

Update



Clinical officer assessing a family's medical needs

Medical Outreach @ Agolo-muok Primary School

KKI works in a remote part of Kenya and access to specialist medical services is extremely limited. Near our office in Kenya is a school for the deaf. Last year Rikki spoke with the Principal, Millicent. Rikki was disturbed to learn none of the children had been medically assessed to see whether their deafness could be treated and possibly reversed.

Back in Australia Rikki proposed that KKI send a medical team into Agolo-muok Primary School to check on the children's ear health. Our Student Care Worker arranged for a medical team from St Camillus Hospital to visit the school during our stay in July 2025.

The focus of the visit was ear health but the children's general level of health was also assessed. A total of 101 children aged from 3 – 8 years old were examined.

- 51 children had some form of tinea in either their head, groin or feet.
- 5 children had malaria and 2 needed to be hospitalised.



- 12 children had ear problems.

Ear problems ranged from excessive wax to infection and some treatment was given on the day. The 12 children were subsequently seen by an ENT specialist visiting St Camillus from out of the area and 10 children were successfully treated. The remaining 2 children need to visit another ENT specialist far away, with access to particular medical equipment. Our Student Care Worker will take the children to see this specialist as soon as possible.

Above: ENT specialist following up children with ear issues. Below: Testing for Malaria



KKI - Giving Young Kenyans a Brighter Future

“Light at the end of the tunnel”



By Devota Kingu

Students and parents are experiencing a difficult challenge in life, more so for the ones coming from a humble background. I personally represent this kind of family.

Back then before sitting for my class eight final exams, I had to ask myself so many questions that no one could answer; one of the stressful questions was, how to receive my high school fees? I did not lose hope because of such questions, I had to apply all my efforts on studies. I studied extra hard and passed my exams well. After my final exams I heard of KKI sponsorship, I applied and emerged as one of the lucky ones, thanks to KKI.

After being one of the KKI students, my lifestyle suddenly changed and I started seeing light at the end of a tunnel. I joined my high school well. In high school life, I received all that I could need for my studies, that is, school fees, books more so the revision books that improved my studies. I am so grateful to KKI. You did

your best when I was in high school to ensure that I kept it up. You even travelled to Kenya and gave us advice, what a nice family to have! Thanks to Mama Rikki, always there for me, whenever I am experiencing a difficult situation like diseases.

Right now I am at Alupe University pursuing a degree in Medical Laboratory science. Mama Rikki has not stopped her generosity and loyalty to me, KKI provides me with upkeep for food and personal cares, besides this they pay my school fees at the right time, accommodation fees as well. I am very grateful to KKI.

KKI provides assistance to the clever but needy students who are willing to brighten their future lives. KKI is a good organisation that motivate poor/needy, clever students to know that education is not for the wealthy students only. KKI give us opportunity to enjoy what life can provide us the best. Thumbs up to KKI organisation, I am willing to be one of the sponsors in future so that I become an important person to a needy family. GREAT WORK KKI.

Celebration !

We are delighted to report 3 students have now graduated from university and are employed in their chosen career. These students were part of our original intake of 6 students in 2017. All completed secondary school and 3 went on to study at university.

Vincent, our most recent graduate, obtained a Bachelor of Education (Arts) and is teaching at a primary school in a Nairobi slum. Sharon graduated with a

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Vincent with his mother at his graduation

Bachelor of Commerce and manages leases for a company based in Nairobi. Our first Graduate, Sara, obtained a Bachelor of Education Science (Mathematics and Physics) and is teaching at a secondary school near her home town.

Sponsorship is a life changing experience. Not many will go to university but just completing secondary school is a dream come true for our students. KKI looks for bright needy students to support. Students come from poor families who cannot afford to pay the school fees but students must demonstrate academic ability to be considered.

Because of the generous support of our sponsors a total of 72 students have now attended secondary school. 1 in 3 students completing secondary school have gained entry to university. KKI currently supports 29 students at secondary school and 21 students at university.

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Ann being welcomed at Agolo-mouk Primary School

Kenya, a Land of Surprises

By Ann Backhaus

I've never travelled to Africa, so it was difficult to know what to expect. For me, Kenya was a land of surprises.

