

KIJABE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND



November 2018

Dear KCEF friends and partners,

You know that our mission is to provide the best possible education and opportunity to poor children in Kenya. To that end, KCEF partners with six schools and programs in two huge slums in Nairobi, the large Thika slum, and the Rift Valley village of Longonot. There are some different dynamics among those schools and locations, but economic instability and poverty are the constants. The average income of those fortunate enough to find work is just \$1.50 per day.

26% of Kenya's seven million children under five are stunted in growth due to malnutrition.

From its beginning, KCEF understood the need to help the schools provide daily lunch and then, later, also breakfast. Typically, that is porridge for breakfast and maize or rice and beans—sometimes with vegetables—for lunch. For the majority of the children these are the only meals they will have most days. Students reported better energy and focus for learning from these meals; teachers observed the improved performance as well as increased attendance—both essential for KCEF to fulfill its mission of *educating and nourishing God's children in Kenya*.



Cognitive brain function is linked to food stability and security in a child's life. Healthy meals produce better brain development and greater possibility of academic success.

Sharon is 12 years old and in class 5 at Kicoshep School. "I live in Kibera slum with my mother who struggles every day to give us food. My father died of AIDS when I was very young. When I started at Kicoshep we learned the school provided food for us every day—and books as well. Without food we would have been ill and perhaps died. Sometimes we still have no food at home. Kicoshep also helped my mother start a business so she can support us better."

KIJABE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND
6 MAPLE STREET, ESSEX, MA 01929
WWW.KCEFUND.ORG

Food costs in Kenya are estimated to have increased by as much as 25% in the past year due to drought and higher taxes and fuel costs.

Jared is in class 4 at Mawewa School in the Mathare slum. When he came to Mawewa the teachers saw the early signs of malnutrition. He was at great risk and had almost no supervision at home. One Friday after school his teacher discovered Jared digging through trash for scrap metal to sell for money to buy a bit of food to tide him over until breakfast at school on Monday. The two healthy meals at Mawewa give Jared the basics he needs for daily nutrition, and keep him going through the school days and overnight.

In the slums and rural area where KCEF students live, the unemployment rate can be 50% or higher, making it almost impossible for parents to provide any food, much less healthy food, for their children.



Do you see why KCEF needs and depends on your help? The school feeding programs are fundamental—essential to improving the lives and prospects for these children—not just a nice add on to the academic program. Imagining sending our own children off to school without breakfast or any hope of food throughout the day compels us to continue and to expand the feeding programs at all the partner schools.

Just continuing the current level of support for our partner schools will cost 25% more this year to keep pace with the increasing cost of basic staple foods in Kenya. We also want to identify the most vulnerable students and provide food for them to take home on weekends. Most of the schools are helping parents with income-generating programs for themselves, and we want to support and expand those programs, too.

Feeding breakfast and lunch to over 1500 hungry Kenyan children is possible because you have shared our understanding of that need and the vision of the deep, lasting benefits of meeting it with the simple fare of porridge, rice and beans. Can we count on you to continue—even expand—your support in order to nourish more students' bodies and minds for more days?

With gratitude and hope--

Craig Hammon and Nancy Mering, on behalf of the KCEF board

KCEF BOARD

Beth Cairns
Richard Cairns
David Carlson
David Friedrich

Craig Hammon
Margot Hammon
David Mering
Nancy Mering

Jennie Paglierani
Anne Pelikan
Alyson Steg
Tim Ziegenhals