

Update

Giving Young Kenyans a Brighter Future



Toddlers at the Macalder Mine Babies Home in need of socialisation

New Worker at Babies Home

Macalder Mine Babies Home wasn't on our radar until a member of the ASSG (our Kenyan partners) took us there in 2018. Julius wanted to visit his son. His wife had died giving birth and he was unable to care for his child. As well as babies in care there were a number of children 2 – 4 years old. Most were orphans, having lost one or both parents, many due to AIDS. In this part of Kenya around 25% of people are infected with AIDS.

When interacting with the children it was obvious many were in need of socialisation, especially the young guy who kept hitting Rob. Returning home we shared our experiences with members of our church. Subsequently some of the people who heard our story offered to fund a worker to play with the children to help their social development.

The Nuns at the Babies Home are far too busy providing meals, growing vegetables, cleaning and caring for the children and simply don't



Maurine holding one of the toddlers at the Home

have time for play. KKI's offer to pay for a worker was very much appreciated. In 2019 a young woman named Selene was employed a couple of days a week and the improvement in the children's behaviour was remarkable.

In 2021 COVID stopped Selene from playing with the children and recently Selene resigned in order to return to study. A new worker named Maureen has now been employed to play with the children on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Maureen is 20 years old and the Nuns tell us she is a joyful person who loves the children.

Sponsor a Student Support Worker

KKI is seeking 6 - 8 supporters to commit \$40 per month or make a donation, to keep the sponsorship program growing
...details in letter attached

10 New Students

Each year KKI aims to sponsor 6 new students to attend secondary school. In September 2020 we wrote to the ASSG warning we may not be able to sponsor any new students in 2021. However in the last 3 months of the year we had a wonderful response as new and old sponsors came on board. At the beginning of this year we were able to sponsor not 6 but 10 new students. What a tremendous result!

This year our students came from the wider geographical area of Karungu District rather than just the Agolomuok area. We sought applicants who had achieved a higher academic standard in the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education. This meant we

www.kenyakidsinternational.org.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/424600111327095/

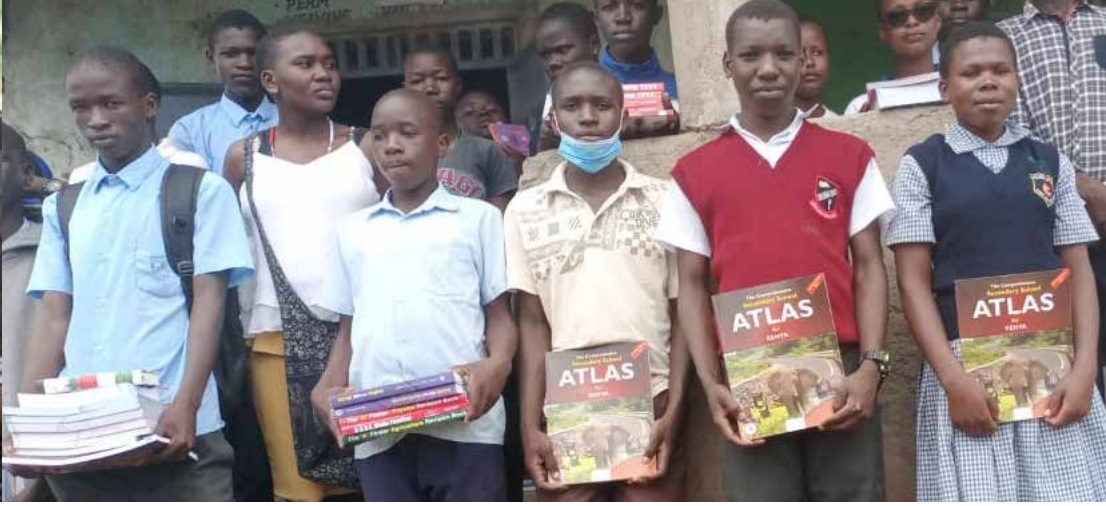
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One happy student with his mother after receiving a cheque for school fees



Some of the new and old students meeting to receive some of their years textbooks



Vincent showcasing some of the items his sponsor supplied to start his 4 years at University.

needed to cast our net wider in order to reach students who were more likely to succeed at their studies.

