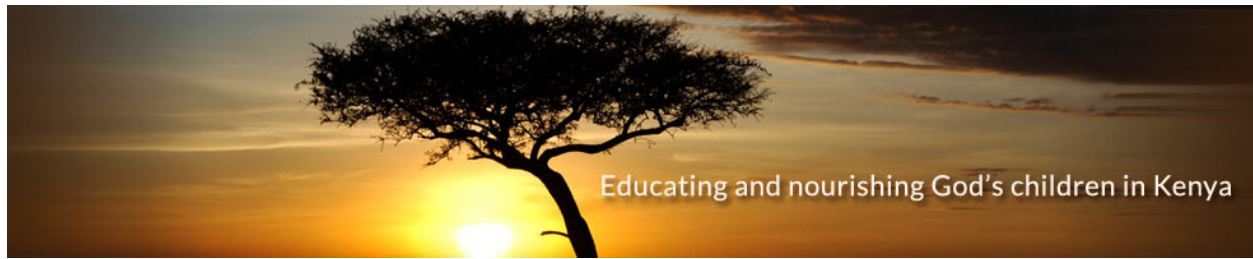


KIJABE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND



August 2019

Dear friends of KCEF,

It is an exciting time of year for the millions of students in America who are returning to school this month. They are filled with new ideas, hopes and dreams of future possibilities. It is also a time of new beginnings for students in Kenya, who are returning from August break to begin Term 3 of 2019. There are over 1,700 students in our six partner primary schools, and we are sponsoring over 100 secondary school students.

These children are also filled with hopes and dreams, but in the context of extreme poverty, dangerous neighborhoods and much uncertainty—even fear—about the future.

In February, four of our board members again had the joy of seeing so much progress at each school. We met with a number of parents and guardians of the secondary students. We continue to receive regular updates and progress reports throughout the year by email, text and phone consultations. Our Kenyan colleague, Kariuki Waweru, visits each school on a regular basis.



We celebrate that:

- Each school is growing and thriving.
- Approximately 13,500 meals are served per week (typically porridge for breakfast and maize and beans for lunch).
- Facilities have been improved and upgraded (with a long way to go).
- New teaching/learning materials are being used in conjunction with the revised Kenyan national curriculum.
- Much needed teacher training is proving to be very effective.
- Virtually all of our 100+ secondary students are doing well and are on-track to graduate on time.
- Each school has active teams in athletics, music, debate, quiz, and more. They have done very well in competitions this year.
- There is great excitement and progress in the use of over 130 One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) computers, and 30 new laptops that have been added (a rare opportunity in any Kenyan primary school).



In the midst of all of this good news, we are continually reminded of the stark realities facing the children we serve:

- Most come from indigent single parent families, or are orphans.
- Extreme poverty makes it very hard for parents to pay even the low school fees.
- In Kenya 1.5 million children do not attend school at all.
- Only about 50% of Kenyan children will graduate from primary school and move on to secondary.
- Of the poorest children, only 11% will achieve a secondary school diploma.
- The possibility of university study or a decent job are a distant hope.

But that is exactly why we serve these schools, these teachers, these children in these places. We have always focused on the poorest of the poor. That is our mission and calling. These children would have no hope without a “hand up” from someone like you.



David Kinuthia Mbugua
St. Marys Boys School, Form 4
Gentle Bells Primary School

Our commitment with you is to help provide the **opportunity** they might not otherwise have to:

- attend a solid and safe school and learn from loving, committed teachers;
- have at least one good, nutritious meal a day, which most do not receive at home;
- be exposed to computer technology that is very rare for any Kenyan student;
- dream seriously about secondary school, university and a meaningful job.

We are in the **opportunity business** for over 1700 students. We need your help. There is so much to do, so many more children to serve, so many dreams to turn into reality. Please consider joining us again this year to provide an opportunity for a child in Kenya. We are doing our best to be a voice for the voiceless. Will you also be the voice for a Kenyan child who urgently needs your help?

Thank you so much for prayerfully and carefully considering what your part might be. Except for one very part-time person in Kenya, we are an all-volunteer organization. Everything you give goes directly to the children and their schools.

With deep appreciation,

Craig Hammon and Nancy Mering
On behalf of the KCEF board

We have just been informed of a generous matching grant of \$13,500.

Everything you give by December 31, 2019 will help us reach that total and receive the matching funds.

KCEF BOARD

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