



26 girls from the Seng Girls Home performed to 600 Shenzhen guests helping raise funds for their home and school. Read more about the 4th Annual Charity Auction on page 4.

## Will you sponsor a Child or a Project today?

We have an immediate need for more sponsors. Can you help?



Moses and 30 of his new brothers and sisters need your help. Contact sponsorship@captivating.org today.



Rinchen and 19 of her sisters at the Seng Girls Home are still needing sponsors. Visit [www.captivating.org](http://www.captivating.org) for details on how sponsorship works.

## DECK THE HALLS...

With Christmas just around the corner and snow on the ground in several of our project locations, we take a moment to sit back with a steaming cup of green tea, chop-sticks and bowl of noodles to say MERRY CHRISTMAS to all our family, friends and supporters. Reflecting on the year that has been we know more children are in places of safety, more are living with the actual belief that their dreams do in fact have a chance of coming true, and others are for the first time experiencing what it's like to live with family. There is so much hurt in the world for so many children - watching their parents dying from HIV; abandonment just because they were born a girl; left-behind kids whose parents must work in the city; being tricked into situations of bondage and the sex-trade. This is life in so many parts of the world and it's not Simply Captivating - it's Simply Overwhelming. We feel so fortunate to be part of the solution, honored that so many people have trusted us with their financial support - but to be honest, at this time of the year, our reflection is easily one of guilt that we are not doing enough - that we are only scratching the surface.

The starfish story has real relevance here that doesn't even need to be repeated these days. The fact is each child's picture we see, each progress report we read, each blog report that is written, each story of success we celebrate, each child choosing to reject our support that is cried over - all of it is of incredible importance to that child - that one REAL life. So, this Christmas season as we all turn our attention away from the things of the world to reflect on our family and friends, take time to DEEPLY consider the needy children of the world. Try to get personal about it. As a parent I often consider what I am prepared to do for my own son. Well, that's easy - I'd do everything. I'd even die for him. Thing is, I/we now have over 500 children. Each face in this newsletter is important to me/us and deserves my/our highest effort. As you read this report, reflect on the fact as a supporter you have in effect adopted these kids. You are their mum, their dad. They look to you and me for their next move. 2013 is another year of great opportunity. Let's fly.

**Andrew & Julie Colquhoun - Founders**

**CAPTIVATING INTERNATIONAL**



40+ kids call Kisii Kenya home. Read more on page 02.



Project Eden moves more into vocational development - see pg 03



We are thrilled to partner with Treasures of Hope - see page 03



Seng Girls Home now caring for 140 girls - see page 04.



Captivating Kaili - simply awesome - see page 05



Our volunteers rock!!! on page 06.

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# CAPTIVATING AFRICA

## - The AMAZING KISII KIDS

### KENYA – PROVISION PREVAILS

Provision prevails and nothing goes to waste at the Kisii Kids Care Home...

During recent construction and renovation projects, scraps of lumber and tin were salvaged and have been used to construct a two-tier chicken coup. Kisii Kids Care Home now has about 45 hens and 45 chicks which they are raising to sell.

Any bits of leftover food don't go to waste; they go to the chickens to supplement what they get scratching around the yard each day. Very little feed is purchased for the chickens.

The older boys care for the chickens as part of their morning duties before heading off to school. They feed, water and collect the eggs and, occasionally do a bit of "chicken round-up". Maybe their least favorite part is cleaning the coup, but even that doesn't go to waste...it's used to fertilize the banana trees.

While the boys are at school, the neighbor's rooster does a fine job of standing guard over the hens.

Kisii Kids Care Home making the best of all that is provided!



### THE AMAZING KISII KIDS

This is a project started and managed by Stevenson and Damaris Maranga hoping to help as many kids as they can.

Captivating donors (you) have already made a difference for this family and their (currently) 47 children. This project is focused on expansion through community based foster families caring for one or two children rather than a large number of children congregating in one location/orphanage. This is easier said than done when so many children are



currently homeless through HIV and so many families are struggling themselves with poverty. Our solution has to start by helping families address their poverty and, as part of that program, hopefully families can agree to take on children. We have never seen children like these Kenyan kids SO GRATEFUL for the support that is given. Our special thanks to New Zealand supporters (H&R D), and Australian Supporters (K&D N), for getting this project started.

These children come from some of the most desperate situations you can imagine but their spirits remain bright and, thanks to the work of Stevenson & Damaris, they are hopeful.

