



# SAAS

SPONSOR AN AFRICAN SCHOLAR

## ***SAAS Staff travel to Ireland.***

Towards the end of last year, 2 members of the SAAS Mombasa team (Denis Dennehy and Ebby Soinani) travelled to Ireland in order to raise awareness of the work of SAAS in Kenya and to develop and increase our sponsorship and project base in Ireland by delivering various talks and presentations. Ebby and Denis had the opportunity to meet several of our student's sponsors and were honoured to be able to relay stories about the students. In addition, the team gave presentations to the following organisations;

- Rathmore Youth club in Kilkenny
- Aiserie Treatment Centre in Claire
- University College Cork (UCC) Department of International Food Development- met with 1<sup>st</sup> year students.
- Girl Guides in Derry -Northern Ireland
- Falcarragh Secondary School and met with 3<sup>rd</sup> year students
- Tabor Lodge Treatment Centre in Cork
- Radio talk show with News-Talk, Dublin.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all the above organisations for allowing us to come and speak with you and for your generous donations and support. These opportunities have been invaluable to SAAS as they have allowed us to expand our support base in Ireland which in turn enables us to reach more young people in Africa.

## ***SAAS Student Award Ceremony 2007.***

For the second year running, in December last year, SAAS Mombasa hosted a Student Award Ceremony. Awards were given to the students who achieved the best academic results in Forms 1, 2 & 3 and to the student who put in the most effort and displayed the best attitude; we presented the Student Personality Award.

Congratulations to all the students who have achieved so much and a special congratulation to the award winners who are as follows: Form 1 - Jacinta Musau of Bahari Secondary School, Form 2 - Stephen Kioko of Kabaa High School, Form 3 - Joyce Kyuma of Shariff Nassir Secondary School. The Personality Award 2007 went to Derrick Biko of Mwakitawa Secondary School.



**Derrick, Jacinta, Joyce, Stephen with their respective awards.**

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## **Triza's Corner.**



Triza Mghanga (18) continues to grace our newsletter with her poetry. This time around she expresses her gratitude towards SAAS in the poem below entitled "Wonderful SAAS".

*"SAAS oh SAAS!"  
How good of you  
Helping the needy children  
With parents and without parents  
You are our wonderful helper.*

*You've been good help to us  
Training children to become  
Better people in the future  
By taking them to school.*

*You've made us know how  
Life is. We've known how  
To relate with different people in life  
For sure education is the key of life.*

*"SAAS oh SAAS!"  
You've acted like our real parents  
In times of problems we came for consultation  
Or guidance and counselling has been the  
precious  
Gift we got from you. How wonderful are you!*

*Above all you have visited our families  
Talked to them and even solved some  
problems.  
And this has made us to be proud of having  
you.*

*I don't know how to thank you SAAS, but I hope  
this  
Will show my appreciation to you.*

**By Triza Mghanga**

## **Christmas Holidays.**

The Kenyan schools and colleges closed for the month of December for the Christmas break and during this time the students returned to their homes and were reunited with their families and guardians. At this time, we ask the students to attend at the SAAS office in order to speak with the SAAS counsellor. We feel that this is important as it gives students the opportunity to speak face to face with a person they trust and in comforting and safe environment.

Students are asked to bring their parents/guardians with them as we feel it is imperative that the student's family have a direct input into their child's education.

## **Christmas Gifts from Ireland.**

In December last, SAAS Mombasa was visited by 2 ladies from RTE, Michelle Egan and Lisa O'Brien. The ladies visited several of SAAS projects including MEWA Children's Library where they very kindly presented educational gifts which included bags, colouring pencils and T-shirts to over 35 children from the local area.

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**A young girl receives a gift from MEWA Board Member while the RTE Staff looks on.**

World leaders intervened by facilitating dialogue between President Kibaki and the opposition leader Raila Odinga. After several weeks of mediation and discussion, chaired by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, a solution was reached and the government have agreed to form a coalition with opposition parties. SAAS was affected in a small way by the violence as we were forced to close our offices for a few days as it was not safe for staff to travel to work. Fortunately, the trouble did not last too long in the area in which our office is situated therefore we were able to reopen quickly.

## ***Kenyans Face the Ballot.***



**President Kibaki of Kenya**

Normality is slowly returning to Kenya however it will take the already fragile country a long while to get over the effects of many weeks of violence and rioting.

## ***Camp David's Donation.***

Among other partners, SAAS supports Camp David tailoring unit. In March 2008, SAAS donated 10 sewing machines to help support young girls acquire tailoring skills to help them get jobs to support themselves and their families hence impacting greatly on the community at large in an effort to eradicate poverty.



**A section of students using the donated sewing machines.**

As you will no doubt be aware, Kenyan voters took to the polls on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2007. The result of which was that President Mwai Kibaki was re-elected to the presidency. This controversial victory led to weeks of widespread violence throughout Kenya resulting in death of hundreds of Kenyans and displacement of thousands.

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## ***Other Activities.***

- Student sponsors from Ireland visited SAAS Mombasa. They were delighted to meet several SAAS students and their parents and very kindly donated valuable equipment to the MEWA Drug Treatment Centre (SAAS Partner) and have continued to support us since their departure.
- SAAS staff attend 2 week counselling course in Diploma in Counselling at Kenya Association of Professional Counsellors (KAPC).
- Students opened schools for new class year in January 2008.
- Visit by Gina Woods - SAAS Director from Ireland in April 2008 to do assessment work in SAAS Mombasa.

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