



‘Light of Maasai’ charity becomes a Registered Charity

The trustees of the Light of Maasai charity are pleased to announce that the ‘Light of Maasai’ has become a Registered Charity. Our charitable tax exemption number is CHY 18519. The trustees of the charity decided to register the charity in order to give a greater degree of certainty to its donors. Elaine Bannon continues to head up the charities works in the Rombo region of Kenya. Our work continues to concentrate of health, clean water and education.

Read on to find more information on ‘Light of Maasai’, the charities goals and vision for the future....



Elaine Bannon (Light of Maasai) lives and works with the people of Rombo, Kenya.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Our mission is to alleviate poverty and the hardship of everyday life by the provision of education, health services and clean water

VISION STATEMENT:

Our vision is a world where the peoples of the world respect each other, understand each others needs and help each other through difficult times, so as the people of the world can live in peace

VALUES STATEMENT:

Inclusion: we are a not-for-profit charitable organisation that gives no bias to religion, politics, race, social status, colour, gender, nationality, disability or ability

Local and International: we value the input of all people from local and international communities

Respect: we promote mutual respect and understanding of each others values and environments

Rights: we honour the rights of all people and promote non violent solutions to the challenges of poverty

Age: we focus on all members of the community.....women and men....children, adults and the elderly

Beliefs: we believe we can effect change and we believe *'we must be the change we want to see in the world'*

Contribution: we, the trustees, strive to contribute to making a difference, with no gain for ourselves, generating no profit, operating via peaceful and inclusive means for the sole purpose of easing the hardship of everyday life for the less well off.

ABOUT LIGHT OF MAASAI: (www.lightofmaasai.com)

The Light of Maasai is a not-for-profit charity. It was formed by Irish woman, Elaine Bannon. Elaine left her comfortable job and life style in Dublin, Ireland in 2002 to work as an unpaid voluntary worker in Kenya. Elaine soon recognised the needs of the Maasai people and moved to live with the Maasai in the heart of the Kenyan bush in 2003. She has lived and worked there ever since as a CBO (Community Based Organisation) worker. Elaine is unpaid and lives off a small amount of money she receives from several Irish business friends. This enables her to continue her life saving work with

the men, women and children of the Rombo region of Kenya and to ensure that 100% of all the donor aid she receives goes directly to her projects.

Elaine has the assistance of three educated Maasai men....Joseph Nkanoni Lempira, Elijah Kilempu Joseph and Jonathon Kipanu Ole Nampa. Elaine discovered these men trying to help their local people of Rombo, with small successes. She raised small amounts of funds from her family and friends in Ireland at first. This year in 2008, Elaine has founded the Light of Maasai Charity in order to advance the good work they were doing with the people of Rombo, in a more structured way.

GOALS:

Our aim is to follow the guidelines set out in the Millennium Development Goals:

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

Light of Maasai Charity – sample of successfully completed projects:



Matt Porter (Trustee)
in Rombo

Water well provided by
Light of Maasai

Matt Porter and Elaine
Bannon with the local
committee of Rombo

Elaine Bannon
in Rombo village

- built several schools, extra classrooms onto existing schools and toilet blocks. These projects provide education for approximately 1000 children
- supplied and installed a 7.5Km pipeline to bring clean water into a village of 1,500 people
- supplied and installed 10 water wells, servicing 2,000 people
- sponsored 130 children in local schools
- supplied a tractor for the local community.
- provided a jeep for Light of Maasai to service the community projects
- fit out two medical clinics
- purchased 2,500 school desks
- purchased solar lamps for night time literacy classes

- paid for FGM (female genital mutilation) talks for local women
- started a micro-financing program
- purchased and distributed food when the local crop failed

Sample of future projects:

- We plan to build a volunteers house
- We plan to build 5 more schools
- We plan to build more classrooms onto existing schools
- We plan to build houses for teachers adjacent to schools
- We plan to sponsor more children into education
- We plan to provide more water wells
- We plan to fit out more medical clinics

Fund raising / Donors:

The Light of Maasai seeks to raise funds for its projects and is a not-for-profit organisation. Projects are identified by its founder member, Elaine Bannon. Since Elaine lives in the bush with the Maasai, she has a unique understanding of what is needed and what can be achieved. Elaine works closely with local committees, communities, NGO organisations (such as AMREF – African Medical Research Foundation) to ensure her projects are properly planned, designed, funded and sustainably implemented. Trustee members from Ireland fund their own visits to Kenya to photograph completed projects and future projects.

Funds are raised from individuals, businesses, humanitarian organisations (such as the Rotary club) and any other source that will support the good works of the Light of Maasai.

Examples of past fund raisers and projects in brief:

Belgrove School Lemongo:

Last year a group of 8 – 12 year old boys and their teachers and parents from Belgrove Senior Boys School in Clontarf raised circa €7,000 during their Christmas fair. The ESB's own staff charity (ElectricAid) also donated €10,000. The Light of Maasai put these sums of money together and built a 3 classroom school in the area of Lemongo, in the Rombo region of Kenya. The Light of Maasai then approached AMREF (African Medical Research Foundation) and they also paid for and built 2 more classrooms at Lemongo. So now there is a 5 classroom school with almost 400 children registered and attending school. Light of Maasai will continue to pay teachers for two years, after which time the school will be automatically put onto the National school program and the government will take over paying the teachers.

Water pipeline and wells:

Light of Maasai were approached by a community of Matepes, in the Rombo region of Kenya. Unlike other areas, this area had no ground water. Light of Maasai paid for a 7.5Km pipeline to bring water into the village and to supply and install 5 water taps off this pipeline along its route. The water was so important to the villagers, the village community offered to dig the 7.5Km by hand (to an AMREF specification) and the pipeline was successfully installed. The last tap is situated in the school grounds at Matepes. The Light of Maasai witnessed the community forming a water committee, so that they can repair minor damage to the pipeline (caused by elephants as they pass by) and guarantee the sustainability of this project.

How do we decide what projects to fund?

Light of Maasai is fortunate to have Irish woman Elaine Bannon on the ground. Elaine has been living in Rombo, Kenya with the Maasai for the past 6 years. Elaine is a registered CBO worker and given up her comfortable life in Ireland to assist the Maasai people with Water, Education and health projects. Elaine Bannon and Matt Porter started light of Maasai charity as a result of Elaine's work. Elaine has since received a Paul Harris Award from Rotary in Ireland and has been thanked personally by the Kenyan Ambassador to Ireland, Catherine Muigai Mwangi, on several occasions.

Elaine Bannon is LOM's eyes and ears on the ground in Rombo, Kenya. Elaine identifies the projects that are worthy of our support, budgets them with the help of AMREF (African Medical Research Fountain), experts from Rotary International and many other experts from her contact base in Ireland. Elaine visits each project prior to asking for financial support and works closely with Maasai chiefs and the local community. Matt Porter visits each year (at his own expense) and photographs the completed projects , along with potential new projects.

None of the officers of the body are at present, or will be in the future, in receipt of salary or other remuneration. This is the way we have carried out all our work to date and how we will carry out all our work in the future.