

Update

Giving Young Kenyans a Brighter Future



Kenya we are back!@#

Greetings to all our Sponsors and Supporters

It was a great feeling to return to Kenya in April 2023. The Covid-19 pandemic and then ill health had prevented us from travelling for 3 years. Visiting Kenya is hard. The journey is long and tiring. It takes almost 40 hours from our home in Mullumbimby NSW to reach our final destination.

In 6 weeks we accomplished so much. Upon arrival we visited 4 of KKI's university students, travelling to different towns by bus, aeroplane and hire car. The students were so happy to see us and so very grateful to their sponsors.

150 kms from Nairobi one of our university students rents a small room, sharing a communal shower and toilet with some 20 others. His room contains a bed, table, chair and gas burner on which he cooks. Clothes hang from a couple of nails in the wall. What a great attitude this young man has. Each day he walks one and a half hours to

and from his university. He says he enjoys the exercise and listening to the different bird sounds as he walks. Vincent is studying to be a secondary school teacher but his goal is to become a university lecturer. I think he just might do so.



We went on to stay at Macalder Mine Babies Home for 2 nights, getting first-hand experience of the issues they face and what is needed to make life better for the children and babies.

Finally we reached our destination in Sori, with plenty still to do. The first task was to interview 3 applicants before selecting Daniel Oswago as our Student Care Worker. Daniel is a trained Social Worker and will handle anything to do with our 43 sponsored students and their families.

We recommenced a feeding program at Agolomouk Primary School and became aware of the desperate need of some children for school uniforms.

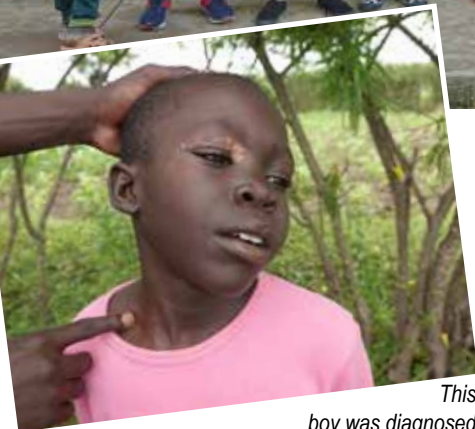
You can read all about these activities and more on the following pages....



*Photos from Top
Being greeted by children
at the Agolomouk Primary School.
Middle: Visiting University student Vincent Orero at
his rental accommodation in Embu.
Bottom: Rikki with Sister Dorcas giving the babies
their daily 10 minute sun therapy.*



Touching base with Fourth Form graduates. They all received a new jacket



This boy was diagnosed with Vitiligo a skin disease that removes the pigment from the skin.

Health Dilemma

The health of our students has become a major focus for us. Disease is common and at different times students have been diagnosed with a range of illnesses such as eye infections, malaria, asthma, influenza, tuberculosis, stomach ulcers and skin diseases.

Medical costs are becoming a constant drain on KKI resources and we are looking at a better way of tackling the issue.

Kenya has an affordable public health scheme, where the whole family, no matter how many individuals, can access medical care. The National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) covers visits to the doctor, a range of tests and medications. But still the people we work with do not access this service due to the level of their poverty.

KKI works with families that live a hand to mouth existence. Joining a medical insurance scheme is a luxury for them.

For a 2022/23 tax deductible receipt donations must be received before 28th June

The hurdle seems to be payment of \$15.60, for the first 3 month's premiums, that is required to join the fund.



Student in hospital with his grandmother who later died from diabetes complications.

KKI's goal is to register each one of our 43 sponsored students' families in NHIF by paying the \$15.60 fee for each family. This will cover the family for 3 months and from the 4th month the family will pay the lower monthly fee of \$5.20.

Daniel our care worker has implemented this system previously with great success and parents defaulting on their payments was rare.

To do this we are asking our supporters to help us raise the \$600 to cover the first 3 month's premiums for our 43 families.

GOAL
All sponsored families are registered in a Health Fund

TARGET
\$600

Student Care Worker Appointed

Employing Daniel as our first paid staff member is a huge step for KKI. One of KKI's generous sponsors is funding all of the costs associated with this position. This means 100% of your donations continue to reach the programs you support.

Daniel's primary role is to support our 43 current students and includes such things as arranging the purchase of textbooks, paying school fees, sending school reports and letters to sponsors, helping with living arrangements, organising doctor's visits and anything else students may need.

Importantly Daniel acts as a mentor to students and liaises with their teachers to resolve any difficulties or problems the student has. In addition he assists students' families with any challenges they face. This could include such things as illness, accommodation, clothing and food.

We were fortunate to rent an office for Daniel at Dala Kiye, an orphanage for HIV children. Dala Kiye has power, security and good internet connectivity so we can talk with Daniel on WhatsApp and reach him on Zoom. With Daniel on the ground in Kenya we have seen how this makes our work so much easier.



A sponsored fathers plea for funds for his son.