Currently 38 students are being sponsored: 35 students are at secondary school and 3 are at University. Sara is midway through a 4-year Bachelor of Education (Science, with IT) and Sharon has just completed a 2-year Diploma in Business Management and will continue with a 2-year Accountancy course. And our newest University student is Vincent who has just begun a 4 year Bachelor of Education (Arts) Degree.

First Fruits Program bears more Fruit

Our First Fruits project is designed to improve the lives of participants by helping them increase their earning capacity. We do this in two ways: either providing interest-free loans to help people buy stock for their shop or market stall or by giving families a female goat to breed from.

Market traders repay their loan from the profits they make by selling their goods. New loans can then be made using the same money. Goat breeders repay KKI with the first kid the goat delivers. The female goat is then theirs to keep. If the first kid is a male we sell it to buy another female to loan to someone else. If the first kid is female, that's a bonus.

Recently we were delighted to hear that one of KKI's gifted goats had given birth to twins. Even more exciting is that both kids were females and this means the goat's owners can double their income earning potential.

In our last newsletter we wrote about Fred who runs a small cottage industry making fine jewellery out of cow bone. We were able to source a Fair Trade shop in Eltham, Victoria called 'Only Just' which was prepared to sell his jewellery. The jewellery sold well and we received our second order.



Twin kids born to one of our goats gifted to a needy family

As well as this, a second shop was approached in Nimbin NSW, called 'The Green Bank' which also took Fred's jewellery on consignment. Recently we re-ordered some bottle openers for that shop. We are always on the lookout for new outlets to promote Fred's work so that he can get a reliable income stream. Our vision for the future is that Fred teaches others the craft. If you know of a shop or would like to see some of the jewellery for yourself please contact Rikki at rikki@kenyakidsinternational.org.au



Bottle Opener - Fred's bone jewellery



Photo by Peter Ptschelinzew

Challenges of getting around.

Rikki and I plan to return to Kenya in March 2022. One of the biggest challenges we face in Kenya is transport. It's just not safe.

Road conditions vary from poor to impassable and minibuses designed for 13 passengers often carry 25 or more. Cars designed for 4 passengers carry 8 people or more while motorbike drivers (the local taxi called piki piki) often are unlicensed, don't wear or offer helmets and drive erratically. Travel is often dangerous and very uncomfortable.

Whilst in Kenya we cannot avoid using public transport to visit our students, KKI projects and meet with our Kenya partners. For a number of reasons we need to purchase a 4WD utility type vehicle to use in Kenya. A KKI vehicle will provide flexibility as to when we can travel and most importantly, provide much needed personal safety when traveling.

Having our own vehicle means we can visit larger towns to purchase equipment and materials and transport them back



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to Agolomuok. This means we avoid transport costs and can buy goods in larger towns where they are less expensive. The proposed Education & Training Centre will produce crops of fruit and vegetables as well as animals.

With our own vehicle we can easily transport produce and animals to market towns for sale.

Finally a vehicle will allow us to collect visitors from the airport 3 hours away and ferry them around to see the good work KKI is doing.

We need \$25,000 to purchase a second-hand vehicle. Prices are just as expensive in Nairobi as Australia. Currently we have \$2,000 saved to buy the 4WD but we need much more. I am asking you to help us raise another \$23,000 to meet our target.

Every dollar you give will be gratefully

received and go a long way to keeping us safe on Kenya's roads and furthering the work of KKI.

Please send your gift to KKI's account at Summerland Credit Union. BSB 728-728 and Account #22314767 Details: 4WD

Thanking you in anticipation of your support.

We want to take this opportunity to wish all our sponsors and supporters a blessed and safe Christmas. Without your ongoing support we couldn't achieve the things we have done over the years.

Yours Sincerely
Rob and Rikki Fisher



Help KKI raise \$23,000 to purchase a secondhand 4WD for safe transport, visiting and using on projects

