

Your donation to this appeal will be doubled by one of Advantage Africa's donors - so it achieves twice as much!

August 2013

Dear Advantage Africa supporter,

## You helped a Kenyan boy to walk

Last year, I wrote to you about Leonard, a nine-year-old Kenyan boy living with club foot - a congenital condition that caused his foot to turn in at the ankle. This not only made walking almost impossible, but caused Leonard to be ignored, feared and excluded from school.



Leonard  
in 2012

In the UK, club foot (otherwise known as *congenital talipes equinovarus*) is corrected by the NHS for free during the first few months of a baby's life - by a simple series of plaster casts. Unfortunately, in the rural communities of Kibwezi District where Leonard lives, there is little medical knowledge and scant access to hospitals. Many disabled children are neglected and hidden away because it's believed they're cursed. Most never reach their fifth birthday, and of those that do, only ten percent go to school. Even the disabled boys and girls in Kenya who complete their basic education struggle to gain employment because of the stigma surrounding disability, and many end up begging on the street.

Not Leonard. **Thanks to the support of people like you**, Advantage Africa has found him the help he needed. He's had an operation to correct the alignment of his foot, special footwear and physiotherapy to help him walk.



Leonard  
today

After years of exclusion, Leonard can now walk to school, play with other children and is growing in confidence. He's received emotional support and encouragement from disability activist Agnes Musembi, and rehabilitation from physiotherapist David Kariuki, two of Advantage Africa's team members in Kibwezi.

## A difficult journey

Leonard's journey of rehabilitation and acceptance wasn't easy. He was one of 17 disabled children and adults identified for corrective surgery during the 300 home visits Agnes and her colleagues make each year. With such limited facilities existing for disabled people in Kenya, our team had to visit five hospitals, some of them hundreds of miles away, to assess the quality and cost of treatment available.

Other challenges included a doctors' strike and the surgeon resigning to become a politician! The journey to the hospital for the pre-op assessment was far further from home than Leonard had ever travelled and the nights he spent in the ward were the first he'd ever slept away from home. After the operation, Leonard was overjoyed to be back with his family in Kibwezi, where he had frequent visits from David to replace his plaster cast and help him walk again.

The generosity of Advantage Africa's supporters, the determination of our Kibwezi project team and Leonard's own courage have put him **firmly on a pathway out of poverty towards a better life**. But there are many other disabled, orphaned and vulnerable children like him that need a helping hand to become independent and reach their potential. As well as surgery when necessary, these children need rehabilitation services, appropriate education and the tireless work of people like Agnes and David to change attitudes and end the discrimination they face. Quite simply, they need the same opportunities and acceptance as everyone else.

## Give today, and your donation will be doubled

Today I'm asking you to help more children like Leonard. The funding available for our Kibwezi project is about to run out and we're also in urgent need of support to start a similar project in Uganda.

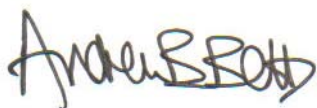
In the face of such pressing needs, we're delighted that one of Advantage Africa's donors has pledged to **double personal donations** received towards this appeal.

Will you make a gift today to help some of Africa's most neglected children?

- **£10**, doubled to **£20**, could buy a leg brace.
- **£25**, doubled to **£50**, could equip a classroom for children with special needs.
- **£125**, doubled to **£250**, could provide the surgery and care required to help a child like Leonard.
- **£500**, doubled to **£1,000**, could employ a physiotherapist like David for a whole year.

**Thank you** for helping to give children like Leonard a future they can look forward to.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Betts  
Director

### Our pledge to you is that we will:

- ✓ **Reach the most vulnerable people in need**
- ✓ **Make a practical difference in their lives**
- ✓ **Work in genuine partnership with communities**
- ✓ **Promote long-term change**
- ✓ **Help people to help themselves**
- ✓ **Use your donation effectively**



Leonard with Kibwezi Project Co-ordinator Agnes Musembi. Agnes says: 'I know what it's like to be unable to walk, and to be rejected by everyone around! So I'm so happy to see the change in Leonard's life, and many others too. This is what we're all working for, together with Advantage Africa.'

## Yes, I'd like to help vulnerable children like Leonard to reach their potential



1 Here is my gift of  £10  £25  £125  £500  Other £..... to be doubled by one of Advantage Africa's donors  
Please make cheques payable to 'Advantage Africa'.

This section is for regular monthly gifts only

**OR:** I'd like to make a regular gift of £ \_\_\_\_\_ each month by standing order starting on \_\_\_\_\_ (date)  
Bank name and address:

Account name: \_\_\_\_\_ Account number: \_\_\_\_\_ Sort code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Standing order instructions to your bank or building society: Please pay the amount above, starting on the date indicated and on the same day of every month thereafter to: Advantage Africa, HSBC Bank, PO Box 1888 Coventry, CV3 2WN; sort code 40-33-33; account number 81549200.

This section is for regular monthly gifts only

2 My name, address and postcode:

3 If you are a UK taxpayer, please tick the relevant boxes below to add 25p to every £1 you donate:

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made to Advantage Africa  today,  in the past and  in the future.  
I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax don't qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give (28p on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2008). *Please notify Advantage Africa if you wish to cancel this declaration, change your name/address or no longer pay sufficient Income/Capital Gains Tax.*

4 Please send this completed form to us at: Advantage Africa, 26a Market Place, Olney, MK46 4BA. *Thank you.*