

Update

Giving Young Kenyans a Brighter Future



Brian, (left) with his mother and younger brother outside their home.

Tax deductibility for donations

Organisations entitled to receive tax deductible gifts are called 'deductible gift recipients' (DGR's). KKI is seeking to become a DGR but there are a number of government hoops we must jump through, with no guarantee of success. We are working towards applying for DGR status by documenting policies needed in order to be seen as a professional charity.

The policy development work has occupied a considerable amount of time and effort by various Board members, in particular Ann Backhaus and Jacob O'Sullivan. Over 40 policies have been written including a Code of Conduct plus policies affecting the Board, Donors and Fundraising, Organisational, Copyright, Risk Management, Human Resources and Development. We hope to apply for DGR status in the very near future.

Meanwhile we have secured tax deductibility via another organisation with DGR status.

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However it comes at a price - an administrative cost of 5% of any donations processed on our behalf. We can provide tax receipts retrospectively for the current financial year if required. **Please alert our Treasurer Keith Berry by email: treasurer@kenyakidsinternational.org.au**

“Like a tree, poverty has many roots. But among the many causes of global poverty, one factor stands out: education. Not every person without an education is living in extreme poverty. But most of those living in extreme poverty do lack a basic education. Those living below the poverty line will also be more likely to keep their children out of school, which means that their children will also have a greater chance of living in poverty.”

Concernusa.org

Brian our first student to receive Vocational training

The core program of KKI is to sponsor students to continue their secondary and tertiary studies. We believe that education provides a pathway out of poverty and there are many different studies that confirm our belief. However 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 talked with his Mother Eunice and together they 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 license. Brian first had to learn how to drive a car and obtain the necessary license before starting the 3-month training program to obtain his tractor driver's license. He has now completed his Driver training and will now take the next step to do a 3 month course in Tractor driving.



ASSG Secretary Joseph motivating students to study hard



Opening of ASSG Cyber facilities

ASSG Cyber Initiative

In Agolomuok there is a significant demand for access to the internet as most families don't have electricity and can't afford a computer. There is only one local internet facility for the Sori population. The demand is high and access is limited. Seeing an opportunity to generate funds for its work, the ASSG decided to establish its own cyber centre using equipment provided by KKI.

The ASSG has rented a small office space at St Camillus Mission Hospital for its internet services. They have a laptop and a color printer that scans and copies, that was donated by KKI. They also have a laminating machine and plan to stock some stationary to sell.

A local IT person has been employed to manage the cyber centre for use by paying customers. KKI's sponsored students have use of the facilities to familiarize themselves with how to use a computer. Profits generated from this initiative will be used on other ASSG projects to benefit the community. KKI is delighted that the ASSG is making good use of the equipment it has provided. Setting up a small business during a Covid pandemic is not an easy task and KKI wish the ASSG every success.

Patrons needed for the KKI University Scholarship Fund

Sponsors are delighted to see their students progress from High School to University, however not all of them can afford to continue to sponsor their student at this level, as the fees are often much higher.

When students undertake tertiary education it usually involves living away from home, paying for rent, food, a laptop, and mobile phone. While students live at home clothes are often shared amongst siblings but when they go to University



Monica's heartfelt thanks

Praise God. Happy to thank everyone and especially Rikki and fellows for their support. Brethren, after going through 25 sessions of Radiotherapy, 5 sessions of Chemotherapy, and 3 sessions of Bracky therapy treatment, I have been feeling good, no pain and other stress. I was to go to clinic this month of April in Nairobi and because Covid 19 lock down in Nairobi, my oncologist told me he is organizing to refer me to Kisii for review before the end of May.

I am progressing well and can perform some light duties and feeding on veggies and fruits mostly. But expensive and some are hard to get. Brethren, continue helping, praying to God as I remain hoping for more healings. Pass greetings to everyone.

Monica is the mother of one of our sponsored students. She was diagnosed with cervical cancer last year. Her family had no way of financing her ongoing expensive medical costs. KKI alerted their sponsor, he and a number of other supporters in Australia and Kenya were able to raise the funds for her medical treatment.

they need to buy their own clothing, a suitcase to transport the items and some also have to buy their own mattress. In response to this situation KKI recently launched a new initiative: the **KKI University Scholarship Fund**.

The fund is designed to provide up to \$2,500 per year towards a student's University costs and living expenses. KKI are looking for donors to become Patrons of the University Scholarship Fund by gifting this amount to the Fund.

KKI are seeking donors to become Patrons of the University Scholarship Fund

We are delighted to announce our first 2 Patrons being a couple and a woman, all from Victoria. This has been a huge encouragement to us but we need more. At the end of 2021, 6 students will complete secondary school and potentially go on to University.

By 2022 KKI needs to have raised \$15,000, the following year another 6 graduates will increase the cost to \$30,000 and by the 4th year we will need \$60,000. After 4 years the pool of funds should start levelling out as some students finish their studies and new ones come on board.

If you would like to know more about becoming a patron of the **KKI University Scholarship Fund** please contact Rob on 0410340512 or email him at rob@kenyakidsinternational.org.au

Covid Update in Kenya

Infections in Kenya have escalated from 2% in January to 22% in March and the Kenyan Government ordered a lock down in 5 counties, including Nairobi. Schools all over Kenya were closed for a second time. The 2 Universities where we have sponsored students remained open but some lessons were taught remotely



A sample of Fred's jewellery



through WhatsApp.

The good news is none of the students and families supported by KKI have been infected with the virus.

By 14th May Kenya recorded 164,720 cases of Covid with 2,968 deaths. A Covid vaccine was available locally and the Chairman of our Kenyan partners, the Agolomuok Students Support Group, had his first vaccination. Since then supplies have run out which is a common situation faced by 3rd world countries.

We hope this will soon be resolved and the rest of the community of Agolomuok Sori and Kenyans at large will receive their vaccination.

The Kenyan Government recently lifted the lockdown restrictions imposed last month, as the rates of infections have eased and consequently schools have reopened.

It has been a difficult year for our students with an 8 month closure of schools in 2020, then re-opening for a couple of months before they had exams, after which schools were closed again for a second lockdown.

Despite this level of disruption we heard the good news that one of our two final year students, Vincent, received a B- for his KCSE final year results. This mark gives Vincent the opportunity to enter University. We are still awaiting the results for the other student.

'First Fruits' continues to bear fruit

As Rob and I haven't been able to go to Kenya to implement various projects because of travel restrictions we were



First Fruits beneficiary with her 2nd kid

pleased to hear that different aspects of our programs are still running along fine without us.

In 2019 we launched our First Fruits program, a micro financing scheme where we encourage new or existing cottage industries. One such scheme provides families with a female goat to breed from. The first progenary is returned to KKI, and we subsequently lend this to the next beneficiary to breed from and so on. We gave 3 people one female goat each to breed with and we later heard 2 kids had been born. Recently we were told a further 2 kids have been born. This second lot of kids remain with the participant.

Another initiative of the First Fruits Program is to support existing small cottage industries. One of these is Fred, a jewellery maker. Fred is very talented, making fine jewellery out of cow bone. His problem is finding a suitable outlet to sell his jewellery.

On our last visit I was able to bring some items back to Australia and show them at a "fair trade" shop in Eltham Victoria called Only Just. The owner was thrilled with the quality and being something a bit different she gave us our 1st order. Then Covid hit and it became difficult getting supplies from Fred but we succeeded in the end.

On a visit to Melbourne last month I popped into the shop to check how sales went. The response was positive and we received our second order.

If anyone is interested to receive a catalogue of Fred's designs let me know and I will email one to you.
rikki@kenyakidsinternational.org.au