Send donations to KKI at Summerland Credit Union BSB: 728728 ACCOUNT: 22314767

Tax deductible receipts for donations available on request. Email treasurer@kenyakidsinternational.org.au



NEED
New school uniforms for poor students.
One uniform costs \$15

GOAL
85 Uniforms

TARGET
\$1275



Feeding and Clothing the Poor

In our last Newsletter we appealed for funds to restart the Feeding Program at Agolomuok Primary School as the area had been suffering a 2 year drought. Children were coming to school without breakfast and lunch.

Whilst good rains have since fallen and healthy crops of maize can be seen everywhere, it will be some months until harvest is possible.

In our final week in Kenya we met with the Principal and School Board and agreed on an appropriate menu of millet porridge and beans for all the students. Thank you to everyone who made this possible.

Our Kenyan committee purchased a term's supply of food and had it delivered to the

school. The school meanwhile added extra security to the Principal's office where the food was stored. We were delighted to see the program in action within a few days, as more than 220 students were fed breakfast and lunch.

Uniforms needed

While at the school we noticed the poor condition of many students' uniforms. In Kenya it is compulsory for all students to wear a uniform.

We discussed the issue with the Principal. He later identified 85 students who needed a new uniform. We plan to buy rolls of material and employ 2 mothers of sponsored students to make the uniforms. This is much cheaper than buying uniforms



from a shop and 2 mothers will earn much needed money for their sewing skills. Every \$15 you give provides a needy child with a school uniform.

Macalder Mines Babies Home Support Worker

With 16 babies and children to care for the Nuns do not have time to play with the children. KKI funds a part-time Support Worker to play with the children instead.

Penina is a single mother struggling to

provide for her own 3 children. She really enjoys playing with the children and is grateful for the income she receives. The Nuns agree the children's behaviour is far better because of the play therapy Penina provides.

Our goal is for Penina to work a 5 day week for the benefit of the children. We only need a further \$40 per month to make a full-time wage. We're looking for one or more people to make a regular monthly donation.



Sr. Dorcas who cares for baby Isaac sends her heartfelt thanks to the many generous donors who rescued this child from certain death. Without the medical treatment your gifts provided there was no hope for this desperately ill child. Isaac is now a healthy one-year old.



NEED
Wage for Penina to play with the children

TARGET
Monthly donation of \$40

A new song in my heart



My name is Japheth Opinde, I love to sing. I was born on 21st July 2002. We are four in our family, Sylvester, Whitie, Moses and I. Unluckily I found my self in a very poor family that led me to live a life of hardship. Both of my parents died in a road accident after attending my uncle's graduation ceremony, I was just 4. After their death, darkness took control of our life as siblings. Life became ever more difficult for the 4 of us living in the family home alone. We lacked what to put on and what to eat. One night unknown people came to our home when we were taking a deep sleep and robbed us of everything that was of value and then set the house on fire. We were on the street, totally destitute and it was only because of a well wisher neighbour that we survived. Our elderly grandmother then took us in. Thus started a life full of poverty and mysterious diseases. My elder brother

Sylvester and sister Whitie hustled to get at least any edible material for us. Sylvester would leave home on an empty stomach early in the morning, worked all day for a pittance. Same way, grandmother also struggled to earn a living, by any means. After some years, she was overwhelmed, she pleaded for help everywhere, but there was no remedy. Eventually we separated. Sylvester and Whitie left home to work as house helps, while I and my brother Moses remained with our grandmother since we were still so young. One day a stranger came to our home, She colluded with my grandmother and tricked me to leave with her saying, "come and play with my children". I never knew where I was being taken to before she revealed it on her way home. I was deceived, as the woman did not have any children.

At this place I remained and the woman was kind, my needs were met, I had food, clothes, and slept in a bed. But often I wept when I recalled the life I'd left behind and wondered how my grandmother and brother Moses was doing. One day it came to my surprise when my older brother Sylvester walked in the door. The woman never told me that she had also adopted him and he was at boarding school when I had first moved in. Then a big question hung on my thoughts – where was my sister Whitie? I joined primary school. From class one I topped my class in every examination. We lived with this woman for 2 years before she died. I was now 8. At that point I felt that it were better if I die too. This woman was the only one who was my protector, she loved me and I started to imagine what kind of hardship that I would now undergo. I prayed that God let me come to Him. Truly God never fails, I again found myself in another well wishers home.

"We were on the street, totally destitute and it was only because of a well wisher neighbour that we survived."

Then I resumed my learning til class seven. Then another unexpected thing happened, the well wisher had to have

surgery on her eyes. It forced me to live alone at her home while she was away. Finally, I reached my final class in primary level. I passed well. Where would I get help to continue my studies in High School. That became my daily song. To the greatest and kind love of God, I found a golden opportunity that many missed, I was to be sponsored by Hurstbridge Church. Verily, God led me in the darkest hour of hopelessness. Today I can testify the greatest things the sponsor has done for me since I joined High School. I can tell how far they have brought me. I am much glad for that merciful deed.

Japheth



<https://youtu.be/R5O-T-VISsY>

Our Sponsor



Ability Consultants

have created a 35 minute video of our Kenyan story. Grab a cuppa, copy the link below and have a listen.

**Sponsor a student
for \$49 a month**