



BACK TO SCHOOL!

Finishing what we started:

“Let's build a School in Kenya!” a friend once announced.

This is a well established, first of it's kind integrated pre-school project that needs your help to complete 3 classrooms and the administration wing.

We got it going, but now we're stuck
We're good at building things and getting the job done, but
we're not so good at fund raising

THE HAPPY STORY

A while back, my friend Alan convinced me to join him in building a pre-school in Kenya. The story started several years earlier when he was traveling across the Rift Valley visiting grass roots schools. There he met Richard Robinson and Sister Freda. They agreed to provide the land and Alan would build the school. He had a reasonable sum of money saved to make it happen.

Sister Freda is a nurse who operates a rural community hospital on her farm property outside Kitale, Kenya. Her volunteer work has grown to include a girl's high school, a nursing school, an orphanage and a [pre-school with a meal program](#), housed in a temporary structure.

The new pre-school we are building will welcome 120 young students age 4 to 7 who walk to Sister Freda's every day for classes and a meal. The new facility will also take over the meal preparation program as we have included a kitchen.



Illustration 1: Page from architectural drawing set

Other specialties built into the school are a library, (Soon we will be looking for book donations. Keep us in mind if you learn of an opportunity to stock the shelves.) an administration office, a teachers' room, a shower block for hygiene and most importantly, a nurses station where the children will be given a health screening each morning. Who better to staff the nurses station than the students from Sister Freda's nursing school next door?

The building surrounds a central courtyard which will be used as a beautiful garden area where the children will learn to grow and nurture plants and possibly even raise fish. We'll collect rainwater from the roof and introduce natural light to reduce the need for artificial lighting.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?



Illustration 3: Exterior view of School



Illustration 4: Veranda and inner courtyard



Illustration 2: Current classroom construction. Folding divider adjoins 2 rooms for community functions

Yes, we do have a building! Ground breaking took place a year and a half ago on 25 February 2013 and the structure is 50% complete. We've held a few local fundraisers and clothing drives to keep things moving ahead, but were stuck now. The kids are eager to get into their new classrooms and we're excited to finally bring them that possibility with your help. Sister Freda advises me that already parents from remote villages have learned of the nearly completed school building and are bringing their children hoping to enroll and board them on site. We must not delay!

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WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO



Illustration 6: Artist rendering of Central courtyard with fish raising pond



Illustration 5: Artist rendering of completed classroom

I've earmarked a few key areas that will directly impact our ability to begin holding classes in the new school. This is our focus. There are 3 classrooms in need of ceiling treatments, paint, furniture and lighting. The window frames are in, but they need glass panes installed. The floor is bare concrete and needs a nice tile finish material. These are very manageable tasks.

On our wish list is a rain water collection system. For this we need roof gutters and a storage tank. Next year we'll work on funding the toilet and shower block as well as sprucing up the admin sections. A remote latrine has been constructed to serve the school in the interim.

HOW WE ARE GOING TO DO IT

Engineer Gitonga from Nairobi has prepared a bill of materials for the remaining costs which is currently being sent out to bid with 3 contractors. This is the customary way to identify the best path forward.

I will travel to Kitale personally with a group of friends to build as much of the classroom furniture as possible. This portion we will fund ourselves. The remainder we will entrust to our contractor who has done a wonderful job thus far getting us to where we are today and to the overseas volunteers who regularly visit Sister Freda to lend a hand.

FUTURE

The pre-school fills one more vacancy in the overall plan for Sister Freda to offer a full education experience for the children. Our next mission is to build a Primary School. Also on deck is a maternity ward addition to the Hospital. Much to do!

Related Links

Simply Google “Sister Freda” and you will find a wealth of information about her works. We are just a small part of the good things she is doing for her community.

Links:

[Sister Freda Foundation](#)

[School from the Heart – My Blog](#)

[Feeding Program FB](#)

[Travel to Vounteer](#)

ABOUT our Global Team:

- Kurt Beckman is a freelance architectural designer living in Singapore.
- Alan Riley is a pre-school director living in Singapore
- Joseph Gitonga is a retired Civil Engineer from Nairobi, Kenya
- Sister Freda wears many hats, but is renowned for her volunteer work in healthcare and education. She lives outside Kitale, Kenya.

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET:

Funding:

Initially a self-funded project @	US\$37,000
Local fundraiser net	US \$8,000
Total invested to Date	US\$45,000

Funding Required to make the school operational ¹	US\$20,000
Additional Funding to complete all areas of the school ²	US\$25,000

Total required	US\$45,000
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Structure as it stands today: The basic building, roof and rough-in's are complete.

¹ Finish Classrooms – ceiling, floors, lighting, paint, furniture, window glazing

² Kitchen equipment, Nurse station supplies & fit-out, Library shelving, office equipment, rainwater collection tanks and gutters, courtyard finish, playground.



Illustration 7: Sister Freda's meal program. The only meal of the day for many of these pre-school children.