

## Keywordh charity launches sponsorship scheme for young Kenyans

The Friends of Kadzinuni this month has concluded arrangements for a scheme that will see the children from a poor rural community in Kenya gaining the chance to attend secondary school for the first time.

From their South Notts base, The Friends support the community of Kadzinuni a village on the Kenya coast, just north of Mombasa (pop approx 10,000). Having supported the school since 1998 and having recently built a clinic for Kadzinuni, this year they made a commitment to ensure that some local children can at last take up the places that they have gained in national tests but have never before been able to take up.

This month the final agreements have been put in place that will see Friends partners in Mombasa, The Rotary Club of Bahari, administering the payment of school fees for the first 11 students to benefit from the scheme. Initial funding of over £7,000 is being provided for their school fees. All secondary education is fee paying in Kenya, unlike Primary that is free and in a country where the average wage is just \$1 a day, secondary school fees of £150 or more a year are out of reach for all but a very few.



The Friends has committed to the “class of 2006” for 4 years and are now seeking individual sponsors for more students who will start their courses in January 2007 and 2008. A Gift Aided donation of £10 a month will cover the fees for a student. The student will be required to achieve good school results and send regular progress letters back to their UK sponsor. As part of the scheme sponsored students will also commit to doing some voluntary work in the Kadzinuni community during school holidays. Founder of the Friends of Kadzinuni, Nic Seller, said on announcing the scheme, “Unlike the UK, most secondary schools are boarding schools in Kenya, so it great that we are able to help in this way with relatively small amounts of money. Having done quite a lot to improve Kadzinuni Primary School, we thought that we had to do something to give the brightest students the opportunity to gain even more from a continued education. As one of our partners said when we met to discuss the scheme on our last visit in February, “wouldn’t it be great for a future president of Kenya to come from Kadzinuni!”

Nic continues, “We have to set the local people targets that they can work hard to reach out for, so that our support helps them reach their ambitions. Parents at Kadzinuni are just like all good parents anywhere; they want the best for their children. Kenyan children deserve no less than anyone else.”

To find out more about being a Friend of Kadzinuni and sponsoring a child at school in Kenya contact Nic or Elaine Seller on 07931 323613 or see the website at [www.kadzinuni.org.uk](http://www.kadzinuni.org.uk)

*High quality digital images relating to this story available from Nic Seller, Friends of Kadzinuni 07931323613*