



Hi All,

At long last we have the calendar of 2016 EAMO (East African Mission Orphanage) fundraising events and we think we will have fun together ☺!

In November last year we kicked off with a small garage sale that raised \$600 and my cousin in England sent us \$500 raised at her car boot sales (thanks Sandra!). So off to a great start!

### **WHAT IS THE 2016 PROJECT?**

Last year we mentioned a number of school based needs that we might use as a 2016 project. The great news is that EAMO has since gained a sponsor to help with this and hopefully these things will be completed by the time we go over in August 2016. Not to worry, the needs are multitude over there!!

So the project this year will focus on (1) security and suitable study spaces in the orphanage dormitories and (2) resources for the teachers.

1. The girl's dorm is a large solid building but some of the windows do not have glass in them, none of the windows have bars which are so necessary for security, and any curtains they have are ragged. So we want to ensure all windows have glass and security grills and are dressed for privacy with curtains.
2. The toilets in the boy's dorm do not work, so unless using the urinal, they need to go outside & up the hill to the old free standing toilets. Even the littlies have to make this trip in the dark at night so there are more dirtied pyjama pants than necessary and much embarrassment for the children. Preliminary examination did not find the cause and we need to raise the funds for the more expensive and extensive exploration and fix.
3. The girl's dorm has a large open space in the centre with a concrete floor and lovely murals on the walls painted by visitors some years back. There are 2 old lounges and a couple of old lounge chairs plus 2 old rugs – this is the only furniture in the common area for about 100 girls. There are no tables for playing games on or for study purposes. We would like to see:
  - a. More sturdy lounges, some low tables, some normal height tables & chairs – all these to encourage board/card games, reading and productive interaction between the children (we leave behind new board/card games each year).
  - b. Tables and chairs & a few comfy chairs set up in the older girl's dorm for doing homework & study. Presently they sit among the others with balls and yelling going on all around them or they lie on their bed. I'm sure we can make it a more productive study space!
4. Not all children have their own 'belongings space' yet. About 2/3 have either a shelf or a drawer but we want to ensure they all have somewhere that is theirs to store clothes and any gift item they may receive from a donor.

5. The resources available for the teachers are based on an American education system and mostly aimed at grades 9-12 which they no longer teach at this school (older kids now go to boarding school). Resources are available over there but no funds to purchase them. We would like to raise the funds to purchase resources when over there & we will be in communication with the teachers before we go to see if there is anything we need to bring from here.
6. We have always paid our own costs for these trips. As we are now more retired than working, we would like to raise funds toward our travel costs. If Lyle can afford the time, we would like him to go over and do remedial teaching of some of the children and perhaps some in service training for the teachers. Hopefully we would use our frequent flier points for flights but there are still taxes, other travel costs within Kenya and a night in a cheap guest house in Nairobi while we stock up on things for the orphanage. This will be a very small part of the overall fundraising because, as always, we are committed to almost all money going to the orphanage.

Soooo..... as you can see there is lots we can do to improve the lives of the children and give them opportunities to learn & grow.

### THE 2016 FUNDRAISING GOAL?

Last year we set the original goal at \$12,000 and gradually raised it as we discovered more need and eventually raised over \$18,000 which enabled us to take books with us.

So this year we are again starting with a target of \$12,000 which we feel sure is doable but very happy if it goes over and we can do more.

### WHAT EXCITING EVENTS DO WE HAVE ON THE 2016 CALENDAR?

1. **Saturday 2 April - The good old faithful – a garage sale at our place** – in need of donations of saleable goods as we have almost depleted our stock!! You can deliver them to us (leave in the carport if we are not home 6/97-99 Hammers Road Northmead) or ring Valerie on 0434 566 453 for a pickup. We also pick up items at church (until 20 March) and choir (until Tues 29 March).
2. **Thursday 7 April – NEW & EXCITING – One for our Newcastle supporters! A movie fundraiser** sponsored & run by Kiwanis Beachside-Newcastle - many thanks to them and to Jenny Burns for getting it off the ground 😊! Held at the iconic Lake Cinema in Main St, Boolaroo, the movie is the wonderful The Lady in the Van. Cost includes: from 6.30pm sandwiches, cake, tea, coffee, 7.30pm sharp movie commences. Tickets \$20 available through [www.ticketebo.com.au](http://www.ticketebo.com.au) search Boolaroo. Why not make up a party and join the fun while donating to a great cause. Lyle & I will be going up from Sydney so 3 more seats available for others if you want to come with us. 130 maximum numbers so book early!
3. **Sunday 1 May 2pm – CONCERT!!** 2pm Pitt St Uniting Church Sydney. Yes, the concert was such a great success last year it will make a return appearance with new songs to warm the cockles of your heart. The popular and heart-warming community choir With One Voice Sydney will again be on the program. More details will follow – for now, use this as a **DATE CLAIMER!** Donation of new items suitable for raffles or gift table needed.
4. **Saturday 25 June 2pm Venue TBC - ANOTHER 'NEWY' – an origami florist demonstration by Hayana - Yoshimi Fraser.** If you think this is not your cup of tea – think again! Do you want a gift with a travel theme? Music? Reading/books? Christmas? Baby? Birthday? Animals? Or just about any other theme? Come & learn how to make it. Think you're not crafty? – Yoshimi will have some of her work available for purchase – proceeds to the EAMO project. Check her face book page

[www.facebook.com/hanayaorigamiflower](http://www.facebook.com/hanayaorigamiflower). Cost will be \$20/person which includes all the materials to learn (and some to take home) plus a delicious afternoon tea.

5. **Saturday 30 July 2pm Venue TBC – ANOTHER RETURN OF A POPULAR EVENT – The HIGH TEA!** My sister Barb donates her time (and that of her daughters and friends!) and her money to cook most of the dainty, delicious goodies we eat. This is a women only occasion (sorry men) but last year a couple of men donated their time as waiters (always welcome☺). Cost is \$25/person at the door. More info closer to the date but for now **ANOTHER DATE CLAIMER** for your calendar!

### WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- ✓ Book dates into your calendar NOW!
- ✓ Attend at least one event and bring your friends – feel free to send this email on to friends and family.
- ✓ Donate goods for the garage sale and/or help on the day
- ✓ Donate new items for raffles and gift tables to be held at the concert and maybe the high tea.
- ✓ Hold a fundraiser yourself – small garage sale, origami florist party or other party, car boot sale, morning tea or.....?
- ✓ Donate directly to the project – donations over \$100 tax deductible – contact Valerie for details.

Many thanks for your support over the years and looking forward to hearing from you and/or seeing you at an event or two.

*Valerie & Lyle* (Valerie 0434 566 453)