

NEWSLETTER

RICK SHARPE INTERNATIONAL



LOGISTICS
FOR AFRICA

www.ricksharpe.co.uk

Newsletter: Issue No.1. June 2011

OUR PROMISE

Wherever possible, we will endeavour to meet medical, educational humanitarian needs, and offer assistance to people in need, regardless of race, creed, ethnic origin, or religious belief. We are not in the business of judgement, and as long as you meet the criteria for one of our projects, we will always consider your needs on humanitarian grounds alone.

Written by Rick Sharpe. (Chairman)

Hi everyone, and welcome to the very first newsletter from **RICK SHARPE INTERNATIONAL**. We were formed in November 2010, by myself and Annie Symons, to build clinics in Kenya, and equip them with medical supplies and equipment.

After two years of fundraising and supplying the **OMWABINI** charity in Kimilili, Kenya, we decided that we could operate with more scope if we had our own charity, and continue to raise funds and supplies for **OMWABINI**. We looked at many ways of building clinics, but all were prohibitively expensive. What with the purchase of land, labour and materials, we were looking at nearly £30,000, which was way beyond our means.

We have been putting together enough supplies for a container to go to Kenya for our micro projects, and are sharing costs with **Lesley and Roger Dann's Harambee For Kenya** project. Their site is at: <http://harambeeforkenya.org> They have done great things at **Nyakoe**. They have also done so much for us, in enabling us to operate in Kenya.

It suddenly occurred to Annie and I, that buying a container and utilising it as a clinic, would cost us around

Recorded Charity-Contact HMRC & CHARITIES COMMISSION for confirmation.

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one tenth of the price of a concrete structure. Also, it would be possible to add to the clinic with other containers, depending on our needs. The picture below is similar to the container that we'll be sending, measures 20ft. x 8ft. x 8ft.



The first clinic will be in place by October 2011, and will be situated in the village of **Kamukata**, on the foothills of **Mt. Elgon, Western Kenya**. It will be run by a local community based organization, which includes three trained nurses. At present, the organization have nowhere to operate from, and have very limited supplies, and equipment, to work with.



Members of the Community Based Organization, **Wekhoyela/Alakara**, treating patients. They now have 70 families with nearly 300 patients.

WHY MOUNT ELGON?

The reason we chose the Mt. Elgon district of Kenya, is because it has been ravaged by war, and militia groups, from 2006 to 2008. Over 1000 people were killed in the conflict, and many more were mutilated, leaving many families homeless, with young children having to be the heads of their families. There is widespread poverty, violent crime, and drug abuse. Child prostitution is rife. It is often the only way that these children can feed, and clothe, their families.

Disease is highly prevalent in the form of HIV/AIDS, Typhoid, Cholera, Malaria and Jiggers. Jiggers are tiny parasitic sand flies that thrive in poor hygiene, and breed in the human body. They can cause deformities, even death. It takes two weeks of treatment, and it is estimated that ten million Kenyans are at risk. There is also much social stigma associated with Jiggers.

Malaria is now a bigger killer in Kenya than AIDS. The reason for this is that most Malaria drugs in Kenya are generic, which means they come from India and China. They are virtually useless. We are hoping to secure efficient Malaria drugs. The under five years of age mortality rate is very high. Social awareness is another huge problem, and we aim to run community awareness programmes to address this. We will be sending out European, and American, nurses to help with the programme, and to train local nurses.



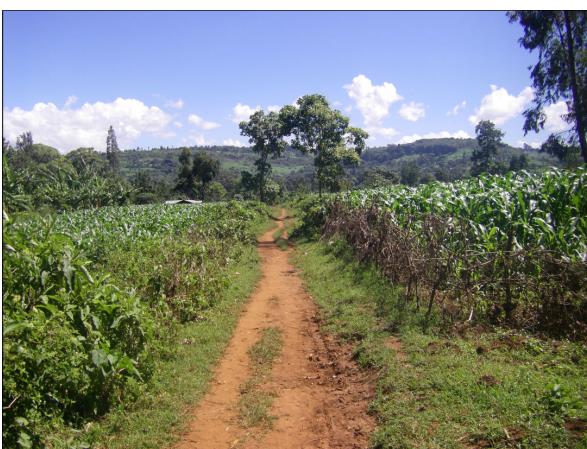
These children are all orphans, and must somehow fend for themselves. This puts them in danger of rape, murder, and savage beatings.

Our aim is to install around a dozen of these clinics, in the Mt.Elon District, over the next five years.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS PROJECTS

We believe that prevention is preferable to cure, and we will be running social awareness projects, with our partners, **Africa 2000 Network (Kenya)**, a charity that has similar aims to **RSI**. I have recently been made a Director of **Africa 2000**. They will be helping us distribute supplies for our projects, and we will be supplying them with medical supplies, and equipment for theirs. Together, we will be creating projects for the prevention of Malaria, Typhoid, Cholera, Jiggers and HIV/AIDS awareness, as well as sexual health projects.

We will also be working on **THE SARAH OBAMA MALARIA PROJECT** later this year. This is a five year, ongoing project, headed by the grandmother of the **US President**.



The site of the our first clinic at Kamukata, Mt.Elon.

If you are a nurse, or doctor, and have a few weeks to spare, in order to help us train local nurses to a higher standard, and to help us run community awareness courses, please contact me on Tel: + 44 (0) 1273 515291 Mobile: + 44 (0) 7932 565337.

