

Supporting education in Kenya



Some of the children in Endana who will benefit from the new secondary school

In late 2006, John Laing organised an industry drinks reception in London for over 300 clients, partners and advisors from the UK and abroad, to help raise money for an education project in Kenya. The idea for the event originated from a member of staff who is personally involved in charity projects in Kenya.

Volunteers from John Laing wrote to local businesses and members of the PFI industry to ask for raffle prizes for the reception. Some donations were so generous, a silent auction was also planned to help increase the funds raised. Prizes ranged from signed autobiographies to tickets for Cirque du Soleil, to a holiday for four people to Kenya.

£8,369.12 was raised on the night and this was matched by the John Laing Charitable Trust, bringing the total amount to almost £17,000.

The money has been donated to The Endana project (part of the Tusk Fund), which will help to build two new classrooms and provide other essential supplies such as books, a library, desks and chairs and administration facilities for the community of Endana, in the OI Pejeta Conservancy area of Northern Kenya.

This is a vital contribution since Endana had no secondary school and as such, pupils who performed well at primary school have no local schools to progress to. The Kenyan Government does not provide support to the schools to construct new classrooms and it is the responsibility of the schools' community to provide these.

Even though the communities have done a remarkable job of improving their schools, this responsibility is too much for them, which is why financial support such as that from the John Laing Charitable Trust is so crucial.

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