

## Update

*Giving Young Kenyans a Brighter Future*



### Baby Isaac's near death experience

At 1 month old baby Isaac Newton was handed over into the care of nuns at Macalder Babies Home. He came with severe health problems: pneumonia, a collapsed lung, septecimia, severe malaria, malnourished and in a critical condition.

His mother died at childbirth, his father, an alcoholic, had no interest in his son.

The nuns had exhausted their funds treating Isaac when they asked KKI for assistance. Without KKI's support Isaac may well have died.

KKI supplied funds for 2 weeks in hospital, multiple tests, CT scans, an echocardiogram, a nebulizer and special formula to aid in increasing his weight.

We are delighted to report on the progress of little Isaac Newton who is now 5 months old and out of danger. He now can focus on his carers and can laugh and play. Nun Sister Dorcas expressed her

***"Most times I feel like crying in gratefulness for your help"***

***Sister Dorcas***

appreciation, she said " I lack words to appreciate you, you have been a blessing to us. May God bless your loving heart. Most times I feel like crying when I talk to you anything about money especially since you are sick and you still support us".



Isaac is one of many babies and young children cared for at Macalder Mines Babies Home. There are 6 nuns caring for up to 30 children at a time, from babies to 2 year olds.

***Sr. Dorcas is in charge of the children, 2 nuns work in the nursery school, 2 at the dispensary, while 1 cares for the house and green house where they grow tomatoes to raise funds, raise chickens, ducks and have a cow that provides milk for the children.***

***KKI also funds a childcare worker for 2 days a week to do play therapy with the children.***

[www.kenyakidsinternational.org.au](http://www.kenyakidsinternational.org.au)  
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***Macalder Babies Home operate purely by faith. If you would like to help with Isaac's continued treatment or support the home we welcome your financial support.***

## Wigleys visit KKI projects

*Whilst Rob and Rikki have been unable to visit Kenya for almost 3 years, our friends Ken and Jan Wigley were able to do so recently. We are so grateful to Jan and Ken for visiting Sori to meet with KKI students and our Kenyan partners the ASSG. Importantly they visited the homes of 17 students as well as holding a workshop on letter writing.*

This is what Jan and Ken wrote:

### Letter writing workshop

"We had a great morning meeting around 40 sponsored students and teaching them letter writing skills to respond to their sponsors. One of the participants said 'We never had teaching like this before and our teachers never explain things like that.' They wrote fabulous letters doing a draft, then a good copy using the excellent guidelines Rikki and Rob had put together.

### Visiting students and families

The next two days we spent many hours riding as passengers on the back of motor bikes. It was intense for various reasons... long days 9-5pm and 8-4 pm respectively but on roads that had huge bumps and rocks and hazards with dust and cows and rubbish until we could go no further, then we hiked!!

We visited 17 sponsored students over two days to interview them and their families. It's truly so hard to put into words the poverty we saw and the hardships they told us about. Each person was so grateful to the sponsors KKI and expressed how it has changed their lives. So many of these secondary children had only one living parent and some had none. In most cases other family members had taken them in and cared for them. HIV is most certainly a number one reason for the high adult death rate. That coupled with high unemployment means poverty is very widespread. Most are peasant farmers, fishermen or have a small business.

***If you were thinking of sponsoring a student to enable them to complete Secondary Education, please consider Kenya Kids International ([www.kenyakidsinternational.org.au](http://www.kenyakidsinternational.org.au)) It's making a huge difference to families and these kids' future lives. We saw that first hand".***

*Jan and Ken*



***"It was intense... long days on roads that had huge bumps, rocks, hazards, dust, cows and rubbish until we could go no further..... then we hiked!"***



***"It's truly so hard to put into words the poverty we saw and the hardships they told us about".***

## Student accommodation

School days in Kenya are ridiculously long. We are yet to fully understand why students can sometimes be required to attend school from 5.30am in the morning until to 6.30pm at night. These are the hours at BL Tezza Secondary School where only female students can board.

