

THE THUNDER FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2025 –

**Making a noise for the children that
should be heard**

British Charity Commission n.1159407

WELCOMING ZAITUN OKIMARU:

We are delighted to announce that **Zaitun Okimaru**, a recent graduate in counselling psychology from Kenya, has joined Thunder as a counsellor and mentor. Over the next two months, Zaitun Okimaru will provide both group and individual support to our students, with a special focus on the six girls entering their final year of secondary education. Her guidance will help students manage academic pressures, plan for their futures, and explore alternative pathways should university admission not be possible. Zaitun Okimaru has been a trusted Thunder volunteer since 2021, and her experience will be invaluable to our community. Zaitun is the daughter of our dedicated Project manager Ramadan Okimaru – the apple never falls far from the tree!



CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

Thanks to the generous contributions from Victorious Festival, Lise Maloney, Ossola Amica dell Ugi, the Ward Family and Seeded Yarnstormers, this year's Christmas programme is especially rich. Activities include tuition, computer courses, counselling sessions, sports, a volleyball tournament, beauty treatments, workshops, Christmas vouchers, parties, and excursions.

STUDENT INITIATIVES

Susan is leading the organisation of a volleyball tournament in her neighborhood, fostering community engagement and enjoyment. This initiative demonstrates how simple resources can positively transform underprivileged areas.



CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS:

James, who graduated from beautician college in July, will host beauty sessions for our students during the holidays, showcasing his skills in hair and nail care.



NEW PARTNERSHIPS:

We are pleased to highlight our collaboration with **Joan Otieno**, an artist and activist based in Nairobi. In November, Joan Otieno led a workshop at her Korogocho studio, where our students explored self-care and resilience through art. The workshop provided a valuable opportunity for participants to express themselves and develop important life skills.



FESTIVE MEMORIES:

As we celebrate this festive season, we remember the enduring support of our community. In particular, we recall Christmas 2014, when **Ciaran Gantly**, executive chef, taught our children to make gingerbread houses and hosted a festive lunch for all the children and the volunteers in the five star hotel he was working for. We remain deeply grateful to all friends and sponsors who continue to make our children's holidays special