Email: rick@ricksharpe.co.uk

Even if you have no training, but want to help, you can volunteer to assist our trained staff. There is always something you can do.

HELP WANTED

We are desperate for the following items.
WHAT CAN I DO?

I. You can donate :

Money (A pound, or two, goes a long way towards saving a child's life)

Bank details on the web site at:

<http://www.ricksharpe.co.uk>

Email me: rick@ricksharpe.co.uk

Ring me: +44 (0) 7932 565337

Clothing, (For all ages, including shoes of all sizes)

Medical Supplies, Bandages, Swabs, Gloves, Scissors, Medical Kits, Dental Equipment, Sanitary Towels, Wheel Chairs, Crutches, Stretchers, Walking Sticks.

Educational Supplies, Old school books, Text Books and Exercise Books, Pens, Pencils and Paper.

Mobile Phones, for our nurses, and patients. Some of the villagers live in very remote parts of Mt. Elgon. (Land Lines are virtually non-existent in Kenya)

Laptops & PC's, for our field office, and schools.

Bicycles: Our community based organization volunteers, and nurses, need transport urgently.

Sewing Machines: Electrical or Hand Operated.

2. Hold a fundraiser at your school, local pub, social club, youth club, or community facility.

Put on a fundraiser with a band from your school, or a local band, Quiz Nights, Talent Shows, Fun Runs. There are so many fun things you can do with a bit of thought.

3. Volunteer: We need volunteers who are skilled, or unskilled. Builders, Plumbers, Nurses, Electricians, or anyone who just wants to make a difference. A couple of weeks in Kenya can be a rewarding, and unforgettable experience. You'll be helping to save the lives of innocent, and very vulnerable children, too.

Below is a picture of the hospital that is local to Mt. Elgon, at Kimilili. There are four children to a bed here, lying crossways. They all have different contagious diseases, so cross infect each other. I have also seen two adults to a bed, and two pregnant women to a bed. They have to leave the hospital soon after giving birth.



When I visited this hospital, in May 2011, there was only one sterilizer for up to five hundred people. It was not working at the time.

I know the reasons why medical aid, and equipment, is not reaching these places, but am not here to judge governments, or companies. We are helping to treat the sick and injured, and will continue to do so, unconditionally.

All the money that we raise goes straight to the treatment of sick and injured people. There is very little in the way of admin, as we do not have an office, and deal direct with suppliers. We know where every penny goes, and not one cent of it goes to the wrong people. Although we have had to deal with pilfering, and bribery in the past, we have now managed to secure the help of honest, and genuine people.

SOLAR POWER

Due to the remoteness of the clinic at Kamukata, we need to install solar power, as there is no electricity in the vicinity. If you know of anyone who could supply us with panels etc., or you could help towards the cost, please contact me.

A WORD OF THANKS

Just some of the medical supplies that are going to Kenya via our container in early June 2011.



We are deeply indebted to **Robert Stephens** at **Searchlight**, (www.search-light.org.uk) the Newhaven, East Sussex, UK, Charity for his help, in allowing us to store our medical supplies there until they're ready to be dispatched. We would also like to thank **Melvyn Lake** at **The Royal Sussex County Hospital**, Brighton, and to **Lee** at **The Princess Royal Hospital**, Haywards Heath, for their wonderful donations of medical supplies.

My lovely friends **Jan & John Newman** for coming to the rescue when we needed transport to collect supplies.

To **Pauline, Shaz, Di, Kay, David, Gloria, Nicki** and **Jan**, for their help with packing and invoicing our medical supplies.

A big thank you to everyone who has supported us at our fundraisers, **The Sussex Factor**, and **The Xmas Factor**, last year. Without you, we would never have achieved all that we have.

To **Annie Symons**, who as ever, is an Angel, and keeps me on the straight and narrow.

We still need help with packing, so contact me, if you would like to help. We will also need twenty people to help us load the container in a few weeks time, at **Newhaven**. More on the site at : www.ricksharpe.co.uk

DIARY DATES: Come and visit us at:

NEWHAVEN - DIEPPE FISH FAYRE:

SATURDAY 11th. JUNE, on the Lawns at **West Quay, Newhaven, East Sussex, UK**. **S T A R T S : 9 a m - 4 p m**. We will be raising money on our stand for **RICK SHARPE INTERNATIONAL**, by selling **Kisii Soapstone** carved figurines, including, Elephants, Giraffes, Hippos, Angels, Snake Boxes, Hearts, Artwork, and Jewellery, all hand made by the rehabilitated **Kisii** street boys, living at **The Nyakoe Safe House** run by **Lesley & Roger Dann**. These artefacts are extraordinarily beautiful, made by boys who, only a couple of years ago, didn't have any future, and were near to death from violence, and glue sniffing.



If you want to hold a party to sell any of these artefacts, and jewellery, to your friends, let me know. We can always deliver them to you, and come along to talk about what our charity does.

There is not much else in the diary at the moment, as I am still recovering from a brain haemorrhage that I sustained while on **Mt. Elgon**, on the 14th. May. I should return to normal, that'll be a first then, by about the end of June. I have to go back into **Hurstwood Park, Neuro Surgery Unit** for more tests, and procedures, on the **14th. June** for a couple of days. I am overwhelmed at the dedication of the staff . Thank you, so much. You are all Heroes.

We will be holding funraisers, later on in the year. To keep up to date on our projects, please visit us at: www.ricksharpe.co.uk
Love and Peace.

Rick Sharpe