KKI sponsors 5 male students who attend BL Tezza. One of those students is Martin who used to walk one hour to and from school, making his day both physically and mentally demanding. Martin's Principal suggested he rent a house nearer the school so KKI investigated and we found 2 suitable places to rent.

Now all 5 of our male students at BL Tezza live in these houses. Each house is a simple design of just 2 rooms with brick walls and a tin roof. We purchased cooking equipment, mattresses, mosquito nets,



tables and chairs while each boy's family supply them with food to cook.

The ASSG checks on the boys regularly and monitors the living arrangements to ensure there are no problems. We look forward to hearing how the boys fare in their end of year exams currently underway.

**Send donations to KKI at Summerland Credit Union BSB: 728728 ACCOUNT: 22314767  
Tax deductible receipts available on request. Email [treasurer@kenyakidsinternational.org.au](mailto:treasurer@kenyakidsinternational.org.au)**

# 41 people trained by 5000+

5000+ is designed to teach participants how to run and manage a successful business. It helps people choose the right project before they plan, start and successfully run the project. 5000+ is provided free-of-charge by a Kenyan NGO (Non-Government Organisation). KKI covers the cost of travel for the volunteer instructor, hires the venue and provides lunch for participants. The course is held one day a week for five weeks.

The first 5000+ training program was held 3 years ago. Unfortunately the Covid-19 pandemic prevented us from holding another program until July 2022. This year a total of 41 participants were selected to participate. 10 of the participants were parents or guardians of sponsored students.

5000+ helps participants identify resources they already have that could be used to develop a business opportunity. They are taught the importance of record keeping, cash flow, stock management, knowing who their customers are and what they



want, as well as understanding their competitors and the prices they charge.

An important aspect is learning how to develop a business plan to demonstrate the viability of the proposed business.

Projects submitted include selling product at local markets, establishing a grain mill, breeding chickens, selling fish and breeding goats. We look forward to hearing how these projects develop in the future.



Bags of maize distributed to the ASSG as a thank you gift for their volunteer work during the year. Below, Doreen holding new school shoes donated by her sponsor



Student Mark Sixstars Abura being awarded a certificate by Ken Wigley for being the top student in 2022



## Life is good. But it wasn't always that way...

My name is Vincent, I am 20 and a student at one of the best universities in Kenya. I am in my first year of a bachelor degree in education and my goal is to become a High School teacher.

I come from a very poor community in South West Kenya, a fishing village on lake Victoria called 'Agolomuok'. My family consists of my parents and five siblings. My parents are peasant farmers, we live on a small plot of land and grow vegetables but never enough to feed the whole family, pay for clothes and schooling. Sickness, was never far away, being attacked by different kinds of diseases, some of which were never diagnosed, because we couldn't afford to go to the hospital.

My primary level of schooling was pathetic, I didn't attend school regularly due to lack of funds and problems at home. Instead I would go out with my older brother to cut trees to burn charcoal to sell, while my younger siblings would head to the streets early in the morning to beg for meals, sometimes they came home without getting anything to eat.

My life was a misery and I almost lost hope in life, my older brother who was very bright in school and had a vision of becoming a doctor, had to quit his studies due to pressures from home as my parents were sick and it became his responsibility to feed the family.

However difficult the situation at home was I passed through - in my mind I developed a belief that one day I'd be somewhere in school realizing a good future, this made me attend primary school whenever I could. I managed to sit for my final exam and to my surprise got a good enough grade to apply for sponsorship with Kenya Kids International.

I was selected to be sponsored through secondary school through KKI. My primary struggle was now over.

I was paired up with a sponsor who wrote to me and encouraged me to do my best.

KKI gave me hope that I could make something of my life. I would like to ask you who are thinking of supporting the poor, please do it and you will be blessed back. We are in hard conditions in Kenya and supportive hands can make us fulfil our future dreams.

I personally thank KKI, the supportive group from Australia who have given me hope for the future and pray they continue to support us, may God bless the work of their hands and bless Australia as a whole. Kenya loves Australia.

Vincent

***"I would like to ask you who are thinking of supporting the poor, please do it and you will be blessed back".***

