

# 2022/2023 Annual report



**RAFIKI MWEMA INCORPORATED**

**ABN 676 400 637 30**

**OFFICE LOCATION**

RIVERWALK ARCADE  
1/144 RIVER STREET  
BALLINA NSW 2478

**EMAIL**

hello@rafikimwema.com

**WEBSITE**

RAFIKIMWEMA.COM



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 7 - A message from our Chair, Kerry Boiko

Page 8 - A note from our founder, Sarah Rosborg

Page 10 - Our Vision and Mission Statement

Page 12 - Our Matriarch turns 90

Page 14 - Rest in Peace, Grandpa Doyle

Page 16 - Our Highlights

Page 18 - Christmas at Doyle Farm

Page 20 - Community Education

Page 22 - The ball and all Podcast

Page 24 - The Rafiki Way Podcast Launched

Page 26 - Feeding Program to Rafiki Mtaani

Page 28 - Educate 2 Empower Posters

Page 30 - NRFA Rafiki Football Club

Page 32 - Rest in Peach Wachira

Page 34 - Education at Rafiki Mtaani

Page 36 - International Day for the Street Children

Page 37 - Trek for my Rafiki 2022 Larapinta

Page 38 - Bingo Balls for a cause event

Page 40 - Claire comes to Kenya

Page 42 - Employer of choice

Page 43 - Marsh Event Gold Coast

Page 45 - How you can help

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

I am honoured to represent Rafiki Mwema as Chair of the Board, as we reflect on the accomplishments and milestones achieved during the past year. This year has been nothing short of remarkable, and I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support and dedication to our children.

First and foremost, I want to take a moment to express our profound appreciation for the tireless dedication and outstanding leadership of our outgoing Chair of the Board, Emily Caska. Emily has been a guiding force for our organisation, bringing wisdom, expertise, and an unwavering commitment to our mission. Her visionary approach has steered us through the challenge of COVID and paved the way for our continued success. Emily, we cannot thank you enough for your selfless service to Rafiki Mwema.

I would also like to pay tribute to the heart and soul of our organisation, our Founder, Sarah Rosborg. Sarah's passion for our cause and her unyielding dedication to improving the lives of the children in Kenya have been the driving force behind our mission. Her unwavering commitment has inspired us all and continues to be the beacon that guides us in our efforts to make a difference in the lives of our Kenyan children.

As we embrace the future, it is with great excitement that I introduce you to our new Country Director for Rafiki Mwema in Kenya, Nicholus Njogu. Nicholus brings a wealth of experience, expertise, and a profound understanding of the unique challenges facing the children and communities we serve in Kenya. We believe that Nic's leadership will further enhance our impact and strengthen our programs, ultimately benefiting the children and families we support.

This past year, Rafiki Mwema embarked on a journey of solidification and future proofing. There was no way we could ever let our children down, so we had to ensure this organisation lived on forever! We recognised the need to adapt and evolve to meet the changing needs of our children and the communities we serve. As a part of this journey, we have introduced new Values, Vision, and Mission that make up our Strategic Plan, which will guide us in the coming years. Our new Vision reflects our unwavering commitment to our children, through transparency, accountability, and the highest ethical standards. Our Vision remains steadfast - A safe childhood and bright future for every Kenyan.

In line with our new Values and Vision, we have set ambitious goals for the future of Rafiki Mwema, both in Australia and in Kenya. I want to call out 3 areas of impact that came out of Kenyan organisation over the past year - our staff, Rafiki Mtaani and the Outreach Programs.

In Kenya, the commitment to our staff was essential. We were driven to be the 'Employer of Choice', an organisation that values, respects, and invests in the people who work for us and support us. We worked with local organisations to ensure we paid the right salary levels, embraced the right working conditions, and provided the necessary trauma support to our staff. Our staff are at the forefront of our fight for these children and the horrors they see are incomprehensible. It was important that we recognise our wonderful Kenyan staff for the heroes that they are.

Rafiki Mtaani became the cornerstone of our most ambitious effort to date. It was essential that we encouraged a holistic approach in this program, beyond just a meal, somewhere to sleep during the day and providing love and support by our amazing staff. The introduction of community days where the children planted trees, cleaned gardens and government areas provided a sense of achievement and value to these children. Through educational initiatives and other programs, we aim to uplift these vulnerable children, helping them regain their sense of dignity and standing within the community.

Our education days with street children represent just one facet of our multifaceted strategy. Through our Outreach Program, we are actively collaborating with local partners to create a community-wide movement that challenges harmful norms, fosters empathy, and builds a future where every child is protected and empowered. The road ahead is long, but with your continued support and dedication, we are confident that our community education program will make a profound impact in raising awareness around child sexual assault and ensuring a brighter future for all our children.

In Australia we worked hard understand our role on the Board and in our various Committees. We understood that the future of Rafiki Mwema may currently be in our hands, but we needed more amazing Volunteers to help drive our message and share our commitment to the children in Kenya. With this commitment, we doubled our Volunteer base and the future is bright!

*In closing, I would like to express my profound gratitude to the entire Rafiki Mwema community - our board members, staff, volunteers, donors, and supporters. Your dedication and passion drive our mission forward, and together, we will continue to make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.*



I would especially like to single out Grandma Doyle. There are no words to describe the impact Grandma Doyle has had on Rafiki Mwema over the years. Her passion for life, her dedication to her charities and her desire to spread love and community across the world inspires us all.

*Kerry Boiko*

# A MESSAGE FROM SARAH



It's hard to imagine that I am writing this message for our 2022/2023 annual report. Twelve years ago, when the first house opened, my daughter was a baby & I carried her around in her newborn baby pouch. Together we have watched Rafiki Mwema grow, my daughter is almost ready to start high school and I can see Rafiki Mwema has grown and matured just as she has.

It has been a few tough years with COVID, the economy of the world, the many changes we have had at Rafiki Mwema but it's clear that everything that has happened just makes us stronger. It's an absolute pleasure to work alongside the staff in Kenya and the volunteers we have dedicating their precious time and skills in Australia. We have a wonderful team who are all focused on the same end goal and their commitment to the work we do is inspiring. I SAID IT! And if you have followed Rafiki Mwema for some time, you will know that I don't throw around that word lightly. I believe it is important to follow up the word 'inspiring' with HOW they have inspired you... Our team inspire me to keep going. Some days are very hard, and it can often feel like we take 3 steps forward and 5 steps backwards but having this wonderful team really does inspire me to continue.

I think it's clear just who inspires us as a whole and that is every one of our children. These precious children who have had their innocence stolen from them show us a strength that I never imagined was possible. A strength one rarely sees in an adult, let alone a 3-year-old child.

I acknowledge that there is so much heartache in the world and it is easy to just become immune to the sad pictures/videos you see on the news or social media. I want to thank those of you who have supported us, whether that be a one-off donation or an ongoing sponsorship. Thank you for choosing our organisation to support when there are so many organisations out there. Thank you for trusting us. Thank you for seeing our children and not just scrolling by.