Watch for additional updates on plans for development, self-sustainability and child sponsorship!



### Boys' Dormitory Started and Completed in a Month

Eager helpers made short work of this project. Captivating's initial visit in December 2011 revealed a great need to separate the wood burning kitchen area from the boys' dormitory which was too small to accommodate all the boys, had a dirt floor, a leaky roof, and filled with smoke each time meals were prepared.

Partnerships are powerful...

Captivating donors stepped up and in mid-April local contractors went to work and with the help of the boys, the new dormitory was completed mid-May. It measures 32 feet x 14 feet and is large enough to house all 18 boys. There are 3 beds (double deck), which some of the boys share. The rest are now able to spread out a little by sleeping on the "good floor" as they affectionately call it. (They couldn't do that before on the dirt floor.) The new dormitory also has small storage areas for the boys to keep their clothing and school materials.

The older boys are particularly grateful for the additional space and ventilation as they can now do their studies in the dormitory. The older boys said this will give them humble time to do their school work and pass their exams well. The younger boys are happy because they can now play on the "good floor" which is not dusty with leaks all over and there is no smoke from the kitchen. Little Moses and Briton say "thank you" because the new dormitory is like a new earth, without the old dirt.

Captivating Africa is off to a great start!

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

**Become a PROJECT PARTNER:** You would be responsible for ensuring we can get key aspects of this project in place. As the project moves into it's second year, so does it's visibility and the need to help our partners meet a growing list of requirements. Please note: tax deductible donations can only be given to US and Hong Kong based donors at this time.

### SPONSOR ONE OF THESE KIDS

Sponsorship is US/A\$40 a month or US/A\$480 a year. For more information, please email [judene@captivating.org](mailto:judene@captivating.org)

Find more stories at <http://www.captivating.org/blog/category/captivating-kenya/>



Eden Kids take part in the Midnight Charity Race, Shenzhen.



# PROJECT EDEN

## - Running the Race

### My First Two Weeks at PROJECT EDEN – Written by Sarah (Volunteer)

Over a dozen smiling faces crowded eagerly at the gate, calling out greetings and welcomes as Dale, Cyndi, Ruth, and I stepped out of the car and up to the house at Project Eden. Excited voices clamored around the Gummins, and they cast timid, but curious glances at me, the newcomer.

Thus was my first look at my temporary new home. I arrived from the States in September to live at Project Eden as a volunteer for the year. After passing a dizzying number of skyscrapers on the way from Hong Kong and Shenzhen, I was surprised when the car bumped along a dirt road the final distance to Eden. Bordering an overgrown lychee orchard with sounds of crickets instead of traffic at night, my new home away from home feels like a peaceful, rustic oasis in the midst of such a densely populated part of China.

I quickly got a taste for what life is like living with fifteen kids from three different cultures: lively and diverse. My second week here, two of the boys had a bicycle wreck coming too fast down a hill, resulting in a scraped up knee for one and a fractured arm for the other (both have now healed nicely). The same evening, amidst the chaos of bandaging wounds and making a trip to the hospital, the girls from Qinghai had chosen to make dinner for everyone: tsampa, the traditional dish from their homeland. Half a dozen of them occupied the kitchen, stirring, mixing, and kneading as they eagerly prepared to share a little piece of their culture with us.

I love the unique diversity Eden is home to. Not many places, I'm sure, ring with the sound of Tibetan chatter, Chinese radio blasting, and young voices singing a Michael Jackson song, all at the same time. My favorite part of the day is meeting the school bus to see all those bright, smiling faces and walking home with them. I look forward to the months to come.

### Amrosia 4th Annual Midnight Charity Race - Shenzhen.

Greg and his team are hero's to Project Eden (actually to all of us at Captivating Shenzhen). Through what has become an annual event on every runners calendar here in Shenzhen China, this one event raises enough funds to keep the doors of Eden open to help more kids. Greg's support, coupled with TOH and some local donors in Dongguan (thank-you) have allowed Eden to consider expansion into vocational development services. Check out our BLOG/Project Eden for more details.



### Eden Partners – TREASURES OF HOPE (TOH)

Great projects need great partners. For the past year TOH has supported Eden through monthly profits from their Dongguan based store. Not only this, Aaron and his team of volunteers organize events with the kids. They're AWESOME.

