunities experienced in two small schools, located some 4000 miles apart.

In the same way as Edward acknowledged, at his award ceremony last month, the vital nature of your support of our work in Kenya, I want to thank you again for this support, which continues to encourage **Edward Wata**, the staff at **Barbara Academy**, myself and my fellow trustees, in our efforts to respond to the critical needs of this very poor local community in rural Western Kenya.

Together we are helping these children achieve their full potential and we already know that we are making a real difference to many young lives.

Please continue to check out our website – www.rehematrust.com – see **Gallery** tab for new photos and **YAWOSUP** for latest reports.

***WISHING YOU ALL
A HAPPY & PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS***

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