It's important we continue to shed light on the huge issue that continues to be swept under the carpet around the world and that is child sexual abuse. So many people refuse to speak about it and, time and time again, I hear people say, 'Why is there so much abuse in Kenya?' Sadly, it's not the abuse in Kenya that is the problem, it is that there are not a lot of facilities to help which is where we come in. Child sexual abuse is a huge problem around the world, in every city, every town. We need to speak up and NOT STAY SILENT so the children being abused feel that they too can speak up and be heard.

Please continue to stand with us while we do all we can to help the children who need our assistance in Kenya and remember this does not always need to be in a monetary form. It can be by volunteering for us in Australia, sharing our post on social media, buying something from our online store or just talking to someone about the work we do. It all adds up as we continue to struggle with our monthly running costs.

Chatting to people about the work we do is invaluable and proof of this is Constance Hall. One of our supporters, Jessica, told Constance about the work we do and from that moment our lives have changed, early on we had no idea how much they would be changed. Still, to this day, Constance continues to advocate for us in all that she does, and we are so lucky to have her in our family. We are patiently waiting for her to come back to Kenya!

Before I finish my message for this years report, I must mention the devastation our family faced with the loss of one of our family members. Simon (Melvin) Wachira came to live with us when he was a young boy, he stayed with us until he was 18, but the demons always haunted him and he was never quite able to leave from the pull that the streets had over him. Although he was not able to live with us at Rafiki Mwema, I continued to keep track of him and supported him when I could. In March 2023, Wachira was taken from this world too soon and the impact this had on our family as a whole was huge. He was murdered by the police and there is not a damn thing we can do about it, but I will continue to fight for him and all those out there like him who were not born with the same rights as other children.

We look forward to sharing some of the ups and downs we have faced over the last 12 months in the report ahead. Thank you for supporting the work we do, as we continue to remain transparent and dedicated to ensuring Rafiki Mwema is here for many generations to come.



# OUR VISION

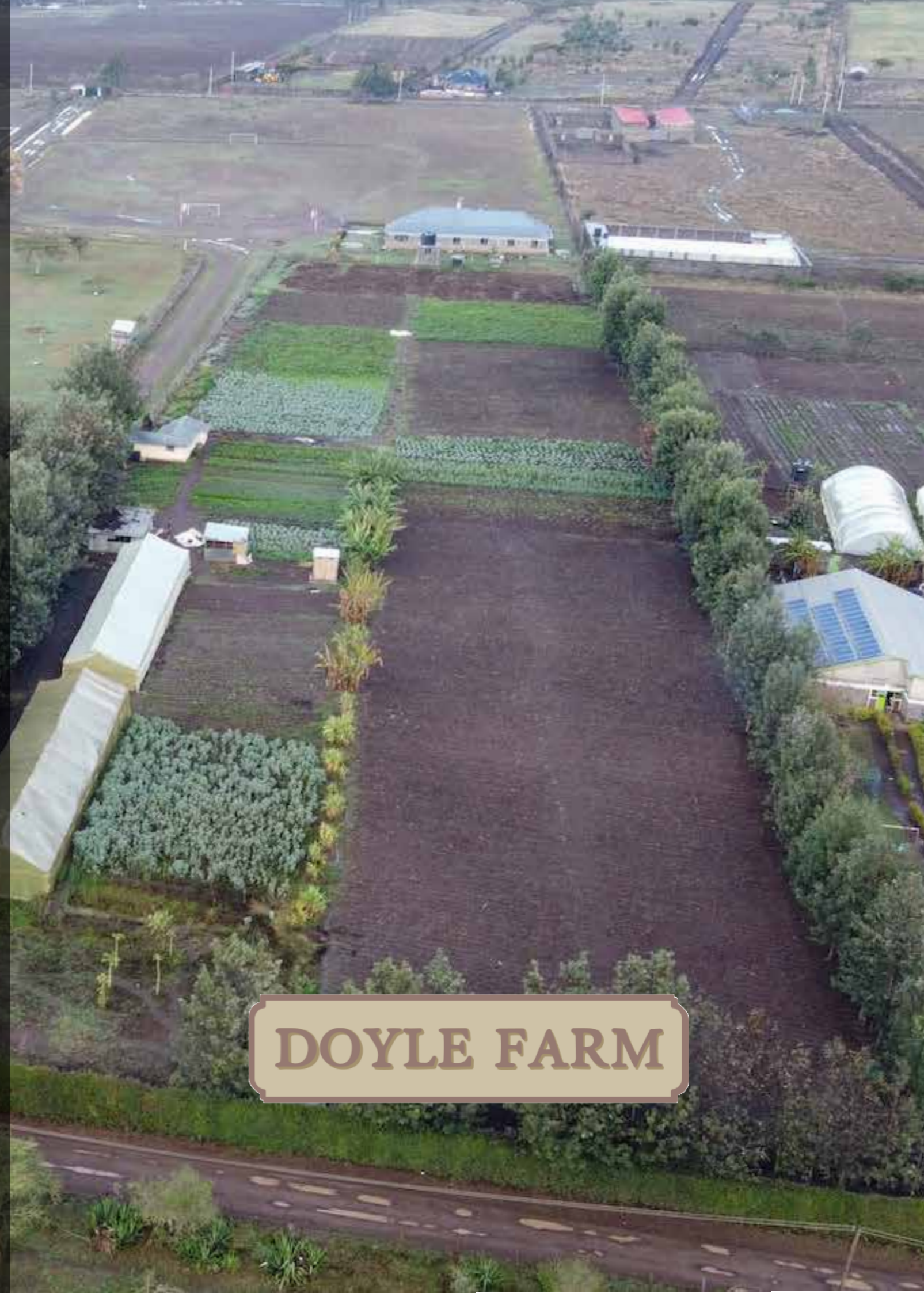
A safe childhood and bright future for every Kenyan

# OUR MISSION

To support Kenyan children through trauma by providing safety, nurture, education and hope

**#RAFIKIMWEMA**

**#IWILLNOTSTAYSILENT**



**DOYLE FARM**



## Our Matriarch turns 90!

At the heart of Rafiki Mwema, a beacon of love and wisdom, stands Grandma Doyle, the cherished matriarch who recently reached the remarkable milestone of 90 years. Her enduring presence is a source of comfort and inspiration for all connected to Rafiki Mwema, where she is not just a figurehead but an integral part of the family. The children under Rafiki Mwema's care, like any adoring grandchildren, hold a special place in their hearts for Grandma Doyle, and her love and warmth have woven a tapestry of stability for them.


Grandma Doyle's influence extends beyond the borders of Rafiki Mwema, touching the lives of staff, volunteers, and many others who have been involved with Rafiki. In Australia, her family and friends gathered for a modest yet heartfelt birthday celebration, acknowledging the profound impact she has had on countless lives. Meanwhile, across the globe in Kenya, the children and staff of Rafiki Mwema orchestrated their own celebration, expressing their deep gratitude for the safety and stability Grandma Doyle has bestowed upon them.

The words "thank you" seem insufficient in expressing the profound gratitude felt towards Grandma Doyle. Her unwavering support has created a haven of love and security for the children under Rafiki Mwema's care, a legacy that will endure for generations to come. As she enters her tenth decade, Grandma Doyle's spirit remains a guiding light, reminding us all of the transformative power of love and the enduring impact one individual can have on the lives of many.



