

KENYA KIDS INTERNATIONAL

Annual Report 2020/21



Giving Young Kenyans a Brighter Future

2020/2021 President's Report

What a difference a year makes! The Covid pandemic has restricted our work in Kenya and prevented us from visiting our projects. However, despite these setbacks we have continued to support our Kenyan friends and maintained and increased our core program of student sponsorship.

We have not had any contact from the 2 primary schools we helped resource in previous years so we are unsure of their situation. Kenya's COVID restrictions included the closure of schools and Universities for most of 2020. Some

New and existing sponsors have made this possible and we much appreciate their invaluable support. Currently 35 students attend secondary school and 3 students will soon be at university. Six of our students will complete secondary school in April 2022

Covid-19 Food Relief

Back in July 2020 we learned the restrictions designed to stop the spread of Covid had severely impacted people's ability to work and obtain sufficient food. The KKI Board discussed the situation to see how we could help. KKI is not an emergency aid agency however we sometimes help with special needs in relation to food security, medical needs and shelter. The Board resolved to try and assist the 38 families KKI works with by providing each family with Maize (Corn), that is used to make Ugali, a staple Kenyan food.

Because of the generous support of a number of people and in particular, Hurstbridge Community Church in Victoria, we established the COVID-19 Food Relief program. For 6 months we were able to provide 38 families each with 45kgs of maize each month. This meant over 200 individuals, mainly children, continued to eat Ugali with every meal.

Education Interrupted

lessons were available on TV or mobile (smart) phones but most of KKI's students don't have access to these devices. As a result, many of our students were unable to maintain their grade levels.

Education facilities re-opened in October 2020 and continued into 2021. With minimal holidays, students began a new school year in July 2021. The Kenyan Education Department is compressing its school years in order to return to a normal school year from January to October, beginning in 2023.

and our challenge will be to find sponsors for those who continue on to university.

To meet the increased cost of sponsoring University students, KKI has launched a University Scholarship Fund. University costs include tuition fees, textbooks, accommodation and meals, computers and mobile phones as well as a mattress and bedding, suitcase and transport costs. This amounts to some \$2,500 in the first year which is a big expense. We are actively seeking Patrons to provide funds to allow our best and brightest students to follow their dreams.

Student Sponsorship

I am delighted to report that KKI has sponsored another 10 students in 2021.



Special Needs

Last year the mother of one of our sponsored students was diagnosed with Level 2 Cervical cancer. Treatment was available in Nairobi (9 hours away by bus) but it was expensive. Monica's family and her church managed to scrape a little money together to begin treatment but much more was needed.

We talked with the sponsor of Monica's son who undertook to raise funds from family and friends, whilst another KKI supporter also contributed a significant amount. In the meantime, Monica's church received additional funds so that in the end, 100% of Monica's medical costs were covered. What a fantastic result!

Monica's treatment is progressing well. Her doctors anticipate a full recovery because of the prompt and specialized treatment she is receiving. Thank you to all those who contributed this special gift of healing for Monica.

DGR Status

KKI is working towards securing Deductible Gift Recipient status from the Australian Tax Office. This will allow us to offer tax deductible receipts for gifts and donations from KKI supporters. In the meantime, we have entered into an arrangement with another charity to provide DGR status for KKI. The cost of obtaining a tax deductible receipt for gifts and donations to KKI amounts to 5% of the amount gifted. Unless a supporter receives a financial advantage by obtaining a tax deductible receipt, there is no benefit in obtaining one as it reduces the value of their gift by 5%.

Vocational Training

KKI's mission is based around the belief that education provides a pathway out of poverty. There are many different studies that confirm our belief. Whilst our core program is to sponsor students to continue

their formal education, not all students have the academic ability to progress from secondary school to university. Brian, first sponsored in 2017 is one of those students.

Brian completed secondary school in 2020 but his grades were not good enough for him to enter tertiary education. Brian and his mother agreed his best option was to learn to drive a tractor in order to gain employment. We shared Brian's decision with his sponsor who agreed to continue sponsoring Brian to gain his tractor driver's licence. Brian first learned how to drive a car before starting a 3-month training program to obtain his tractor driver's licence. We wish Brian every success in gaining suitable employment.

Microfinance Projects

Whilst our First Fruits program has been paused, another micro finance project has blossomed. Rikki arranged for Fred's bone carved jewellery to be sold in two outlets in Victoria and NSW.



Fred works from a small tin shed near St. Camillus Mission Hospital in Karungu where he carves and colours intricate jewellery from cow bone. Strong sales of his work have resulted in a larger repeat order from the Victorian outlet, providing Fred with much needed income to support his family.

Kenya Visits

Last year Rikki and I planned to spend 3 months in Kenya. Some of our Board and other members also planned to visit to see KKI projects. Unfortunately, the Covid pandemic put a stop to those plans and we are unsure just when we will be able to visit again. Whilst programs such as the Water project, First Fruits and the proposed Education & Training Centre are "on hold" our Special Needs and Student Sponsorship programs remain very active.

In conclusion let me give a big thank you to all of our supporters for their continued interest in our work and for providing the financial gifts that make it all possible. Your support is a great encouragement to us.

Finally thank you to our Board of Directors – Rikki, Ann, Jacob and Keith. Your energy, enthusiasm and leadership will continue to ensure KKI's success in **Giving young Kenyans a brighter future.**

Robert Fisher
President
13 August 2021

The 2020/2021 financial report is available on request.
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