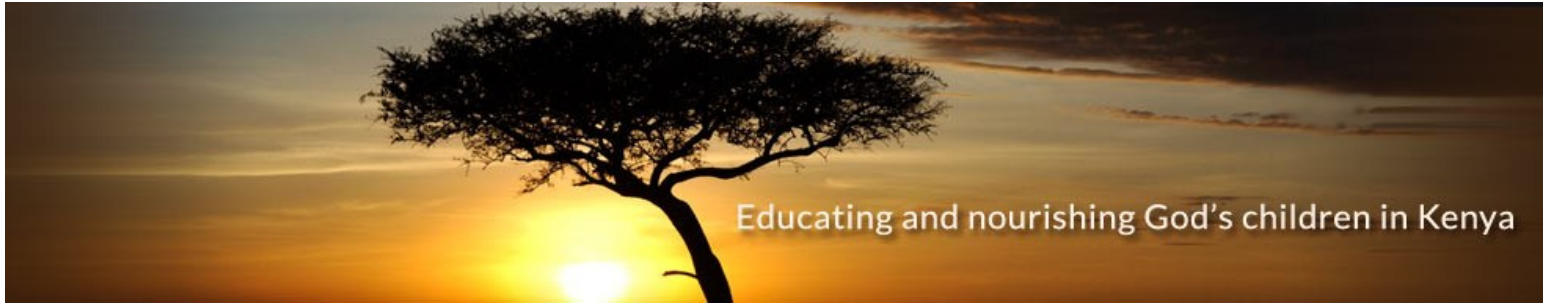


Kijabe Children's Education Fund



January 2021

Dear Friends and Partners of KCEF:

Here is a brief news update as we begin the New Year.

We are delighted to report that, thanks to many of you, we were able to meet—and surpass—our December goal of raising \$14,000 to qualify for a foundation matching grant. Thank you! We have already received the matching funds and have wired them on to our partners in Kenya.

In more very good news, the Kenyan government has reopened all schools. Our KCEF partner schools began welcoming students back on January 4, when ALL teachers returned. Enrollment numbers are growing daily—one school had 97% of its students back on the first day, illustrating just how eager students are to return. Within the next week or so, we expect the total number of students to grow to over 1800. These students are so excited to be back in a supportive, loving—and safe—learning environment. In addition, over 120 of our sponsored secondary students have now returned to their boarding schools.

In addition to supporting teaching and learning, the funds we have just sent to Kenya are making it possible for all KCEF schools to again provide each student with porridge in the morning and a nutritious cooked lunch—care the children sorely missed for nine months.

Current Kenyan protocols require masks and social distancing. To meet these requirements and solve the problem of tight spaces in several of our schools, we are helping some of them rent adjacent space on a temporary basis. Since students must often sit three and four to a desk, we are also helping with the purchase of more desks to allow for the required social distancing, an unexpected but unavoidable expense.



Enjoying porridge and bread.



Back to school!

Technology we have provided with your help continues to play an important part in KCEF schools. Students are doing so well on the 150 computers we have placed. This technology is very rare in any Kenyan primary schools and has been received enthusiastically. Whenever we visit the schools, it is commonplace to see several students leaning in and working together around a single laptop. It is amazing that many of these devices have held up for six years or more. We have just purchased 45 additional laptops to distribute soon and hope to purchase more in the year ahead (at a cost of \$250 each, with curriculum loaded on).

We are so proud of the leaders and teachers who partnered with us in the dark period of 2020. They never lost their passion for their students and found creative ways to keep reaching out to them.

The Covid-19 situation in Kenya remains unclear. Cases and deaths are increasing each week, but are apparently nowhere near the catastrophic levels predicted nine months ago. While reporting is spotty and data not very reliable, we remain cautiously optimistic. Vaccines are on the way! Not enough, of course, but they will be a start.

So we begin this new year of ministry with deep gratitude to God for His provision and to you for your support in so many, many ways. If you have ideas, questions, or concerns, please reply to this email. One good friend of KCEF recently sent us some great information on an enhanced “porridge pancake” from Ethiopia. We welcome your thoughts.

With deep gratitude and appreciation,

Craig Hammon

Craig Hammon, for the KCEF board, schools and 1800 students

OUR VISION

Kijabe Children's Education Fund is dedicated to providing educational opportunities to children in rural Kenya and the slums of the city of Nairobi. Through feeding programs, school sponsorship, and project support,

KCEF is helping to keep its students fed in body, mind and spirit.

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