



ACEF Summer Newsletter

It seems incredible that summer is just around the corner – hopefully the weather will catch on soon and we will have a lovely warm few months to celebrate life. Despite the weather we have been incredibly busy and have much to share with you. The most important is two fantastic family days coming up over the summer, where we hope to see you.

Kenya has had its challenges over the last 6 months with their elections and post reaction, however I am pleased to say that our young people and teachers are safe– with the school virtually shutting down for this period and youngsters moved out into the countryside away from the violence. However, they are now back in school and working hard to catch up lost time. Given this violence our next trip will not be until October when you are very much welcome to volunteer to join us.

'Big Gig' Family Fun Day – Saturday 13 July – Akamba Garden Centre

This is going to be a fantastic family event – it will be an afternoon of family activities whilst you rock



your way around the centre listening to wonderful musicians drawn from the highly talented local community and from ACEF friends a little further afield. Musicians from every genre, rock bands, brass ensembles, vocalists, drumming groups, gospel, samba will be performing 5 hours of free music. All are giving their time free, to support the wonderful cause of raising money for our young people at Brainhouse.

Alongside this you will be able to buy beautiful homemade cakes, taste beers from around the world, purchase art, swap books, but most of all we hope you will have one of those lovely relaxing afternoons in the sun, listening to music whilst your kids are fully occupied. They will have craft activities making instruments from recycling, African necklaces, quizzes and a safari hunt, plus balloon modelling and face painting. By buying a £5 kids activity ticket you will be feeding a Brainhouse child for a month!

If you are yourself or you know of some talented musicians who would like to do a 20 min set please do let us know – the more the merrier.

Come along and join us for the afternoon (1pm – 6pm) for a fun day for all the family. Further information will be on the website in due course and if you can promote the event in your local area contact Fred on amiout@hotmail.co.uk for flyers and more information.



Bike Ride – Saturday 21 September

By popular request the bike ride is back – this year we just hope for better weather so that everyone can fully enjoy the beautiful Warwickshire countryside and the great pubs along the way! There are three routes, a nice relaxing family ride of 12 miles, a slightly more challenging route of 28 miles and then for those super fit or ambitious there is a 52 mile ride. It is beautifully organised and all you have to do is peddle the bike and enjoy being in the fresh air, we will ensure you do not get lost, are looked after if you have a puncture. The route is on-road but the 12 mile ride has marshals at key crossing points to make sure any little ones get across safely.

We want more riders than ever this year so come along. Also spread the word – perhaps you could organise a team from your workplace? You can register now on-line at the ACEF website. Or contact acefcyclerride@gmail.com to get more information or to volunteer to help.

Windsor Academy

We are delighted to have started a great relationship with Windsor Academy and look forward to this growing and benefitting everyone involved. We have three great initiatives underway

- The students are currently researching how we can make the toilets healthier and more sustainable – looking at green alternatives.
- To help raise funds they will be running a toilet twinning project, so you will be able to twin your toilet with one of ours at Brainhouse. This will involve you purchasing a framed certificate to hang in your bathroom showing all your visitors how you support our work – all proceeds will go directly to support the new toilets in the school.
- The students and staff are collecting business and inspirational books to develop the promised library for the older students. They are also very busy fundraising at the moment to collect the funds to get the books out to Kenya for our trip in October. (We would like to thank Shaun Garvey, Standards and Testing Agency for all his support and effort in securing the transportation of the books to Kenya)

Three Thinking Co and Stone Two Birds

You will notice over the coming months that we are working hard to improve our website, to make it more relevant and up to date and to put together appropriate communication tools. This has all been made possible by the wonderful support and donation of time from Three Thinking Co. We look forward to a great relationship with them and expanding our reach through their support.

We are also getting big on twitter and Facebook so follow or like us to get the latest information. We would like to thank the staff at design agency Stone Two Birds for all their support in advancing us in the social media space!



Brainhouse

The school continues to thrive and has gained so much confidence from the security of knowing that we are there to support them – but most of all to ensure that they get the most basic requirements to live and learn – food, a safe place to live and the nurturing of those around them. For many of our students this is the first time they have experienced having all three and you can just see them expand into their bodies and life sparkling through their eyes.

For those of you who would like to have the unique experience of visiting the school and working out there we are going out for a week in October flying out on Friday 25 October. If you would like to stay out longer and go on a safari, that can also be arranged.

Please contact Liz Formby on Elizabethjane07@gmail.com or by phone 0121 745 2795 to discuss the trip further.

Lottery Bid

Over the last six months several of our very talented team have been working hard on completing our first foray into putting a proposal for funding. It is a huge amount of work and I would like to particularly thank Jon, Elysia and Julie for the incredible amount of time they donated to getting our bid completed and in such fine shape. I have to say that I was very proud to submit it and now we are waiting with baited breath to see the result.

The objective of the bid will be to build a vocational college for our students, which will allow them to leave the care of Brainhouse with a tangible skill that they will be able to deploy to help support them in adult life. The college will also provide life skill training, such as understanding banks, how to look after your money and how to look after yourself.

We will also establish a Business College that give the students a place, with the appropriate equipment, to search for jobs, be coached in writing CV's and interviewing skills, have access to newspapers and business books. All things we take for granted but without our support they would have no method of accessing these basic tools to find a job.

We will hear in June whether we have been successful and I hope in our next newsletter we will be able to celebrate with you.



Donations

Cheadle Hulme

Brandon Few came out to Kenya on our very first visit three years ago as a young 14 year old. It was the highlight of his young life so far and he was determined to help make a difference. When he arrived as a new 6th former at Cheadle Hulme and they were asked to nominate a charity – he did not hesitate to put forward ACEF and Brainhouse. His personal account and passion for supporting the school, won everyone around and we were named as their charity for this year. We would very much like to thank Cheadle Hulme for the fantastic amount of money they raised, the welcome they gave us and we look forward to investigating how we can continue working together

King Edwards School, Barclays and Carillion

We have also had wonderful cheques pop through the door from King Edwards School in Birmingham – a complete surprise. I would like to thank them so much for raising such an impressive amount of money and making our day when the envelope was opened.

Barclays Bank has also been so generous with nominating us as one of their charities for their Dinner Dance this last year and continuing to support us with donating business books. We look forward to building on this relationship and hopefully taking one or two of the staff out to Brainhouse with us later in this year, so they can see for themselves just what is being achieved with their support.

Carillion PLC have also provided us with a much needed boost with a cheque courtesy of their “nominate a charity” programme. We would like to thank Andy Wrennall for continuing to promote us at Carillion and for their welcome support.

In memory of Sue Boardman

We were very touched when the Boardman family asked friends and family to donate money to ACEF in memory of Sue, who recently passed away. Sue was a lovely, kind and generous lady who loved everything African and would be absolutely delighted that she was able to support our young people. It is our hope, that Nigel, her husband and maybe her sister will be able to join us on one of our trips to donate the money in person to the school.

Thank you to everyone else

We have had so many other donations, in kind and in cash, that is difficult to name everyone. We would like to thank you all for the donations of clothing, material, Sanitary products, pens, crayons etc to take out to Kenya, for your time and for the financial donations you make. However for me the most important thing is your continued interest and support in all the work we are doing.



If you have any business and inspirational books going spare, we would love you to donate them to us. We promised the older students that we would build a library of these books for them and this is one of our main aims of the October trip.

Key Dates

13 July – Big Gig Afternoon at Akamba

21 September – Bike Ride around Warwickshire

25 October – Volunteer Trip to Brainhouse for a week