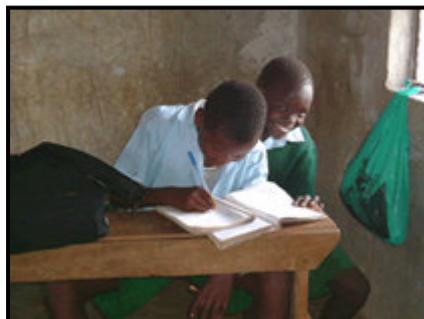




# Friends of Londiani Annual Report 2006



*Front cover photographs from left to right:  
Bendithai village; Children in Ndubusat primary School; Londiani town.*

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## Directors of Friends of Londiani

### Board of Directors

Ms. Maria Kidney, Chairperson

Ms. Helen Concannon, Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Hazel Murphy, Secretary

Mr. Martin Ballantyne, Treasurer

Mr. Joe Willis

Mr. Gerard Murphy

Mrs. Deirdre Henley-Willis

## Friends of Londiani Contact Details

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Londiani, Kenya.

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+254 203547243

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[www.friendsoflondiani.com](http://www.friendsoflondiani.com)

## Mission of Friends of Londiani

The mission of Friends of Londiani is to work with the people of Londiani and its surrounding villages to develop and complete sustainable community projects to enable and empower the people to achieve an improved quality of life based on their values and become the authors of their own development. The Friends of Londiani will endeavour to achieve these goals in a spirit of co-operation and mutual respect with one another and with the people of the area. This partnership will enable members of Friends of Londiani to further develop skills and a deeper cultural understanding.

Friends of Londiani, Ireland works in conjunction with a registered Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) in Kenya called Friends of Londiani, Kenya. In Ireland, Friends of Londiani is a registered charity (CHY 16505).

Friends of Londiani are involved in many community development projects in areas such as medical, health, HIV/AIDS, education and water and work jointly with the communities of Londiani's surrounding villages such as Lelsothet and Ndubusat.

## Message from the Chairperson

In 2006, Friends of Londiani maintained its commitment to the people in the Kenyan villages in which we work. It was another exciting and action packed year and a total of 90 volunteers were recruited for Harambee 2007. They will travel to Kenya between June and September 2007 to participate in projects in the villages of Benditai, Ndubusat and Londiani. The demand for places on the project was overwhelming and shows the commitment and awareness that volunteers have today.

Our support of Bethel Children's Home continues with a total of 66 children now in the home. The ongoing support of the home in terms of maintenance, staffing and education of the children is made possible by the generosity of our supporters. We now have over 20 education bursary students in secondary school and third level colleges. Our Peer Education Lifeskills Programme manual is currently being updated. This update is based on feedback from peer educators and participants in Ireland and in Kenya. Our peer educators continue to run courses throughout the local villages. The MarMar group in Ndubusat has now been recognised by the National Aids Control Council in Kenya.

It is fantastic for Friends of Londiani and the villagers to be supported by Irish Aid in our Health Education project. We thank them for their assistance and we hope that this partnership will continue for many years.

This year I was honoured with a number of awards and I believe that this recognition reflects on all involved in the Friends of Londiani. Firstly at the Junior Chamber of Ireland 'Total Outstanding Young Person' Humanitarian Award held in Tullamore, Co. Offaly and then on the international stage in Seoul, Korea in November. Further acknowledgement of the work involved was received through Vodafone's "Passion of the World Around Us" Award in December.

I would like to personally thank all those who made our work this year a possibility – the Directors of Friends of Londiani, our volunteers, our fundraisers and supporters. With Harambee '07 on the horizon I look forward to the year ahead.

Maria Kidney,  
Chairperson

## Friends of Londiani Ireland 2006 Diary

**January** began a busy and rewarding year for the “small Irish charity doing big things”. The annual calendar sales were very successful and formed a vital part of our fundraising and public relations campaign.



**February** saw three of the Board of Directors travel to Londiani to evaluate the work of Harambee 2005 projects and to meet with communities interested in working on future projects. This also coincided with the publication of the first Friends of Londiani Kenya newsletter.

In **March** the Directors considered all proposals received from Kenya and approved the projects for 2007. Time was invested in the development of improved resources such as a new website, online shopping and a new leaflet.



**April** was a busy month with the annual Kenya Ball in Cork and the launch of Harambee 2007 – a community based development project to take place in three villages around Londiani in June, July and August of 2007.