Aaron, we salute you and all your supporters. Check out [www.treasures-of-hope.com](http://www.treasures-of-hope.com) for details on their amazing work in Dongguan - visit their store and support their charitable efforts also.

### FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR PROJECT EDEN

A recent visit to Project Eden by members of our board and the CEO from International Children's Care (Australia) - Glenn Roberts, has resulted in verbal support being given for Eden to morph more into becoming a focused vocational development location. Dale & Cyndi, project Directors, have done a fantastic job creating a safe and secure infrastructure considered quite perfect for catch-up training of children who are well behind in their schooling and older in age. It's a perfect environment for girls from our Seng Girls Home partner project who appear to be thriving in this intensive Chinese location. Additionally, growing community support by businesses and factory owners are creating wonderful possibilities for job/skill development and internships where this is of interest.

To find our more about Project Eden, please email [tracy@captivating.org](mailto:tracy@captivating.org) directly.





## Seng Girls Vocational School & Home - from Good to Great to Awesome



Four years ago our partnership started with LOVEQTRA to make a good project great. LOVEQTRA started this work back in 2005 but were struggling following the 2007/2008 financial crisis. At the time 40 girls were all living in the founders (Dockpo) family home while two other building were unable to be completed due to lack of funds. Fast-forward to today and 140 girls are in this program, 7 buildings make up the basic infrastructure of the facility, a guesthouse and teahouse is built to start moving towards self-

funding, and 20 girls reside in advanced vocational development and schooling opportunities across China (like Kalsang, Ridzen, and Serr Tso pictured above).

**HOW DID THIS HAPPEN:** It happened because of generosity on your part, and the never-ceasing on-the-ground work on the part of LOVEQTRA. Each year sponsors from around the world give consistently each month to support this project through the sponsorship and connection to a child. Their money is pooled together with other key project sponsors (thanks especially to Whalen Furniture - executives and staff who account for 25% of the total budget and have been with this project from the beginning). And then of course we have the annual charity auction held October of each year in Shenzhen. Pull all these elements together, and we have funding that keeps this program moving forward and lives being changed.

**OUR CHALLENGES:** Of course we have many. How to best fast-track skill based education for our older girls recognizing time is short? How to move the project more into sustainability so it does not forever rely on external funding? How to do more to address the root cause of girls being abandoned in this region - poverty. These challenges don't deter us - they make us angry enough to act. Thanks for journeying with us.

Check out our blog and updates on the Seng Girls - there so much to share.



### WANT TO GET INVOLVED:

We have **20 girls who still need sponsors**. Go to the **CHILD SPONSORSHIP** section of our website, and search Seng Girls. If you are a company interested in being recognized as a key sponsor at our next charity auction (October 2013) now is the time to contact us. Email [lynn@captivating.org](mailto:lynn@captivating.org) to secure your place.

### WANT TO KNOW MORE:

Be sure to read our **BLOG** for this project. Go to [www.captivating.org](http://www.captivating.org) and select the **BLOG** button.



As a big step towards sustainability, a tearoom and guest-house was completed to be run by the older girls from the home with all proceeds supporting the SGVTS.



Our long-awaited computer facility is finally in place with older girls starting to learn the basics. Very exciting.



A highlight each year is when all the girls come together over the [short] summer to celebrate the forming of the school. August 2012 was the 7th year celebration.



We were thrilled to have 7 of the younger girls travel 50 hours door to door to perform to 600 guests in Shenzhen. We were sad to say goodbye to them after a week together.



It's been seven years since we started working to address the needs of some of the world's most desperate children. It's been a journey that has taken us from orphanage care, through foster families, sapling planting programs, homes for girls, education scholarships and more. We have enjoyed [almost] all of these journeys and are still doing so, however, quite seriously, nothing has made more sense to us than tackling poverty right at its source. Our partnership with Heifer China has been nothing short of astounding to our own education. We've learned so much. A solution like "start with high quality animals" may sound so obvious, however, when you mix in extreme poverty you realise that even saying this is unrealistic talk to someone who can't even afford a poor quality goat. To talk about planting walnut saplings makes little sense to someone who needs to farm every square metre of their land in order to survive - waiting 3 years for the first yield of some other crop makes no sense, no matter how good the return. Our partnership with Heifer has taught us that in poverty alleviation you can't trim your development budget when it comes to training. Over 30% of our total budget is education, education and more education. And the results are proving it. 9 months into this project; we can already see the transformation, not only the number of livestock in the village, but the more tangible things like smiles, genuine vibrancy in the gatherings, villagers proud about their new road which makes it possible for them to make two trips to market each day instead of one. Captivating Kaili is progressively ending poverty for 450 families and their 700+ children. Seeing truckloads of pigs being delivered is awesome. Knowing the cycle of poverty for these 700+ children will finally break - well, that's priceless.