*Celebration of the  
Life, Love and Friendship of  
Noel Stuart Doyle*

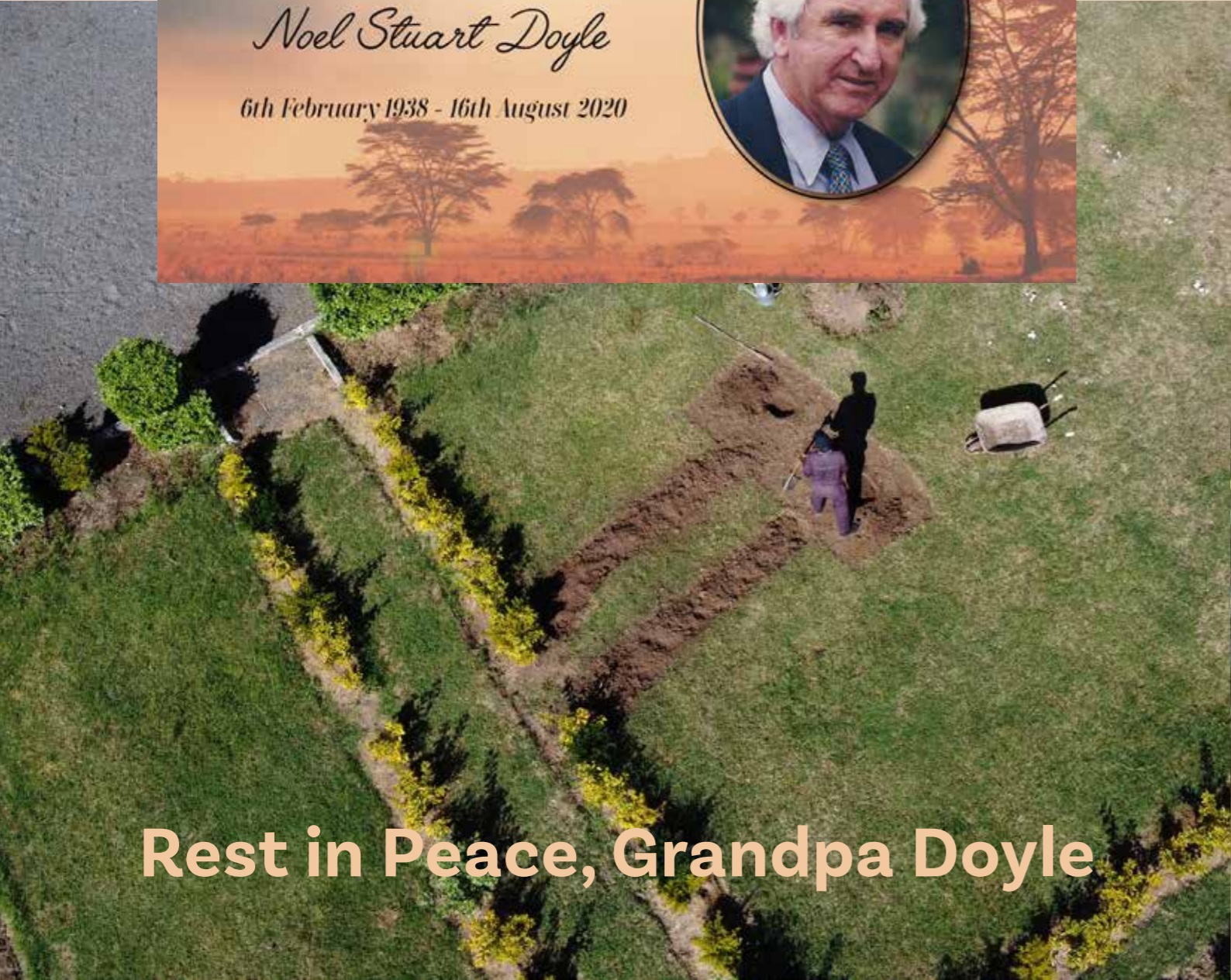
*6th February 1938 - 16th August 2020*



Sarah made the journey from Australia to Kenya, bringing Grandpa Doyle's ashes home to rest on Doyle Farm. We had a heartfelt memorial that was both emotional and filled with love. Some special guests who were really close to Grandpa joined us, and it was a beautiful way to honor his memory.

Grandpa is now peacefully resting in Kenya, surrounded by the lush landscapes he loved so much. What warms our hearts the most is seeing the children regularly gather around his resting place. It's like he's never alone; they chat with him, share stories, and offer their own unique companionship. The mornings are especially sweet - you can hear a chorus of "Good morning, Grandpa" from the kids, and it's a reminder of the lasting impact he had on all of us.

It's bittersweet, but we find comfort in knowing that Grandpa Doyle is where he belongs, and his spirit lives on in the smiles and laughter of the children he cared so much about. Thanks to everyone who has been part of this journey with us.



**DOYLE FARM**



**Rest in Peace, Grandpa Doyle**





# HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2022/2023

**23** CHILDREN RETURNED HOME

**18** CHILDREN ENTERED RAFIKI

**57** CHILDREN AT DOYLE FARM

**11** CHILDREN TESTIFIED IN COURT

TOTAL RAISED **\$610,009.<sup>51</sup>**



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Bishcoff Family

In recognition of their donation of \$2,108 on behalf of the staff at Scots PGC Warwick .

This donation has been provided for Rafiki Mwema's 2022 Christmas Party and the gift of a new outfit for every child who lives on Doyle Farm. Thanks to this very special donation, our 64 children and 46 staff members will be treated to their favourite meals, sweets and soda. On top of this, they will also be covering the cost of a special meal for 100 children who are in our Rafiki Mtaani project who live in the streets of Nakuru. Thank you for making it a Christmas to remember!

*Sarah Rosborg*

AWARDED BY

**SARAH ROSBORG**  
Founder - Rafiki Mwema



#RAFIKIMWEMA



Our children at Doyle Farm ate, danced and celebrated together as family. Dressed in new Christmas clothes everyone enjoyed a seemingly endless feast which included meat, sweets and the children's favourite - soda. After the meal all headed to the boy's playing grounds to watch a soccer match between the Rafiki boys and staff.



CHRISTMAS AT DOYLE FARM

Thanks to a very special donation from **Debbie Bischoff** we were able to give our children a Christmas that was full of laughter and joy for our children at Doyle Farm. Thanks to many donors via Facebook, we were also able to celebrate those who are part of our Outreach Program. Our team worked hard to ensure each child knew that they are important and cared for during what could otherwise be a lonely time.

“PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL ABUSE STARTS WITH EDUCATION. WE MUST TEACH THEM THAT THEIR BODIES ARE THEIR OWN, AND THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY ‘NO’ TO ANYTHING THAT MAKES THEM UNCOMFORTABLE.”



“EDUCATING CHILDREN ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS IS AN INVESTMENT IN A WORLD WHERE EVERY CHILD CAN THRIVE, DREAM, AND CONTRIBUTE TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR ALL.” - *Malala Yousafzai*

## Community Education

Our Rafiki Mtaani team and Outreach team teamed up recently to visit a few primary schools in a high-risk area. Many child abuse cases occur in this area, many street children in Nakuru have travelled from here, some children are already using drugs and sometimes girls are forced into marriage.