In **May** many presentations on Harambee were given around the country and the AGM was held in Cork. Links were forged with community groups here in Ireland such as ICA groups and with school groups.



**June** saw the annual Four Peaks Challenge taking place – the highest peaks in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales were ‘submitted’ by Friends of Londiani supporters over one weekend. FOL also had supporters in the Dublin Mini marathon.

After a short summer break, **September** began with the Interviews and Information Days for the Harambee 2007 team. Over 100 people applied from all over Ireland and a team of 90 was selected. Supporters also took to the streets of Cork for the Mini Marathon.



**October** was an exciting month as the Chairperson, Ms. Maria Kidney was nominated by the Junior Chamber of Commerce in Cobh for the award of Outstanding Young Person of the Year. Maria received the award at a national ceremony in Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

In **November** Maria Kidney and Martin Ballantyne travelled to Korea where Maria was among the international recipients of TOYP Awards. She received an award for Humanitarian and/or Voluntary Leadership during the 61st JCI World Congress in Seoul. The first training weekend for the Harambee 2007 was held in Galway and a variety of Fundraising events took place.



**December** was another month when Friends of Londiani was acknowledged for its work and the Chairperson received a Vodafone Passion for the World Around Us Award in Cork. The Friends of Londiani Christmas Cards also went on sale and Christmas presents were sent to all the children of Bethel Children’s Home from Irish youth groups.

## Events & Fundraising Activities 2006

### Christmas Card, Gift Voucher and Calendar Sales

- **2006 & 2007 Calendars**

These calendars contained coloured photos of the people, places and projects in Londiani and each one has proved very popular.

- **Christmas Cards**

This year two designs of cards were available in 2006. Each pack had six different cards and each card had a colour photo of the people and places in Kenya.

- **Christmas Gift Vouchers**

Friends of Londiani Gift Vouchers were available for purchase in several different amounts for six different development areas e.g. primary education, healthcare, water projects. They were ideal gifts for family and friends.



### Marigold Madness

In March a group of dedicated volunteers spent a very rainy Saturday sowing seeds for a new undertaking - an experimental programme whereby we grow Marigolds and sold them directly to the public. It was an excellent programme and we hope schools will get involved in 2007.

### Kenya Ball 2006

On Saturday 8th April at the Rochestown Park Hotel 330 friends and supports gathered at our flagship event to celebrate the successful execution of Harambee 2005 and to witness the launch of its successor Harambee 2007. Guests of honour on the night were Deputy Lord Mayor Colm Burke and his wife Mary as well as the Principal Councillor from the Kenyan High Commission in London Mr. Abel Kenyoru and his wife Mrs. Milka Nyamichaba.



### Four Peaks Challenge 2006

4 Peaks, 4 Countries, 4 Kenya - 2nd-5th June

This activity involved over 40 climbers and a support team and here is a little taste of the event:

Flying out Friday evening we were rearing to go. We were on the summit of Ben Nevis before 9am on Saturday morning in the snow and freezing conditions! From Scotland to the Lake District to climb Scafell Pyke. It was a glorious evening and the sunset was simply amazing from the peaks. Then the drive to Wales and being on Snowdon for 9am Sunday was some challenge, and a great achievement for all concerned. Onwards to Manchester to catch the plane to Cork and head for Kerry....the last peak - Carrauntohill. Monday dawned at 6.30am.....and what a glorious day it was. The views from the top of Carrauntohill were breathtaking, and visibility was just amazing. The Kenyan flag was flown on the summit of Ben Nevis, Scafell Pyke, Snowdon and Carrauntohill.

Thank you to all who made this event possible - the participants, the support crew and our sponsors. All money raised will go towards our ongoing health, education, HIV/AIDS, water and development projects in Kenya.

### **Flora Dublin Ladies Mini Marathon**

This year's Flora Women's Mini Marathon took place on Bank Holiday Monday 5th June 2006 and there was a large team running and walking to raise funds for Friends of Londiani. Thank you to all the members of this team and to all those who are supporting them.



### **Cork Evening Echo Ladies Mini Marathon**

This year's Evening Echo Women's Mini Marathon took place on Sunday, 24th September 2006 around the streets of Cork. 46 people took part on behalf of Friends of Londiani - including several colourfully dressed male supporters!!