## CAPTIVATING KAILI

*- Hope Comes in All Shapes and Sizes*



Most of us would not think of hope coming in the form of a pig...but for this 89-year old woman (pictured left), it provides a way for her to support herself in her sunset years in her own home in her village.

For the family (pictured below) it means that Mom and Dad can support their family while living in their village with their children rather than leaving their children behind as they travel to the city to try and find meager work as migrants. When asked what her dream is for her daughter, this mother said, "I want to be able to send her to school."



For this grandmother and her grandson (pictured right) it means, not only can they be self-supporting, they both also have access to ongoing training programs that are teaching them how to best raise their pigs and the importance of cleanliness...not only for the animals but also for their village and for their home. This grandmother was particularly happy about that because she said her grandson is now very diligent in doing his chores which include chopping and preparing the food for the pigs and keeping their home clean and tidy.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

This program still needs 50 more sponsors. Sponsorship is US\$40 a month for the remaining 4-5 years of this project and means you will become a member of a small group of people literally transforming the futures of 450 families and their 700+ children.

As a project sponsor, every 6 months we will supply you with a comprehensive "sponsor only" report on how your village and this project is going. This will include updates on what's happened the past 6 months, stats on what's been supplied, as well as specific stories on how some of the families are going. In addition we will be posting a BLOG story on our webpage every month or two.

We'd love to hear from you if you can help. Contact [info@captivating.org](mailto:info@captivating.org) for details.

And hope can surely be seen in the "happy" written on these faces. Their village is full of families benefiting from this development effort. Over and over villagers shared their thankfulness for the opportunity to stay in their homes and in their village and have the means to support their families. Because, as we all know, "there's no place like home." (Written by Judene Irvine, Captivating Board Member, during a recent inspection of the project).

**FIND OUT MORE** – Go to [www.captivating.org](http://www.captivating.org) and click on our BLOG section. Look for village development.



80 volunteers were behind the success of this years Annual Shenzhen Charity auction. Thanks awesome people.

## To our amazing volunteers



Jamison, Saige, and Madyson from SIS who together with other students lead support for the Seng Girls. You guys ROCK!!!



80 volunteers made the 4th Annual Charity Auction our biggest and best event ever.



Thanks to all those volunteers supporting the Midnight Charity Race. What an amazing event!



A special Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Captivating Shenzhen Office.

## Looking for more info on Captivating?

*We have a few people who ask us where they can find out more information on our work. We try to keep our costs and materials down to a reasonable minimum, so here is where we invest our energy. Hook up with some of them.*

### Our Website

[www.captivating.org](http://www.captivating.org)  
Be sure to check out our BLOG section which usually has a new MONTHLY story for each project.

### Facebook

Search **CAPTIVATING INTERNATIONAL** to find our page.  
"LIKE" our page and add your comments.



### Twitter

Search **CAPTIVATINGKIDS**  
**WE NEED HELP!!!**  
If you like to Tweet, can you tutor us?



### YouTube

Search **CAPTIVATINGSTORIES**  
We upload video's from time to time.



## Can you help us help others?

*"the habit of giving only enhances the desire to give"*

*– Walt Whitman, poet, 1819-1892*

## About Captivating International

Captivating International is a registered charity of Hong Kong (No. 91/9723) and an Incorporated Association of Australia. In Australia, we operate in partnership with International Children's Care (Australia), a registered Australian charity (ABN 57146287274). In the US we operate in partnership with Friends of Hong Kong Charities Inc (FOHKC), a 501(c)(3) registered charity (ID No: 30-0136665).

We can provide tax deductible receipts if you donate from:  
AUSTRALIA, HONG KONG & UNITED STATES

We can accept donations from: ANYWHERE

## To donate

Make everyone's life easier, **Donate on-line:**

[www.captivating.org](http://www.captivating.org) (Select your country and follow the directions)

By Phone: +61 2 8003 3100, + 86 755 2667 4830.

Email: [info@captivating.org](mailto:info@captivating.org) for any further instructions or questions.

**JOIN OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:** Search 'Captivating International'



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