As part of our community awareness-raising efforts, our teams spoke to both the school children and the teachers about children's rights. They also spoke to the adults about referral pathways, should a teacher become aware of abuse. We are #notsilent.

We speak up because we want to end the stigma associated with rape and child sexual abuse. We want children to know that they will be heard and believed. We want adults to protect children. Our teams were really happy with the reception they received, and we all hope that through this community work, the cycle of abuse will begin to be broken in this area.



# The ball and all podcast

Our founder Sarah, recently chatted with super friendly crew over at 'The Ball & All' Podcast. The ball and all podcast is a local (Lennox Head) group of legends who are very active in their community.

Take some time to hear a little bit about Sarah's story and how she got to where she is today and learn more about the work of Rafiki Mwema.

*"This episode of the Ball & All Podcast we welcome Sarah Rosborg, North Coast local and the founder and director of Kenyan Children's Charity, Rafiki Mwema. Up until 2005, Sarah's life was much like most on the Northern Rivers, however a chance trip to volunteer at a Kenyan Children's home followed by a horrific car accident one week later, changed the course of her life forever."*



# Justice

We are over the moon to have ended the week with a win that we have been fighting for for years.

The day this little one arrived to the farm was a day that changed all of us forever. She was so young and photos of her arrival show the horror on our staff's face when they saw her.

Fighting for justice has not been easy with this case. We have faced years of disappointments upon disappointments in court. We attended court through the 2020 lockdown with curfews in place and but this did not deter us at all and they turned up, along with our baby girl, to attend and testify.

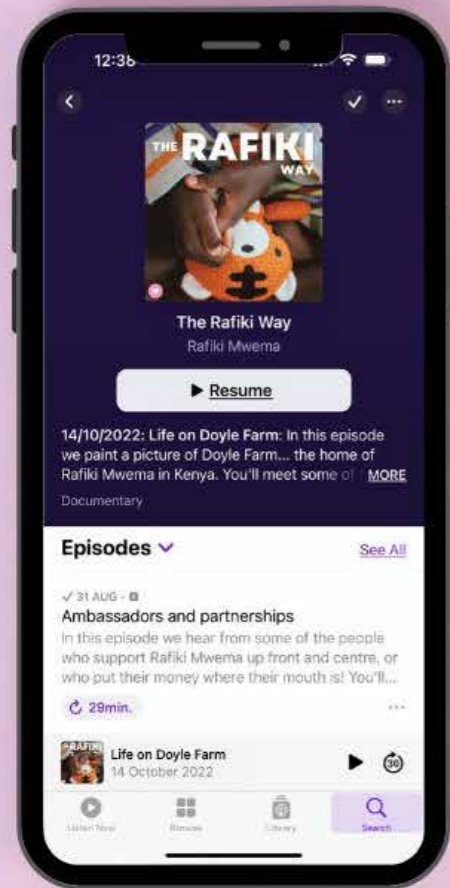
Many times we didn't succeed to give testimony because of her age and for so many other (frustrating) issues within the court. So many days, hundreds of hours were spent getting up early and returning late but our staff stood strong and firm and never once showed they were backing down. With the support of our team, our girl was able to clearly testify and we could not be happier to let you know that her perpetrator has received a LIFE SENTENCE and we will make sure he rots in prison and is never released.

Our girl will never forget this time in her life but we believe that our love and support will be the bigger memory that is in her mind and she will forever be part of our family.

Now it's time to work on the integration back into her loving community and get her life back to normal. Thank you for supporting us to continue these battles we fight. We are fighting so many but we can't do this without your support.



## Podcast Launched



In a momentous stride towards transparency and connection, we are thrilled to announce the long-anticipated launch of our official podcast. This endeavor has been a labor of love, a work in progress spanning several years, and we are overjoyed to finally share this platform with our supporters and the wider community. The podcast serves as a dynamic avenue for delving deeper into the heart of Rafiki Mwema, unraveling the intricate tapestry of our mission, and shining a spotlight on the incredible individuals who tirelessly work behind the scenes in both Australia and Kenya.

A heartfelt expression of gratitude is extended to the exceptional producer, Karly Nimmo, whose unwavering patience has been pivotal throughout this journey. Recognising the constraints of our team's spare time, which is often scarce amidst the demands of our mission, Karly has been a beacon of support, guiding us through the intricacies of podcast creation. Her dedication and expertise have played an instrumental role in bringing this project to fruition.

The podcast is not merely a medium for sharing information; it is a window into the ethos of Rafiki Mwema. Through insightful discussions, interviews, and narratives, listeners will gain a comprehensive understanding of our multifaceted initiatives and the profound impact we aim to achieve. Moreover, it offers a unique opportunity to acquaint oneself with the diverse and passionate individuals who form the backbone of Rafiki Mwema, fostering a sense of connection and shared purpose.

As we embark on this exciting new chapter, we invite our supporters to tune in, engage, and embark on this enriching journey with us. The Rafiki Mwema podcast is not just a broadcast; it is a testament to the resilience, compassion, and collaborative spirit that defines our organisation. Together, let us amplify the voices of those we serve and continue to build a brighter future for the children under the loving care of Rafiki Mwema.



**RAFIKI MTAANI**  
friend on the street

# Rafiki Feeding Program to Rafiki Mtaani

We are thrilled to share with you an exciting development that embodies the growth and expansion of our meaningful work. After careful consideration and reflection on the impact we have had in the town of Nakuru, we have decided to change our name to 'Rafiki Mtaani,' which translates from Swahili to English as 'a friend on the street.'

This transition is more than just a change of name; it reflects the holistic nature of our mission and the profound connections we have built within our community. While our previous name, Rafiki Feeding Program, highlighted our commitment to providing sustenance, we have realized that it no longer encapsulates the full scope of our efforts. We are not just a feeding program; we are a comprehensive support system for our special family.

At Rafiki Mtaani, we go beyond the immediate need for food. We provide assistance with medical issues, offer educational opportunities, facilitate showers for personal hygiene, and offer counseling services. Moreover, we take pride in our successes in reintegrating some individuals back into their homes, fostering a sense of belonging and support that extends far beyond a simple meal.

The decision to give this special project its own distinctive name reflects the respect and recognition it has garnered in Nakuru. Rafiki Mtaani has become synonymous with compassion, understanding, and positive change. We believe that this name better captures the essence of what we do and the relationships we cultivate with those we serve.

As we embark on this new chapter as Rafiki Mtaani, we want to express our gratitude to our incredible team in Kenya and to all of you who support us through your generous donations. Your contributions have been instrumental in allowing us to make a meaningful impact in the lives of those who need us so desperately.

We are excited about the future of Rafiki Mtaani and the continued positive influence we can have on the lives of our special family. Together, with your ongoing support, we look forward to making a difference and being a steadfast friend on the streets of Nakuru.