### **Various Events**

A huge variety of fundraising events have been held in 2006 to assist Friends of Londiani's work in Kenya. Parachute jumps, head shaves, cake sales, coffee mornings, flower shows, sponsored walks and climbs. Presentations and information talks have been given at a variety of events and has helped to develop a wide network of supporters.

### **Newsletters**

Friends of Londiani continues to produce newsletters throughout the year and our mailing list has increased due to the increased number of supporters in 2006.

### **Thank You**

We would like to thank all those who organised so many fundraising events for us, and all those who supported these events. Your support is very much appreciated.

## **Funding**

In June Friends of Londiani applied for and was granted funding from Irish Aid. Irish Aid is the Government of Ireland's programme of assistance to developing countries. This grant is specifically for our Water, HIV/AIDS and Medical projects and will be used to part-fund these projects.

We gratefully acknowledge their support.



## **Links with Other Organisations**

Friends of Londiani has worked with many organisations in 2006. Some of these have been on a national level and some on a more local level. Youth and community groups have requested presentations from our supporters and in particular links have been created with ICA groups and units from The Irish Girl Guides. Schools have requested talks and information and many classes have included the Friends of Londiani as part of their Civic, Social & Political Education (CSPE) programme.

Nationally, the Friends of Londiani has worked closely with Comhlámh to develop a Code of Ethics and the Volunteer Charter. We look forward to continuing this relationship.

## Financial Report

### Revenue Account For the Year Ended 31 December 2006

	2006 €	2005 €
<b>INCOME</b>		
Harambee Income		58,829
Fundraising Events	109,115	174,962
Donations	33,280	8,629
	142,395	242,420
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Ongoing Projects	54,048	117,932
Harambee Team Costs	-	63,118
Fundraising Costs	59,640	45,439
	113,688	226,489
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>29,020</b> =====	<b>15,931</b> =====

### Balance Sheet As at 31 December 2006

	2006 €	2005 €
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Debtors and prepayments	55,501	-
Cash at bank and in hand	113,725	48,128
Designated Bank Funds	95,319	-
	264,545	48,128
<b>CREDITORS (Amounts falling due within one year)</b>	<b>(187,397)</b>	-
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	77,148 =====	48,128 =====
<b>RESERVES</b>		
Revenue Account	77,148 =====	48,128 =====

These Financial Statements were prepared by Deloitte & Touche on 21 June, 2007.

## Messages from our Bursary Students

FOL Ireland supports the education (primary, secondary and university) of all the children in Bethel Children's Home. Some of the children have already started university education whilst some have yet to start primary school.

FOL also provide twenty bursaries for people in the communities where we work. This year we supported several nursing students, 6 secondary school students, a carpenter, a driver and a pharmacist. In November 2006, one of our bursary recipients Stephen Mainek graduated from Tenwek Hospital as a Qualified Nurse.



The following are letters from two students on bursaries to Finch Secondary School, Londiani.

*"Dear Sponsor,*

*I am so much happy and thankful for your kind heart of having decided to pay for me my school fees. I say thank you again and again. I wish you could feel the way that I feel in my heart for you having thought of some thing like this.*

*I am the first born in my family of four. We all live with our grandmother who works as a farmer and I have a mother who is mentally sick so her work is just roaming around and sometimes she even goes for a whole month without us knowing where she is.*

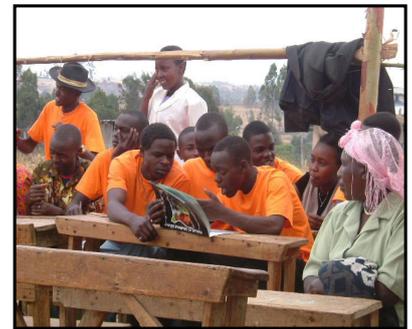
*My grandmother is the one who has been caring for us and also pays for our fees which sometimes is a problem and I have to stay home for it thus dropping my performance but from now on I know that through you my dream will come true. I promise to perform well in my studies.*

*May God bless you in each and every way that you may continue with the same heart of helping.*

*Thank you very much.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Teresia Wanjiru."*



*"Dear Sir/Madam,*

*I am glad to write this letter to say thank you for the fees that I had applied for. This was the biggest problem to me in school because my parents have inability in my family.*

*I promise to work hard and struggle in class to ensure good use of the money. So that I could get good life in future and be able to help others the way you have helped me. So thank you very much for the help.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Steven Mutai."*

