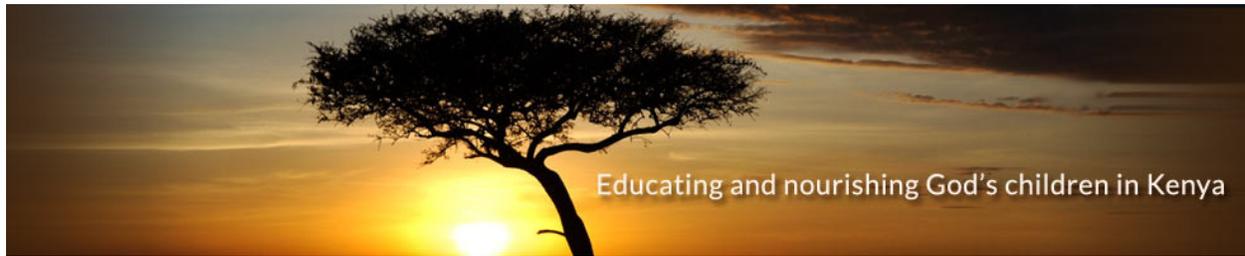


# KIJABE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND



September 2017

Dear Friends and Supporters of Kijabe Childrens Education Fund:

We are writing to you again today to bring you up to date on our work with children and schools in Kenya, to introduce you to 2 of the 1500 students we seek to serve, and to ask for your continued help and partnership.

This month, as students in America are heading back to school, Kenyan children are also starting. For them it is the third term of the 2017 school year. School is a place of safety and hope for them, an escape from difficult circumstances in their lives. This is an especially important term for 8th graders, as they prepare for the important national exam in November—an exam that will determine their chances to continue in secondary school, and hopefully move ahead to fulfill their dreams.

Our focus at KCEF has always been on the “poorest of the poor” children and families—children who have almost no hope without a “hand up”. Two of our six partner schools are located in the Kibera slum of Nairobi. And the students in these schools are indeed among the poorest in the country, and in all of Africa.

Kibera is the largest urban slum in Africa—a million people crammed into one square kilometer. People come to Kibera from more rural areas seeking work and opportunity, but usually find neither. Instead they end up trapped there, with little chance for a future. The average family income is about \$2 per day. This means that most families have difficulty feeding their children, much less affording even modest school fees. This problem is heightened by the poor rains in 2017, and rapidly rising food prices. It is estimated that 2 million people in Kenya are at risk of serious hunger this year.



Ravine, Grade 7

Deep in the heart of Kibera is a wonderful beacon of light and support, Blessed Children's Centre (BCC). BCC is one of our partner schools, founded and led by Mrs. Seline Munyasa. The school currently has 275 students in preschool through grade 8. In addition to solid teaching and mentoring by committed teachers, BCC also provides 2 meals a day for all of the students.

Among those students is 12-year-old **Ravine**, who is in grade 7. Ravine has a ten-minute walk to school, through a maze of tin and mud shacks, with raw sewage often running at his feet. His father left home some time ago, and his mother has

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great difficulty in finding any kind of work to support and feed her children. It is a hard and stark life for Ravine. Nonetheless, he maintains a positive spirit. He is called “chopi” (clever) by his classmates. He is always the first to volunteer to lead the classwork on a makeshift blackboard. Ravine hopes to be a pilot someday, to see the world. Right now, his whole world is Kibera. He has seen little else, even of Nairobi.

**Eunice** is also a 7th grader at BCC, an outstanding student. She especially loves math, and is studying whenever she can. Her dream is to qualify for a good secondary school, attend university, and then go on to medical school. But right now, Eunice lives with her mother and two young siblings in a very small shack in Kibera. There is little room to move around, much less study, and little available light. Her dreams seem very far away, but she is committed to working hard to achieve them. Eunice remains upbeat and positive, believing that God will bless her hard work and high goals.



Eunice, Grade 7

BCC is indeed a sign of hope and promise for 275 students like Ravine and Eunice. KCEF is able to partner with this school to provide:

- assurance of 2 meals each day at school
- books and teaching materials
- supplement for very low teachers’ salaries
- uniforms/equipment for outstanding sports teams
- desks and chairs and expanded classrooms
- secondary school scholarships for 8th grade graduates

Ravine and Eunice are just two of 1500 students at 6 KCEF partner schools in Kenya. All of those students desperately need our help, and we are committed to do all that we can to help them achieve a bright and successful future.

Your support now will help assure that we can continue and expand our love and support for “the least of these”— this year and into the future. Thank you so much for your careful consideration. Please keep Ravine, Eunice and the 1500 others in your daily thoughts and prayers.

Craig Hammon and Nancy Mering  
On behalf of the KCEF board

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*“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these...you did for me.” Matthew 25:40*