**RAFIKI MTAANI**  
friend on the street



## Kadi Za Hisia

 <b>WASIWASI</b> Tofa, kusimama, kuliridha, kuhimama, kuwacha, wazi	 <b>FAHARI</b> Kujikasa, maza, kuwacha, wazi	 <b>UTULIYU</b> Kwama, bila shida, shani	 <b>FURAHA</b> Kusimama, furaha, wazi
 <b>HUZUNI</b> Kufuraha, kufuraha, kuwacha, wazi	 <b>JASIRI</b> Shana, shana, kusimama, maza, kuhimama, kuwacha, wazi	 <b>HASIRA</b> Kwama, bila shida, shani, kusimama, furaha, wazi	 <b>WOGA</b> Kufuraha, furaha, wazi
 <b>SIKITIKA</b> Kufuraha, furaha, wazi	 <b>KUCHANGANYIKIWA</b> Kufuraha, furaha, wazi	 <b>UPWEKE</b> Kufuraha, furaha, wazi	 <b>HAIBU/HAYA</b> Kufuraha, furaha, wazi
 <b>HATIA</b> Kufuraha, furaha, wazi	 <b>AIBU/AIBIKA</b> Kufuraha, furaha, wazi	 <b>SISIMKA</b> Kufuraha, furaha, wazi	 <b>KUJAMINI</b> Kufuraha, furaha, wazi

For children's books, free resources and lesson ideas for this poster go to: [www.e2publishing.info](http://www.e2publishing.info)

## Ishara Za Hatari

Nikihishi nipo hatarini, mwili wangu unaniambia  
Kwa jinsi hii!

Nywele husimama kichwani  
Jasho hutoka usoni  
Kuanza kulia  
Moyo kudunda mbio  
Msimiko  
Tumbo kuuma  
Jasho kwenye mikono  
Hisia ya haja  
Kutetemeka  
Miguu kukosa nguvu

Nahisi nipo hatarini, Nahitaji kuambia mtu mzima ninayeamini mara moja!

For Body Safety resources go to: [www.e2publishing.info](http://www.e2publishing.info)

## Sheria Za Mwili Wangu

**Mwili Wangu ni Wangu pekee!**  
Nawaza sema hapana kama mtu aliyokuwa anakwenda mtu mwingine. Nawaza nikwaga mkono au kuvaguria mkono. Mimi ndiye mwenye mwili Wangu na si mwenye mtu mwingine!

**Niko na jamii ya usalama**  
Elena wazu wazima watakuwa zinawamini. Nawaza nikawambia kitu chochote na wataamini. Nikihisi woga au shuku, nawaza nikawambia mtu mwenye jamii yangu ya usalama jinsi ninavyohisi na sababu.

**Ishara za Mapema za Hatari**  
Nikihisi woga au hali ya hatari, nawaza nikamkwa na jasho sana, tumbao kuuma, kutetemeka, na moyo Wangu kuandaa mbio. Hisia hizi zinaitwa ishara za hatari. Nikihisi hizi kuhusu chochote, nafika kusikwa mtu mwenye mwanamama mara moja.

**Siri**  
Siri kuuza siri zinawafanya watoto wazima. Mtu aliyekwambia mwanamama siri zinawafanya watoto wazima, mwanamama kumwambia mtu mwenye mwanamama mara moja!

**Sehemu za Sri**  
Sehemu za siri ni sehemu chini ya nguzo zangu. Hizi ni sehemu zangu za siri kwa majina sahihi. Hakuna anayepata sehemu zangu za siri. Hakuna anayefika kuanzishia nguzo sehemu zake za siri. Hakuna anayefika kutiingisha picha za sehemu za siri. Haya yakifanyika, anambia mtu mwenye mwanamama mara moja.

For Body Safety resources go to: [www.e2publishing.info](http://www.e2publishing.info)

We are just so thrilled to have worked with the incredible Jayneen Sanders at Educate2Empower on these child safety posters for our Outreach team to use in our community. We have translated them to Swahili and we now have them up in our houses at the farm and we will deliver these out to all of the surrounding schools to assist our community children. Jayneen has also supplied us with her amazing books which we took to Kenya in November.

The books and other resources that Educate2Empower has available are incredible. If you have children in your life, make sure you head over to her website to see her resources. You will find something that suits you and there is plenty of free reading material also. Thank you for your kind heart, amazing skills and passion, Jayneen. It's such a pleasure working with you.



# RAFIKI'S OWN SOCCER CLUB



The children of Rafiki Mwema, recently experienced a thrilling surprise that brought immense joy to their lives. The Northern Rivers Football Academy generously gifted them with their very own football club uniforms, creating a sense of camaraderie and team spirit among the young participants. The two teams, Rafiki Lion and Rafiki Twiga, were born, and the children were overjoyed to be part of this exciting venture.

The heartwarming initiative was made possible through the collaboration of long-term supporters and friends, Barefruit Marketing. Their commitment to the well-being of these children went beyond financial aid, as they played a crucial role in connecting Rafiki Mwema with the Northern Rivers Football Academy. This collaboration not only provided the children with a tangible expression of unity but also opened up new avenues for recreational activities and personal development.



**NORTHERN RIVERS**  
FOOTBALL ACADEMY

The children now look forward to special football days on weekends and during holidays, where they can proudly don their personalized soccer uniforms. The sense of belonging and the thrill of being part of a team contribute to the positive environment fostered by Rafiki Mwema, creating lasting memories for the children and instilling in them the values of teamwork, discipline, and the joy of shared experiences. The gesture from Northern Rivers Football Academy, facilitated by Barefruit Marketing, serves as a testament to the power of collaboration and community support in making a meaningful impact on the lives of these young individuals.



in March 2023 a bomb went off and our Rafiki Mwema family have been dealing with the necessary while in complete shock.

We received news that one of our (ex) children had died and there were many rumours going around town that he had been killed in police custody.

Our beautiful Conci rushed straight to the hospital to confirm and sadly she arrived at the right time and needed to identify him at the morgue. Conci was not prepared for this but she did what she needed to do. This young man who she had cared for since he was approx 11 years old lay dead in the morgue. She confirmed it was him and that it was clear he had been injured.

Day's pass and our family on the street have been protesting for his life and for answers. Nothing was making sense and no one was talking about it. How can this happen? All we know is he was arrested and then died in custody. His family made the decision to not do an autopsy as they don't want trouble. They know nothing can or will be done no matter what is found and they knew they just needed to accept that he is gone.

The protests in town were getting louder and the kids were getting angrier.. and I don't blame them for one second. Imagine a life meaning so little that a perfectly healthy young man can turn up at hospital dead and no one does a thing! These children are treated like trash while they are on the streets, trying to survive against the cruel world they were born into and now they are dead they are still not given an ounce of respect or concern. The kids in town gathered in large groups and continued to fight for their brother. They showed bravery that many of us would never witness in our life. They were screaming for his life that had been taken from him, while putting themselves under threat that the exact same thing could happen to them.

They got the media's attention and the protests were gaining traction and were all over social media. The police and family had no choice but to agree to an autopsy, as it was clear, this large family of discarded children were not going to stop until they had answers and we could not be prouder.

The autopsy was held 2 days ago by the Government Pathologist in the presence of 3 of his relatives, a Representative of the Directorate of Criminal Investigation, Representative of Human Rights Body, 2 Officers from the Government Forensic Department as well as our own Uncle Erick.

