

Saikeri Boarding

providing opportunity

■ No girl should be raped nor have to undergo the brutality of female genital mutilation ■ Every child should have the right to an education and adequate nutrition and water to survive ■ Girls shouldn't be forced into marriages they don't want particularly when they don't even understand how their own body works ■ These are the beliefs of the people behind Saikeri Boarding and these are the daily challenges the girls of Saikeri face.

The girls of Saikeri struggle on a daily basis to receive their basic human right to a primary school education due to a lack of food and water, exhaustion, poor health and a high risk of falling pregnant before completing their schooling. Pregnancy for these girls' means arranged marriages, the end of an education and a return to a life constrained by poverty and devoid of their voice and individual ability to make decisions. The objective of the Saikeri Boarding House is to overcome these issues by providing a supportive and secure environment that allows girls to pursue a social and academic education. Simply, it provides these girls with an opportunity in life – an opportunity to be recognised as equal citizens within their culture and to help lead their community out of a continuing cycle of poverty.

In June 2012, the Saikeri Boarding House opened its doors to the 30 girls in the upper three levels at Saikeri Primary. These girls no longer have to spend up to 6 hours a day walking through the bush to get to school. They have security and supervision protecting them against the risk of falling pregnant and they no longer have a daily fear of going without food and water. Most of all they have a chance to make their one wish in life come true – an ability to study and receive an education.

For the past year Lalela has been working closely together with Australian schools and rural villages in Kenya and Ethiopia to strengthen primary education in impoverished communities whilst educating Australian children on the hardships faced by their peers in other parts of the world. Lalela works with Australian volunteer teachers to record the Kenyan Primary Syllabus onto MP3's, creating tailored lessons relevant to the childrens' current studies.



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The people

Jane Watson began Saikeri Boarding whilst volunteering in Kenya in 2012. Living and working at Saikeri Primary school, the few number of girls making it to their final years of primary school was stark and thus the Saikeri Boarding House was conceived. Jane was involved in every stage of the building and opening of the dormitory and oversees all aspects of the project from Australia. In Sydney, Jane works in corporate advisory in Sydney and is returning to Kenya for this coming Christmas and January so as to be there for the start of the new school year

Doron Milner is the founder of Lalela which was launched in Kenya at Saikeri in 2013. Doron has extensive experience in Africa and is deeply connected to the region. He has a number of business interests in Kenya and in Australia he works in online marketing. Doron travels to Kenya each year to visit the many game parks Kenya has to offer, as well as visiting all the children and communities Lalela and Saikeri Boarding work with. Doron hopes to use his experience in travel to organise for major sponsors to visit the communities they are supporting.

How you can help

We are ultimately after help to make as many lives as possible richer. To us one is better than none and any help whether it be money, endorsement or simply helping to create awareness is a huge help in providing that opportunity to just one more person. Further information on our specific projects can be found at saikeri.com

We are committed to ensuring sustainability is achieved with every gift. By this we mean that monetary donations are not used in a way so as to create greed, or suppress motivation by the people themselves to continue striving towards prosperity. Everything we do should create a ripple effect so as to benefit those beyond the immediate benefactors and the opportunity we are providing should extend beyond the girls in our boarding house.

Saikeri Boarding is devoted entirely to providing educational opportunities to the girls of Saikeri and other communities with the same needs. Unlike many other charitable organisations, all fundraising proceeds are directed in their entirety to the project. Those involved in the project do not receive any remuneration for their time and efforts and wish it to be no other way instead preferring to see opportunity is provided to those who need it.

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