

# KENYA KIDS INTERNATIONAL

## *Annual Report* 2021/22



### *Giving Young Kenyans a Brighter Future*

#### 2021/2022 President's Report

I am pleased to provide this report on our activities for the past 12 months. Looking back it's pleasing to see the progress we have made in a world disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Whilst every Australian has been impacted to a greater or lesser degree, conditions in Kenya have been much more difficult for our sponsored students and their families.

#### **Student Sponsorship Program**

The good news is that despite the pandemic our student sponsorship program has been maintained and extended. Currently there are 37 bright needy students at secondary school and 4 students at university.

The past 3 years have been very challenging for our students. After the outbreak of the pandemic, schools closed for lengthy periods in 2020. When schools reopened three academic years were compressed into two by reducing school holiday breaks. Because of their poor KCSE (Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education) results, 2 students elected to repeat their final year studies.

Next year the normal school year will return with classrooms open from 23 January to 3 November 2023.

#### **Student Housing**

A big problem for some students is walking long distances from their homes to school. At one particular school, boys must all walk to school as only girls are allowed to board. Ten of our students attend this school and for some boys that means getting up at 4.00am.

To solve the problem KKI has rented 2 x two roomed houses close to the school. Five boys share the houses and we have provided mattresses, bedding and cooking equipment. The families of the boys provide them with ingredients to cook their own meals and a member of the ASSG checks on the boys regularly.

#### **Performance Review**

KKI has developed a policy for students who do not achieve a satisfactory grade at their end of year examinations. Once results are known the ASSG interviews the student(s) involved using an interview form supplied by KKI. The process is designed to try and understand why the student did not perform to expectations.

This procedure has helped in identifying such things as student ill health, worry over family matters, missed classes and other issues.

#### **First Fruits Program**

KKI works in cooperation with a 9-person Kenyan community based committee, the Agolomuok Students Support Group (ASSG). A 3-person sub-committee including the Chief

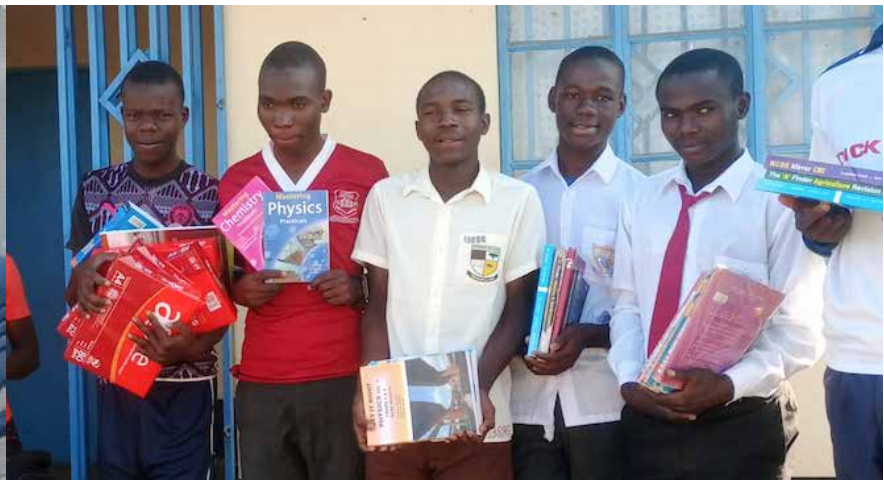
of Agolomuok and the Chairman of the ASSG manage the program in consultation with the program's developer, Rikki Fisher.

After a pilot program tested the viability of the First Fruits program in 2019/2020 an evaluation was conducted. It was clear that participants would benefit more by learning small business skills and/or how to better care for their animals. It was decided that anyone wanting to participate in First Fruits must first complete the 5,000+ program, a small business training program. 5000+ is delivered free of charge by a Kenyan non-government organisation. KKI provides meals and traveling expenses for their volunteer trainers.