The results came back and it was very clear what had happened. He was a healthy young man, and he did not die from an illness. He died from torturous injuries and there is no clear explanation on where he received them. Even our Uncle Erick, who has worked in the prison system and has seen everything you can imagine wrote to me 'I took my time last night doing self reflection. The torture, the pain and agony he was put through cannot be explained. What is it that he did to deserve that?'

*The torture, the pain and agony he was put through cannot be explained. What is it that he did to deserve that?'*

I would also like to know. What is it he did to deserve that? We will probably never see justice for what happened to him, but it was a small win for the children who would not back down when they were being threatened. Everyday we wear our uniforms that say 'I will not stay silent' and we do our best to practice this. There is only so much we can speak up about to ensure we keep our children and organisation safe but we will continue to love these children who live on the streets and we will continue to show up for them everyday and show them they are worthy of love.

We will not forget our King and we will honour him as each year passes. We will do all we can to continue to fight for the rights of these children and show the world they are not dangerous, THEY ARE CHILDREN.. they treat you how you treat them! You beat them? They will try and beat you! You love them.. they will try and love you. and when they finally drop their guard, they love hard.

This week has been tough and yesterday, they buried our King Melvin. Rest in Peace, Wachira.

We will never forget you and I am so sorry there was not more we could do to help you live the life you deserved.

*In loving memory of*

**MELVIN WACHIRA**

**I AM UNSURE  
WHICH PAIN IS WORSE -  
THE SHOCK OF WHAT HAPPENED  
OR THE ACHE FOR WHAT NEVER WILL.**

**14 JULY 1999 - 8 MARCH 2023**



# Our Rafiki Mtaani are ready to learn!

The updates we receive from our Mtaani Family vary so much. Since we started our education days we started to receive so many positive reports. We wanted to share an example of one of these with you so you can see the impact your support is having.

Every day we do something different with our family in town before we have lunch. Football, beading, painting, talking and yesterday it was mathematics.

*"Our family are really ready to learn, and they are thirsty for education. The concentration in class was of another level. You can't imagine that they can just sit down under a tree, no desk, no nothing but they are just there quietly and listening, doing what the teacher asked them to do. Damaris is a blessing and she teaches with lots of love and patience.*

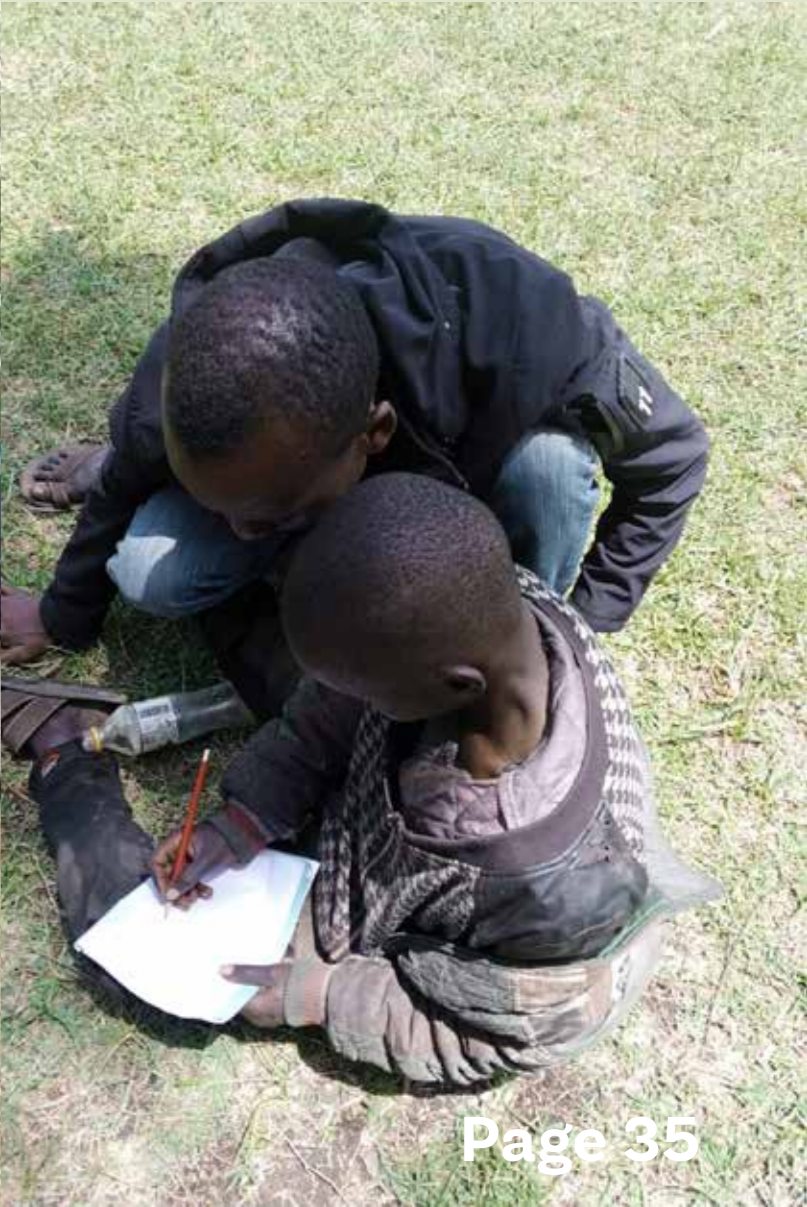
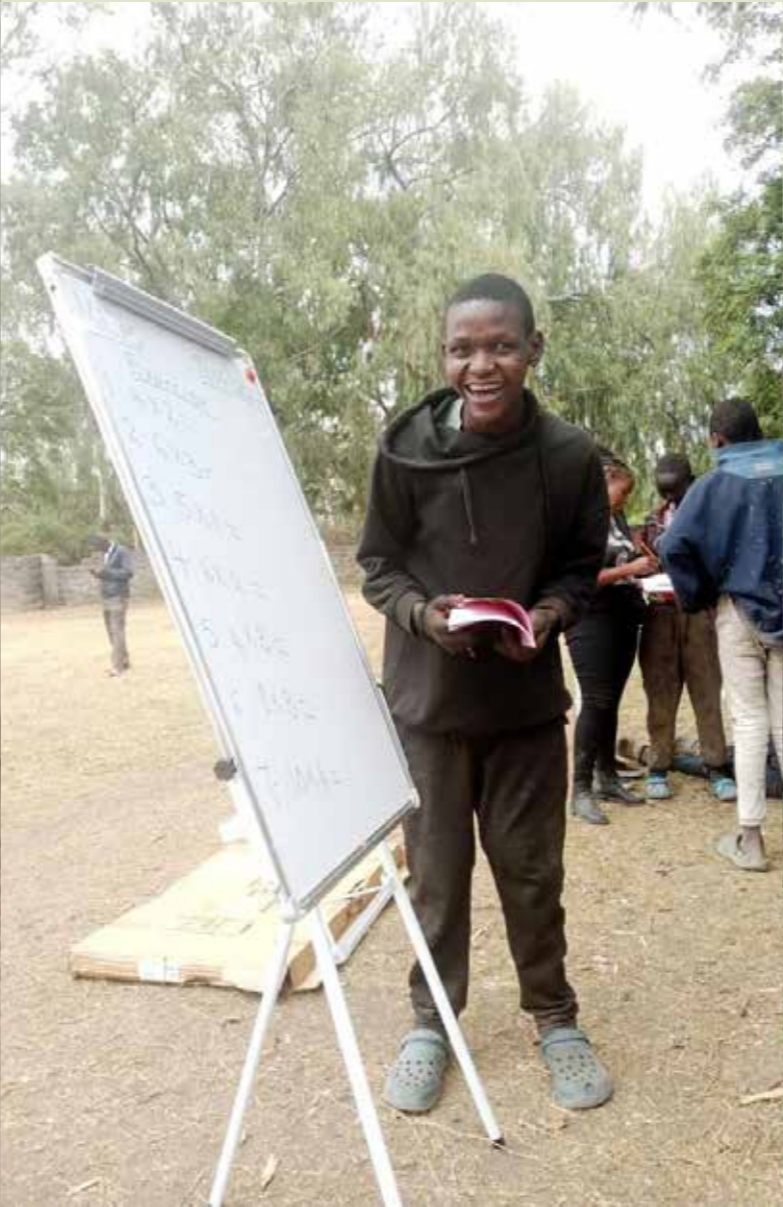
*Even those that don't know how to write even one number, we accommodate them and when they manage to write that one number it's a big success and we celebrate. This is just but a blessing."*



