

KENYA KIDS INTERNATIONAL

Annual Report 2022/23



Giving Young Kenyans a Brighter Future

2022/2023 President's Report

Rob and Rikki usually visit Kenya each year but they were unable to do so in 2021 and 2022.

Wigley Visit

We are very grateful to Jan and Ken Wigley from Melbourne, who offered to visit on our behalf. Jan and Ken spent a week in Sori in September 2022. They conducted a letter-writing workshop for our students and visited the homes of 17 students. During their visit they identified some students with health issues and arranged treatment for them.

Food Support

The continuing drought in Kenya meant increased food prices and people doing it tough. KKI decided to provide 25kgs Maize to each of our Kenyan committee members as we did in 2019. Whilst in Sori the Wigley's purchased and distributed the Maize to some very grateful Kenyans.

Following KKI's successful 2022 Christmas appeal, we received sufficient funds to re-commence a Feeding Program at Agolomuok Primary School. We were delighted to visit the school in April at the start of the program. The last feeding program was in 2019, however drought again in 2022 meant many families were struggling with insufficient food.

This year good rains have broken the drought and there is confidence this will mean good yields of corn, the Kenyan's staple crop. The feeding program will continue until school finishes in November 2023. KKI will then assess the situation and decide whether or not to continue the Feeding Program.

Sponsorship

An ongoing concern has been obtaining textbooks for students at the beginning of the school year. Rikki made contact with another Australian charity working in Kenya and arranged for one of its workers to purchase books for our students. The exercise was only partially successful as some books were unavailable and the cost of traveling to a larger town was high.

Five of our students completed secondary school in 2022 and two students gained entry to University. They will commence studies in September 2023. A total of 8 new students were sponsored in 2023 so KKI is now sponsoring 36 students at secondary school and 6 at university.

If students receive a low grade in their Term 3 examinations a Performance Review is conducted to try and identify the problem and resolve the issue. Unfortunately one of our students failed dismally in 2022 and again in Term 1 in 2023. We were unable to ascertain the reason for his poor performance and after discussion with his sponsor a decision was made to cease sponsorship.

Price rises in Kenya have meant increased costs to our sponsorship program. Since 2018 sponsorship was set at \$40 per month, however in 2023 we were forced to increase sponsorship to \$49 per month. We are grateful for all those sponsors who were able to accept the increased cost. All new sponsors now contribute \$49 per month.

Kenya Visit

In April/May 2023 Rikki and I were again able to visit Kenya. This year it was wonderful to see crops of maize growing where previously drought had ravaged the land. Whilst the recent rains have been very welcome, the effect on unmade roads and dirt tracks is terrible. Erosion and washouts made our motorbike transport precarious and sometimes quite dangerous. However we managed to stay safe due to the skill of our drivers, not to mention our many prayers.

We spent a total of 6 weeks in Kenya. In the first week we visited 4 University students in various locations. We met one student in Nairobi and then traveled 150kms north by bus to see another student. After that we flew to Kisumu on Lake Victoria and hired a car to visit two other students in different nearby towns.

All of the students were delighted to see us and expressed their appreciation for us making the effort to visit them. Two students are studying to become secondary school teachers, one is studying for a Bachelor of



Commerce and the other one is studying medicine and plans to become a surgeon. After Kisumu we traveled south by car for 3 hours to our final destination at Sori.

We spent a number of days visiting the 25 students sponsored in the past 3 years. We also held meetings with all of our secondary school students, purchased and distributed textbooks, arranged medical treatment and distributed clothes to a number of students and families.

Student Care Worker

The most important goal we set ourselves was accomplished when we appointed our first employee, Daniel Oswago, to be KKI's Student Care Worker. This process was greatly helped by Fr. Emilio from St. Camillus Mission Hospital where we stay. Prior to our arrival Fr. Emilio posted notices at 3 locations advertising the position. When we arrived there were 16 applications waiting for us. We interviewed the 3 most qualified and appropriate applicants before choosing Daniel.

Fr. Emilio also arranged for us to rent an office for our Student Care Worker at the nearby St. Camillus Dala Kiye Home for Orphans. This is an ideal location providing good Internet connection and full office facilities. Our Student Care Worker spends 3 days per week on the job. His hours of work will eventually be increased to a full-time position when the workload increases. We are very grateful to our donors who have funded this position as an ongoing commitment.

KPC

Another significant event was the establishment of the Karungu Progressive Community CBO (Community Based

Organisation) to replace the Agolomuok Students Support Group (ASSG). KKI has successfully partnered with the ASSG since 2017 to deliver our programs in Kenya. However when the opportunity came to form a CBO the ASSG was disbanded and the CBO took over their responsibilities. Unlike the ASSG the CBO can attract funding from the Kenyan government because of its legal status.

Our Student Care Worker now has responsibility for many tasks previously undertaken by the ASSG. This frees up our volunteers at the CBO to concentrate on other KKI projects. The Student Care Worker maintains a cooperative working relationship with the CBO in managing the student sponsorship program. This arrangement works well for both the CBO and KKI. Each week a Zoom meeting is conducted between the Student Care Worker and Rob and Rikki. This allows us to get immediate answers to our questions and give timely advice and assistance to our Student care Worker.

Macalder Mine Baby Home

The Sisters of Charity Nuns who operate this facility invited Rob and Rikki to visit for 3 days and made us very welcome. Previously KKI has provided a milking cow to provide fresh milk for the children and most significantly funded specialist treatment to save the life of baby Isaac Newton. The Nuns wanted to express their appreciation to KKI for the help we gave.

After baby Isaac Newton's treatment, the doctor involved suggested the Nuns consider building a specialist medical ward to treat babies and pregnant women. One of the Nuns is a doctor and another a Nurse and together they provide a medical clinic each week. The closest hospital is 35 kms away at

Migori where baby Isaac was treated.

The Nuns believe that such a facility will provide a greatly needed service for the Macalder population of some 6,000+ people. Managed effectively a specialist medical ward will generate income to offset the running costs. As a Faith Mission the Nuns currently depend on donations from "well-wishers" to run the Baby Home. Rob undertook to make enquiries on behalf of the Nuns to see if he can attract interest in their proposal.

Milestones

Since inception in 2017 KKI has sponsored 49 orphans or partial orphans to attend secondary school. Only 2 students have failed to complete their studies whilst 6 students currently attend University.

In December 2023 one of our first sponsored students, Sara Wangechi Ojongo will graduate with a Bachelor of Education Science (with IT) and become a secondary school teacher. How exciting is that!

Of the 10 students completing secondary studies in 2023 we believe 6 of them have the ability to gain University entrance. This presents a big challenge for everyone involved in meeting the higher cost of University study.

To all our sponsors, for your consistent support, on behalf of KKI, a grateful THANK YOU! And a similar measure of thanks to my fellow Board members.

Rob Fisher, KKI President

The 2021/22 Financial report is available on request.