The First Fruits committee recruits and selects participants for 5000+ including parents or guardians of sponsored students who are offered first place. Everyone who successfully completes 5000+ and submits an approved Business Plan is then eligible for selection to join the First Fruits program. Earlier this year KKI was successful in receiving a grant of \$5,250 from the Onetomorrow Foundation to expand the First Fruits program. Preparations for the next 5000+ program have begun and the next First Fruits will commence in July 2022.

#### **Macalder Babies Home**

Our support for the children of the Babies Home continues. The Nuns are flat out



feeding and caring for up to 20 babies and toddlers as well as producing extensive vegetable crops that support their work. For nearly 4 years KKI has funded the employment of a woman to provide play experiences for the children 4 x half days each week.

We are very grateful to one of our sponsors who funded the purchase of a cow to provide fresh milk for the children. The Nuns are extremely grateful and report that the cow has now produced a calf to provide even more milk in due course.

### Special Needs

During the year we used Special Needs funds to support 3 of our students. KKI paid for medical expenses for Victorine who has stomach ulcers and for Beatrice who has Spinal TB. Both girls are responding well to treatment and are continuing with their education. A third student, Victor, who attends boarding school, needed a new school uniform while additional support was given to his 3 younger siblings.

Victor and his siblings are orphans and the younger children were fending for themselves while Victor was at boarding school. When KKI learned of the situation we provided school fees and uniforms for the younger children and supplied enough food for 3 months. The children had no one to care for them as an older brother who was responsible had relocated to Nairobi in search of work.

Our support for Victor's siblings was made possible by the generosity of one of our sponsors. However KKI is not a relief agency so our support is a "one-off" event. We have asked the ASSG to assist the children in the

future. Already they have arranged for one of the children's teachers to visit the home regularly to check on their welfare.

### Updated Mission Statement

KKI is in the process of applying for DGR1 status so that KKI can itself issue tax deductible receipts for donations. Currently we use a third party called Foundation1. As part of that process we have updated our Mission Statement to:

"Partnering with the people of Karungu District in western Kenya, to provide educational and training opportunities for vulnerable people, to break the cycle of poverty".

To achieve our mission KKI pursues 6 key Objectives, viz.

- i. Education: Supporting education for vulnerable children, youth and adults.
- ii. Respect: Embracing local knowledge to find local solutions.
- iii. Empowerment: Enabling our target population to break the cycle of poverty.
- iv. Community: Helping the people of Karungu to help themselves.
- v. Partnership: Working co-operatively with our Kenyan partners.
- vi. Accountability: Showing our supporters how their donations are used.

### Fundraising Appeals

During the year we published two Newsletters and appealed to our supporters for funds to employ a Student Care Worker and more recently to support our First Fruits program. The Student Care Worker's main role is to assist sponsored students to succeed in their studies. This will entail maintaining good relations with students/families and schools, helping sort any family or school

issues and purchasing textbooks as well as record keeping and ensuring students are equipped for study, whilst meeting their contractual sponsorship obligations.

I am delighted to report that 2 of our sponsors have met the ongoing cost of employing the Student Care Worker. We are still seeking support to meet the costs of renting an office and associated administrative costs. This is a major development in our student sponsorship program and we look forward to reporting further on this initiative as it proceeds.

Our second appeal was for funds for our First Fruits program. We are very grateful for the support of the Onetomorrow Foundation that has allowed us to enlarge the program and lift even more women and children out of poverty. Both appeals remain open to receive contributions and any support you can give will be much appreciated.

In conclusion I want to thank all of our supporters for their continued interest in and support for the work of KKI. I especially want to thank our Board members Ann, Rikki, Jacob and Keith for their hard work in ensuring KKI succeeds in Giving young Kenyans a brighter future.

Rob Fisher  
KKI President

The 2021/22 Financial report is available on request.  
Contact Rob on M 0410340512