**RAFIKI MTAANI**  
friend on the street

**"THE JOY THAT COMES WITH A STORY BOOK IS UNIMAGINABLE THIS LITTLE BOY DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO READ AND WRITE BUT HE IS ALWAYS EXCITED ABOUT THE STORYBOOK. HE TELLS THE OTHERS WHAT THE PICTURES IN THE STORY BOOK SAYS AND THEY LOVE IT"**

THE BEST PART IS, HE IS READING IT UPSIDE DOWN AND STILL ENJOYING IT!



**MACHEO**  
 MICHAEL SASI  
 Nakuru county CCI  
 ERIC LANGAT  
 RAFIKI MWEMA  
 AGAPE CHILDREN MINISTRY  
 TOPIC: INT'L DAY FOR STREET CHILDREN  
 11th April 2023  
 8:30 - 9:30  
 #Macheo  
 Double M & Eneli  
 •NAKURU 89.5FM •NYERI 103.7FM •MERU 96.8FM  
 •ELDORET 100.3FM •KERICHO 87.9FM •KITUI 101.3FM

# International Day for Street Children

We are always so proud of our staff in Kenya but when they take that next step and put themselves out into the public eye in the name of #RafikiMwema we are just BEAMING with pride! Congratulations to Erick Langat who was invited to speak on Miradio alongside Nakuru County CCI talking about one of the toughest subjects we deal with each and every day...our street family. We are so proud of you, Erick! You continue to use your voice to stand up for our family and beyond each and every day.

*Keeping street connected children safe*

rafiki mwema  
**larapinta**  
 2022



Rafiki Mwema collaborated with Inspired Adventures to organize yet another 'Trek for My Rafiki,' and this time, the destination was Larapinta. The journey proved to be an extraordinary adventure, bringing together an amazing group of individuals. We were fortunate to have two of our dedicated volunteers, Morwen and Nicci, be part of this expedition. Special thanks to Morwen and Nicci for their valuable contributions to the group! Nicci, a founding member of Rafiki Mwema, also had the opportunity to share her story with the local magazine, The Lennox Wave.



*"I am one of the founding members of Rafiki Mwema. I sat on the Board from the beginning and have held positions of Treasurer and General Board Member. I do all the books for the Australian arm of Rafiki. I was introduced to the charity by Lennox local Sarah Rosborg, who wanted to help fundraise for a small girls' home in Kenya, and I said I would help her.*



*We woke to the sunrise, had breakfast, and our guides would take us to a new part of the Larapinta Trek. Each day brought on a new challenge. However, I felt my body getting fitter as the days past. On the most challenging day, we did 22kms. The ground was filled with inclines and very rough surfaces, so it posed a significant challenge. I was constantly surprised at myself. I learned that I underestimated my abilities and have stopped doing that now. We had so many memorable moments out there. I loved sharing information about Rafiki and our kids with the other people on the trek. They worked hard to be there and fundraise for it. This helped me to push through."*

# Bingo Balls

## for a cause

Drag yourself to the classy QVB Sydney for some Bingo fun with Prada Clutch

**FRIDAY 14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022**

6pm till late  
The Tea Room at QVB  
Queen Victoria Building, George St, Sydney

### Tickets \$130

Includes food, drinks, bingo, markers, prizes and a donation to Rafiki Mwema!

Head to [rafikimwema.com/bingo](http://rafikimwema.com/bingo) to get your tickets now.



What an incredible success 'Bingo Balls for a Cause' fundraiser organised by Rafiki Mwema's dedicated volunteer, Eddison Matti. Eddison is our king of the computer, he is always on call to help Sarah no matter the time of day or night with all things I.T. and reporting! but this time, he wanted to work on something a little more extravaganza..and he did just that! The combination of a fun Bingo night, the presence of the special drag queen Prada Clutch, our dedicated 'Rafiki MC' Annaliese, and the venue at the Queen Victoria building in Sydney created a lively and enjoyable atmosphere for everyone involved.

The evening was full of support from friends, (old & new), and corporate sponsors like FullCRM, who we were able to meet face to face after years of working together online! Not only did they attend and party but they all committed for FullCRM's staff members to donate their time to support us with the back end Salesforce/Marketing system! We were completely blown away as these services are equivalent to \$92,000 AUD! This will undoubtedly have a profound impact on our computer systems and marketing capabilities and allow us to keep our expenses down.

It's so heartening to see the community coming together to contribute to our cause which they clearly believe in. Special mentions to long-term supporters like Eco Tan, LoobyLou, and Vine Apparel, who added to the success of the evening with their generous donations.

And of course, the final fundraising amount of \$9,239.96 is a fantastic achievement. It reflects the generosity and support of everyone involved, and it will undoubtedly make a significant difference in supporting our mission.

The success of this event is not just measured in dollars raised but in the sense of community, support, and shared purpose that it brought to everyone involved. It's a testament to the power of collaboration and the impact that individuals and organisations can have when they come together for our special family in Kenya.



# Claire makes it to Kenya!



“After ten years of being on the board of Rafiki Mwema, I finally met the children and staff in Kenya, whom we work so hard to give a voice to. It has been my passion to help these children in any way I can since my close friend Sarah Rosborg asked me to start a charity with her ten years ago. In November 2022, I had the opportunity to travel to Kenya and witness the fantastic work being done by Rafiki Mwema first-hand. I joined Sarah Rosborg, the founder of Rafiki Mwema, on this journey – one she has done many times.

**Wow, just wow!**

I have been talking about our children at Rafiki for the last ten years. I was involved in the fundraiser to buy our land and build new homes. I’ve met some of the children and staff over Zoom, and I read the heartbreaking stories of the children every day. Yet nothing (NOTHING!) could have prepared me for this visit. I was expecting to be a blubbering mess. I am a crier (with a not-very-nice cry face) and expected to be surrounded by sadness.

