



Visit
Salvation Army Thika School for the Blind

05/22/09

Thika, Kenya

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Foreword

Not knowing where their donations to NGO's were precisely used for and questioning if Africa is really that bad as being told, three men decided to check out the continent for them self. These three men are us; Henk Rigter, Marten Mulder and Minne Bonnema, hereafter referred to as 'we' or 'the ThreeLeftHands'(TLH), which also identifies the non-profit organization we founded to explore and to document the situations throughout Africa. While doing this, we help out people and organizations where ever we can and report about our activities to the Netherlands using various media among which our website ThreeLeftHands.com. Africa is a big continent and we cover all the distance in our easy recognizable 25-year old and orange minibus.

As being a supportive organization, ThreeLeftHands strive to improve other organizations that are being visited. To achieve this ambitious goal, the ThreeLeftHands posses a various skill set which are acquired through study and, mostly, excessive practice. Fields of expertise wherein TLH can excel are especially, but not limited to, internet and other computer applications, (mechanical) engineering, marketing / communication and business management. In cooperation with the counterpart organization, one or more projects are appointed to the ThreeLeftHands and after completing the goals agreed upon, ThreeLeftHands moves on to the next organization that will hopefully also benefit from their visit. As long as an organization is serving the public, ThreeleftHands will not differentiate between organizations and offer their services completely free of charge.

While the ThreeLeftHands are perfectly capable of taking care of their own, a donation or expense coverage is never expected, but always highly appreciated

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Organization Profile

Name: ThreeLeftHands

Established: July, 2008

Mission:

To experience Africa by own hand, to report on situations throughout Africa from a different, sincere view and to help out people, communities and organizations where possible.

Vision:

Africa is often referred to as 'The Lost Continent' and news feed from this region often agrees with this negative alias. Whether its famine or war, dictators or rebellion, there's not much good coming from Africa. We don't believe that. We believe that there is more to a story, more to a continent than the media tell us. Also we believe that one man can make a difference and therefore we travel through Africa to make that difference and find out what's Africa about by our own experience. By our stories, we hope to inspire people to try to change the world as well.

This are the ThreeLefthands:

Henk Rigter, age 25

Fields of expertise: Communication, marketing and management;

Marten Mulder, age 24

Fields of expertise: (Mechanical) engineering and teaching;

Minne Bonnema, age 26

Fields of expertise: Computer applications, internet solutions and business management

Contact details:

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We prefer contact by email. That is, when we are not in the direct neighborhood. When we are, you are allowed to speak to us.

Introduction

On May nineteenth, we, the ThreeLeftHands are invited to stay at the Salvation Army Thika School for the Blind (hereafter referred to as 'the school') compound. After a tour around the school byh principal Alfred Kamau, we notice a number of subjects that need maintenance. Although we initially went to Thika to support the technical school, we decide that we will help the people of the school in improving the following;

- The website is at the moment about one piece of paper, containing some basic information about the school. In this era, where people increasingly search the internet to quench their thirst for specific information, this website is not sufficient. TLH will create a new, easy to maintain and effective website containing information for potential students, employees, volunteers and sponsors.
- The compound of the school lacks a few years of proper maintenance. We would love to fix this ourselves, but we've got a lot more to do in the three months we have in Kenya. Nevertheless, we will advice the school on how to attract foreign, and especially Dutch, volunteers to repair lights, paint walls and fix some plumbing.

We, Henk, Marten and Minne sincerely hope that our stay in Thika will positively contribute to the Salvation Army Thika School for the Blind an its beneficiaries.

1.0 Project details

1.1. Salvation Army School for the Blind Website

Priority: medium

Duration: 7 – 14 days

1.1.1 Objectives

To provide the school with a decent website, where potential students, employees, volunteers and sponsors can find sufficient information.

1.1.2 How to achieve the objectives

Using a laptop, Minne Bonnema will create a new, efficient website, that will provide for all the needs of the school. During the process of creating the website, a local resident will be instructed in the maintenance of the website.

1.1.3 Project limitations and recommendations

The website will be build using Wordpress. This is a fairly easy web application that is also easy to learn by the user. Please take some time to study the program for your own benefit. Furthermore, for the full success of the project, every now and then internet will be needed.

1.2. Volunteers from the Netherlands

Priority: Medium

Duration: 7 – 14 days

1.2.1. Objectives

To consult the school on how to attract volunteers from Holland to Kenya to maintain and improve the school's compound.

1.2.2. How to achieve this objective

Using the schools unique selling points, being the only school for the blind in Africa and a number of facts and figures that has yet to be collected, we will contact the Dutch Salvation Army (Leger des Heils) to construct a program that allows volunteers to go to Kenya and to help the school in Thika.

1.2.3 Project limitations and recommendations

To be successful, this project needs the full support of the Dutch Salvation. Let it be noted that TLH will only consult on this matter and draws the first lines of communication between Kenya and Holland. The rest we leave for the people of the school.

2.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

Due to the simple nature of the projects for the school, one might think it is not necessary to closely watch the progress of the events. Wrong! Because TLH will not be present during the greater part of the implementation of both the projects, monitoring and evaluation is very needed.

Our goal is to leave the school in a better state than we entered it. For the website, this also means that it will be properly maintained and updated. The school is to appoint someone to actually do this. Do not hesitate to contact us by email when something is out of order. But first, study Wordpress, the application the website is build in.

For the volunteers from the Netherlands, be active in communicating and sharing relevant information. A good channel to do this through is the improved website. Don't slack on this one, volunteers can be a great addition to the school and its compound, and in return the volunteers are rewarded with a great experience.

Please, do contact us to let us know what the outcome of the two projects is.