

KIJABE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND



September 2018

Dear Friends and supporters of KCEF:

The third term of the school year in Kenya is about to begin. Students will finish the academic year in November, and 8th graders will take the qualifying exam for secondary school.

As you know, KCEF partners with 6 primary schools/programs educating 1500 students in slums and poor rural areas that are in and around Nairobi. A few years ago, as the first classes of students in these schools were completing their education, we recognized the opportunity to support them so they could continue on to secondary school. Graduation from secondary school is an important step toward university, professional employment and opportunities that can influence Kenya's future.

Working with our Kenyan partners, we have learned that:

- only half of primary school students in Kenya persist through 8th grade graduation
- girls are more likely to drop out than boys
- only half of primary school graduates are able to go on to secondary school

We began working with our partner schools to assure higher scores on the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exam, which is the national qualifying test for secondary school. Virtually all of "our" 8th grade graduates have achieved the minimum scores needed to go on to secondary school with many of them receiving high and outstanding scores.

However, students often need more than just strong scores on the KCPE exam since the best secondary schools are boarding schools and fees are much higher. Most of the families cannot afford to send their children for further education.

In light of this, a few years ago we began a program to provide scholarship support for 15 students to attend secondary school. Each student receives partial support from KCEF with the understanding that it is important for the family to contribute as much as they can to help support their child's education. Fifteen students grew to 70 students in 2017, and then to 100 this year. We hope to continue to expand to 120 in 2019.



One of these students is 15 year old Laurin. Laurin is a very strong student who graduated from primary school in 2017. She had no hope to go on with her studies until she was offered a scholarship from KCEF. She now attends Mawewa Secondary School in Form 1 (9th grade).

Laurin is the only child of a single mother living in the Mathare slum of Nairobi. Her mother, Millicent, goes out each day seeking work as “house help” in an estate area of Nairobi. Many times she returns home having found no work. And those are the most difficult times for the family. When she is able to find work, she earns a very small wage that is barely enough to care for their

basic needs. Despite these challenges, Laurin excelled in primary school and is now thriving in boarding school. She enjoys playing netball and handball on the girls’ teams. Her grades are very good and she has many friends. We feel privileged to be a part of supporting Laurin’s success.

There are over 95 other students with similar stories, and we are committed to each one for all 4 years of their secondary education. At the same time, we want to add up to 20 more students next year so we can offer as many students as possible the opportunity to broaden their horizons and reach for their dreams.



We hope that you will consider helping to support these special students through KCEF scholarships. The average KCEF scholarship per student is \$400 for the year (a little more than a dollar a day). Any gift toward supporting these scholarships is deeply appreciated by us, and especially by these special children.

Thank you for your careful and prayerful consideration.

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

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