

Thankyou supporters of Hazel's Footprint Trust for Helping some of the world's poorest children to access education.

About The Turning Point Trust

[The Turning Point Trust](#) is a duly registered UK charity and Kenyan NGO, which has been working in Kibera since 2003. We are a Christian organization who work to relieve poverty, transform lives and restore hope amongst acutely vulnerable children and their families. We work by invitation from the local slum community and are driven by the needs of individual children and their families. We offer a holistic range of programmes which provide children with access to education, healthcare and regular meals, in addition to providing them with spiritual support and discipleship. We also operate pioneering prevention projects, aimed at supporting families, promoting independence and working towards financial self-sufficiency.



About Turning Point's School Preparation Class

Our School Preparation Class covers basic education and literacy and numeracy skills, preparing vulnerable children to be integrated into mainstream schools. The class is made up of approximately 15 children who are of a school going age but whose parents have yet to send them to school. Rather than immediately assisting these children in starting school, we deliberately delay children going to school in order to give their parents or carers the opportunity to do it themselves. However, once a child is a couple of years late and their parents haven't sent them, it becomes obvious they don't have the means to do so and Turning Point will cover the necessary costs to allow the child to attend school after 12 months in the School Preparation Class.

In January 2010 15 children made the transition from Turning Point's School Preparation Class to local partner primary schools. This was made possible by [you](#), the supporters of Hazel's Footprints Trust. Thanks to a grant from HFT we were able to purchase uniforms, shoes and school bags for every child in the School Preparation Class, enabling them to attend local government schools. The children have now completed their first term in their new school and are all doing well. Every week day the children receive a school lunch; again, paid for by you, supporters of HFT. This prevents the children from dropping out of school as a result of hunger. Without school lunches, many children would drop out of school and resort to the city streets in order to beg or work.



Thanks to HFT supporters, Shilet Muhonja is now at school. Shilet is the third born out of four children and although she lives with both her father and her mother, only her father works and her parents struggle to provide for their children's basic needs.

HFT purchased a school uniform, school shoes and a school bag for Shilet, enabling her to join Standard 1 in January 2010. Shilet is happy to be at school and to be learning with the other children. Her favourite subject is Maths and when she grows up she wants to be a teacher.

About Turning Point's School Transition Class

Our School Transition Class rehabilitates street-children and prepares them to be reintegrated into mainstream educational establishments. The Transition Class provides a safe, nurturing environment that enables street-children to slowly readjust to a more structured way of life, for example: relating to adults in authority; lengthening their concentration period and adjusting to being within four walls. During this time, our staff work to trace the child's family and work alongside them to address the problems the family are facing. If appropriate, a parent or guardian might become involved in Turning Point's Finance Programme, giving them the chance to start a small business and earn a steady income.

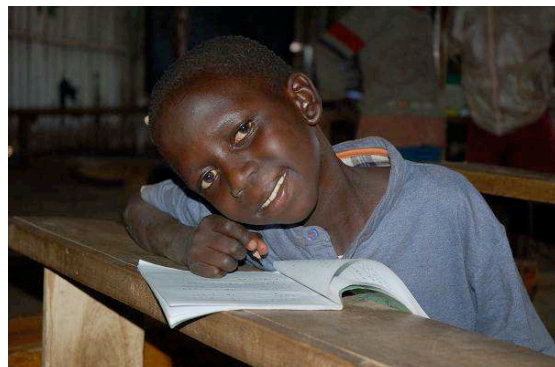


Each child that comes to Turning Point is assessed by our qualified and experienced teachers and any gaps in the child's education are addressed over the course of the next 12 months. There are two teachers in Transition Class, teaching up to 20 children across Standards 1 to 7. In addition to educational classes, life skills and counseling are also provided to help children get their lives back on the right path. Once the child has been in Transition for a year, we assist the child in returning to school and support them to complete their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education.

Transition enables former street children to have a second chance in life, offering them access to education and an opportunity to move away from the dangers of life on the streets. Life in Kibera is tough and a lack of education leads to unemployment which in turn leads to poverty, drug abuse and crime. Through Transition we work to ensure that the children grow up to become responsible adults and contributing members of their community.

In January 2010 16 children made the move from Turning Point's Transition Class to local partner primary schools. Amongst these was 10 year old Francis Otiato.

Francis dropped out of school in Standard 1, following his father's death in 2000. Francis spent 6 years on the street, begging, collecting scrap plastics and sleeping in doorways. Life was very hard and Francis survived on just Ksh40 (35p) a day.



Following her husband's death, Francis's mother was left alone to care for her seven children. The family's house consists of just one room and, with only one bed, often Francis was forced to sleep on the dusty floor. The family had no money for food or to pay for clean water. The three eldest children all dropped out of school in Standard 8 before completing their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education. Francis saw the streets as a preferable alternative to his crowded house where he often went hungry.

Whilst in Transition Class, Francis proved to be a very disciplined, hard working boy. He is very good at science and in January 2010, with the help of Hazel's Footprints Trust, Francis returned to school. He wants to go on to become a Doctor so he can help other people and his family.

As the mother struggles financially, she has been assisted with a loan through Turning Point's Finance Programme. She now has a small business selling fish in Kibera and is making a small but steady income.

There are currently 34 children in the Transition Class and 19 of these will join local schools at the start of next term. One such child is 12 year old Mary Wamucii who was forced to drop out of school because both parents were drunkards. Neither parent had a job and the money they were able to scrape together was spent on alcohol. Without a school uniform, Mary

was unable to attend her local school. Turning Point are working with both Mary and her family to resolve the issues of poverty they face. Mary will be assisted by Turning Point to re-commence her education in May and her mother is now getting her life back on track and works as a house help in Nairobi.

Transition Class Teacher, Margaret, says, **“As a teacher it makes me proud to know the children are doing better in their performances in the new schools and that they are gaining self worth”**. She adds, “I am proud and privileged to know that the children out there have realized that they are supposed to be in school. Others already know their talents which they want to nurture.”

All of these children are in school because of your kindness and generosity. On behalf of everyone at The Turning Point Trust, thank you for giving them a chance in life.

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