Let's start with Ugali – a Kenyan staple. Ugali is a thick maize, or corn, porridge. You shape it into a ball in the palm of your hands and eat it. I grew up in a small Wisconsin village, surrounded by cows and corn, so I ate plenty of corn meal. No yellow, coarse corn meal I ate as a child looked or tasted like the white, sticky Ugali of Kenya. I love Ugali and was graciously taught how to make it. I may take the Ugali Recipe to Wisconsin for Christmas this year!



Father John teaching Ann how to make Ugali

At the Macalder Mine Baby Home we took part in the beautiful chaos of toddlers and met the newest addition – a 3-day old boy found deserted in high grass. At the Agolo-mouk school, we arrived to see the feeding program for primary students in action. We then participated in the Ear, Nose, & Throat Medical Clinic – a first, sponsored by KKI. The din of the medical checks rivaled the songs coming from the secondary students' classroom, where students practiced dancing and singing for an upcoming competition.

I was especially keen to be active in the Tertiary Program, which Rikki had transitioned to me. With a large cohort of



One of the children at the Macalder Baby Home

I've been involved with KKI for several years. I've seen photos and heard updates. Actually seeing KKI programs in action was a real eye opener. To give you an idea of what I mean, imagine you only know about flowers through a book – photos and text. Then, you step into a real garden, where you are surrounded by flowers – their smells and how they feel. It's a very different experience.

Our daily schedules were busy. We managed to participate in almost all of the KKI programs.



Above, University training in progress. Left, Ann with Student Care Worker - Judith students (21 in universities around Kenya), we decided to hold our first in-person workshop. Students learned about the new academic guidelines and processes that KKI has put into place. The older students shared tips with the first years, and the students wrote letters. I loved meeting



My laboratory experience @ St. Camillus Hospital

By Wycliffe Odhiambo Saya
BSc Medical Laboratory Science
 SEKU

Spending my clinical rotation at St. Camillus Mission Hospital was an experience I'll never forget. As a first-year Medical Laboratory Science student from South Eastern Kenya University, walking into the lab for the first time filled me with both nerves and excitement. But very quickly, I felt at home — guided by dedicated professionals who made sure I didn't just observe, but actively learned.

I worked in several areas of the lab including phlebotomy (that's interaction with patients drawing blood from them and requesting for other samples used for diagnosis), staining, sample labelling, centrifugation and data submission. I was also trusted with tasks in media preparation — making culture media for microbiology, which gave me a deeper appreciation for accuracy and sterile techniques. One of my proudest moments was preparing smears and identifying malaria parasites under the microscope — a task that brought theory to life.

I even had moments where patients or colleagues would refer to me as

“doctor,” and while I humbly smiled each time, it reminded me of the respect and responsibility that comes with this profession. Those small moments really motivated me.

Through this rotation, I didn't just learn technical skills — I learned discipline, teamwork, responsibility, and the real impact of lab work on patients' lives. I'm incredibly thankful to the hospital team for welcoming and teaching me, and to my sponsors, I am deeply grateful for making this opportunity possible.

This experience strengthened my passion for medical laboratory science and reminded me that even behind the scenes, we play a vital role in saving lives. I now look forward to growing, returning and one day serving even more fully, not as a student, but as a qualified professional.

I'm now heading into my second year at South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU), more motivated and focused than ever. Thank you once again KKI for making this journey possible. Your support means everything to me.

the students – whom I'd only known through WhatsApp messages. We also visited a university campus and several students' homes. I was reminded of how little we actually 'need' to make a house a home. Building a relationship with the Student Care Worker, Judith, was also very important to me. Judith does amazing work 'on the ground' for not only student sponsorship but also many KKI programs.

My husband Peter, who joined as KKI's photographer and videographer, has captured amazing images of our two-week KKI immersion. The photos of the KKI programs and our experiences there with Rikki and Rob hold fond memories for us. I have a new understanding of Kenya



Peter making a video of a student to send to his sponsor

and Kenyans that I hope I can put into play going forward. I've had an amazing opportunity to 'walk in the flower garden' I mentioned earlier – to really experience KKI.



Ann with a student checking over her letter to her sponsor

KKI and our Kenyan partners wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Your support makes a huge difference in Giving Young Kenyans a Brighter Future. Thank you

Unto Us a Child is Born

