

Update

Giving Young Kenyans a Brighter Future

Sara (LHS) in her University room with her room mate



A Ray of Hope

Today, I would like to share with you a deeply personal and inspiring story that sheds light on the challenges faced by families in our community, especially young girls, and the profound impact that sponsorship has.

"I was born in a family of 5, and I occupying the first position. My father absconded when I was 15. After which we remained behind with our mother who therefore became the sole provider in our family. This affected me negatively, as there was nobody to pay for my schooling. The amount my mum used to earn from selling small fish called omena, was very small and couldn't pay my school fees. Sometimes we used to go hungry if mum failed to sell omena. As a young teenager, accessing even basic necessities like sanitary towels wasn't easy, life became unbearable for me and my siblings.

This is the world that many families in our area face, struggling against the weight of

poverty and limited resources leading to early marriages, school drop outs and drug trafficking. With limited access to education and economic opportunities, the cycle of poverty threatened to engulf our family's future too.

However, everything changed when KKI crossed our path with their sponsorship program. Through the generosity and compassion of dedicated sponsors, a ray of hope began to pierce through me and my family. Sponsorship provided me with the opportunity to attend school, all the way from Secondary school onto University level offering a chance to break free from limited education especially for girls.

Today, I stand tall, now graduating as a qualified high school teacher, with second class Honours, Upper Division in Bachelor of Education Science (Mathematics and Physics). I graduate this coming December. This story represents the struggles and resilience of families in our area, particularly young girls who face numerous obstacles on their path to success (Education).

As I conclude this testimony, I invite you to reflect on the impact that your support has on the lives of those in need. Together, let



Above - Sara LHS with 2 of her friends outside the Maseno University.

Below - Sara standing outside her one bedroom accommodation



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Sponsor a University student

Sara's family (L to R) Jack Otieno, Velma Atieno, Sara Wangechi, Martha (mother) and Derek Awour

an unending blessing be yours throughout your journey.

Thank you for being a part of my families journey and for your unwavering commitment to creating a brighter future for me".

With gratitude,
Sarah Wangechi Ojongo.



L to R - Rob, Sara with University friend and Rikki

How good is this!

In 2017 KKI first sponsored six young Kenyans to attend secondary school. Fast forward 7 years and the results are tremendously exciting.

Three of our original students have attended University. And one (see story on page 1) has completed her degree. Whilst the other two continue with their studies, another three students have joined their ranks.

Gerald is currently studying medicine whilst in 2024 Lennox and Mark (pictured above RHS) joined University this year studying computers and agriculture respectively. This is a great result and well worth celebrating. Not only for the students' hard work in

reaching University but also for the generosity of the sponsors making this possible.

KKI's vision is to break the cycle of poverty through education. We aim to give people a hand up, not a hand out. Completing secondary school is a big milestone for our students, especially when most simply cannot afford to do so. Graduating from University opens the door to employment and financial security.

If you have been moved by Sara's story please consider sponsoring a student to University. You will change their life forever. Give Rob a call if you'd like to discuss this on 0409 413 248.

New initiative - Tutoring during holidays

Kenyan students face many challenges: from walking long distances to attend school to incredibly long days. It's not unusual for school to begin classes at 6.30am and finish at 5.30pm.

Another big challenge is a syllabus with 9 or 10 compulsory subjects. If a student is generally performing well but is weak in one subject, it will drag down their overall grade, masking how well they are doing overall.

Unlike Australia, if a student is weak in maths or science they cannot simply drop those subjects and choose humanities subjects instead. This situation is exacerbated by a lack of teachers in specialist subjects and/or the absence of specialist facilities such as



a chemistry laboratory.

Some of the students receiving tutoring in hard subjects during the school holidays

KKI has responded to the problem by providing tutoring for students moving into their final year at secondary school. If a student's marks are low in certain subjects at the end of their 3rd year we give them an opportunity to be tutored for 4 weeks, before entering their final year. KKI pays the fees of the teachers who provide this service. This way we give our students every opportunity to succeed.



Delivery of grain for the feeding program



Student receives reading glasses

Updates



KKI registers families for health care

NHIF is Kenya's National Health Insurance Fund. For just 500 Shillings per month (A\$4.90) a family is covered for medical treatment at a health clinic or local hospital, no matter how many in the family. However to join NHIF a family must first pay a joining fee equivalent to 3 month's premiums = A\$14.76. Most of our Kenyan families cannot afford to join.

To help our sponsored students (and their families) to access medical services, KKI pays the NHIF joining fee on condition the family agrees to continue paying the monthly premium. This system is working well and nearly all our sponsored students' families are now covered by NHIF.

School Uniforms still needed

We reported on our feeding program at Agolomuok Primary School in our previous Newsletter. The program continues to provide breakfast and lunch to an increased number of students. Once news got out there was food at the school, enrolments surged!

Whilst the children's nutritional needs are being met, many still lack suitable school uniforms. Many students have no choice but to wear damaged or worn out clothes and many lack the regulatory school uniform. One can see the pride and confidence in those children wearing smart new clothes.

We have two mothers of sponsored students with swing machines and the skills to make school uniforms. By buying rolls of cloth and employing the women to make uniforms, we get two important wins.

The uniforms are cheaper than buying them from a retail store and we provide valuable income for two of our Kenyan families.

We welcome your help in making this project succeed. Please remit your gift to KKI's account at Summerland Bank, BSB 728-728 Account Number 22314767. Thank you for your support.

Sponsors



Ability Consultants

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



YOUTUBE.COM Interview with Rob and Rikki Fisher, Kenya Kids International Our CEO, David Ackling-Jones, caught up with Rob and Rikki Fisher, founders of Keny...

<https://youtube/R50-T-VISsY>

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