## Happiness everywhere, despite such sadness

But, from the moment we arrived at Doyle Farm, all I experienced was happiness! The children and staff are all so happy and playful. Of course, the stories behind the children are beyond sad, but you can feel their happiness on the farm because they are safe here. They are loved, protected and secure. There was non-stop laughter, playing and dancing. And music! All day long. We stayed near the big girl’s house, and the music and dancing started around 6 am and finished long after us nanas went to bed. Thanks to our incredible supporters, sponsors and donors, our children are happy, safe, well-fed, well-clothed, well-educated, and appreciative of things our children take for granted.

## We can all Make a Difference

Seeing the impact of the work that we, and so many volunteers, do at Rafiki Mwema was life-changing. It reminds you of the importance of giving back and making a difference in the world. My trip to Kenya was a powerful reminder of the incredible impact humans can make when we put our minds to something and pull together. I am grateful for the opportunity to witness the amazing work we all do for Rafiki Mwema and for the chance to support these children on their journey towards a brighter future.

Supporting Rafiki Mwema, as with most causes, doesn’t just have to be financial, although that is what keeps the lights on. But donating your time, your skills, and even the odd social share also makes a big difference. It doesn’t have to be huge but imagine where the world could be if we all did something. I hope to see the children and staff again soon – but they are firmly in my heart until we meet again.

Claire x



# Employer of choice



We have been working with a wonderful HR company based in Nairobi called Grapnel to ensure that all of our systems and structure are in line with Kenyan Law and that our staff are looked after.

We have spent months working with this wonderful firm and they have spent so much time with our team on the ground, allowing them to speak freely and share their opinion on what is working and what could be improved.

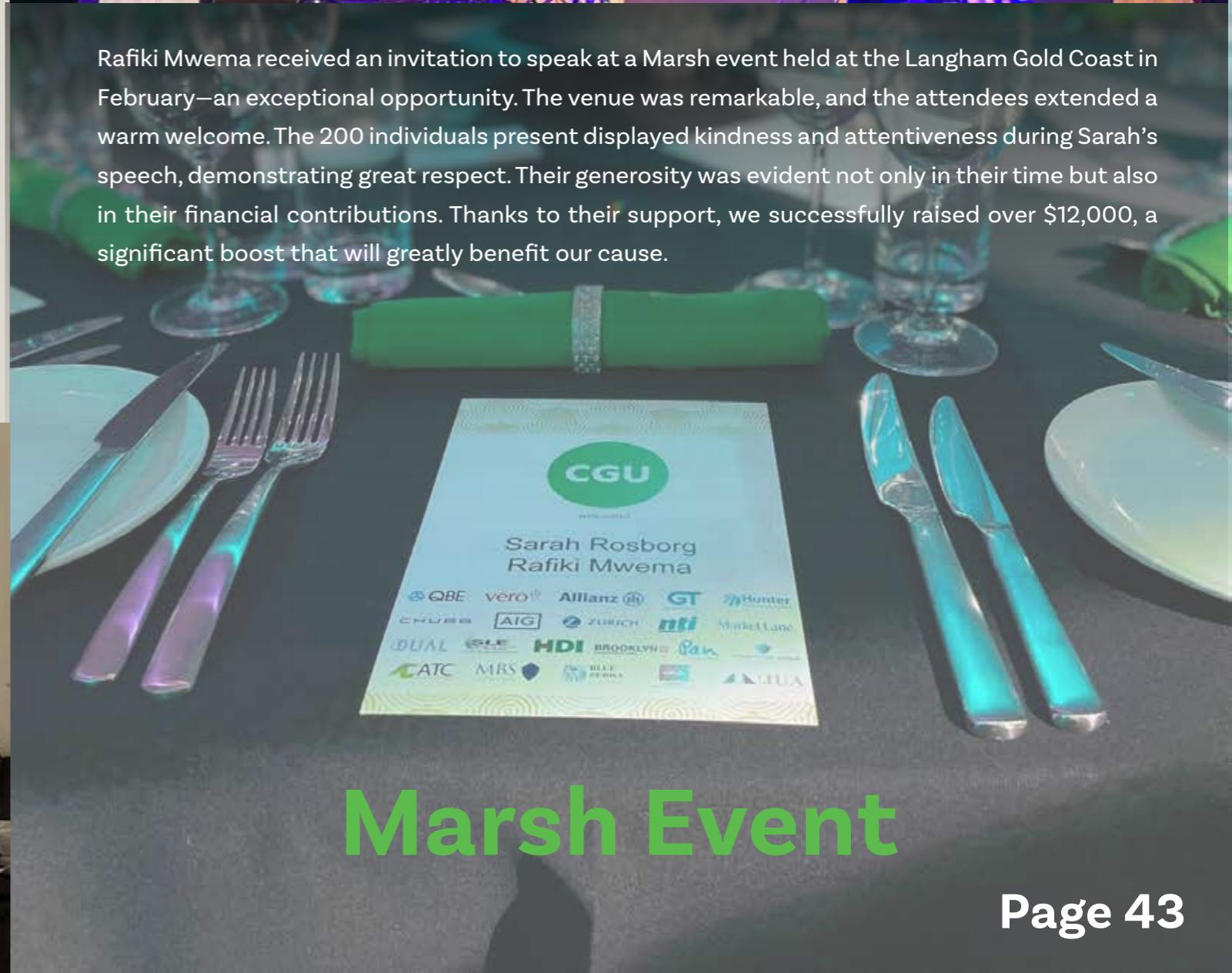
We are teaching our staff that unlike so many other businesses in Kenya, they are free to speak up and share their opinion and they will not be reprimanded or even fired if they do so.

On Claire and Sarah's recent trip to Kenya we had an amazing workshop with Grapnel and our staff. It was such an uplifting day and we have learnt so much from our wonderful team. We will continue to work hard to make sure that our staff feel valued, supported, seen and heard.

**Jimmy Mucheru, head of our NGO, at our staff workshop with Grapnel.**



Rafiki Mwema received an invitation to speak at a Marsh event held at the Langham Gold Coast in February—an exceptional opportunity. The venue was remarkable, and the attendees extended a warm welcome. The 200 individuals present displayed kindness and attentiveness during Sarah's speech, demonstrating great respect. Their generosity was evident not only in their time but also in their financial contributions. Thanks to their support, we successfully raised over \$12,000, a significant boost that will greatly benefit our cause.



## Marsh Event



**DOYLE FARM**

# How you can help Rafiki

## Donate

The quickest way you can help is by making a donation. We allocate the funds to wherever it's needed most.

## Volunteer

Help us by donating your expertise. We have multiple positions available and would love your help.

## Awareness

Help by raising awareness about our work such as sharing social media posts or having flyers on your desk.

## Remember Us

There are a number of different ways you can easily remember Rafiki Mwema in your will.

## Online Store

Buy a gift that gives twice by purchasing from the great selection of items in our online store

The important work Rafiki Mwema does in Kenya is only made possible by our donors and volunteers.

There are plenty of ways you can help Rafiki Mwema, from purely spreading the word to setting up your own fundraiser, donate goods, sponsoring a

## Follow us



#RafikiMwema

## Find out more

[www.rafikimwema.com](http://www.rafikimwema.com)