

# Kijabe Children's Education Fund



March 23, 2021

Dear KCEF Friends and Partners:

We have great news to share about a matching grant with the potential to transform our work in Kenya. First, a quick refresher on KCEF's history and mission—history in which many of you are playing a part!

For 15 years now, KCEF has been serving schools and students in Kenya, starting with a small commitment to Gentle Bells School in rural Longonot. Founded by Esther Waweru, who has a great vision for her community, Gentle Bells began in a ramshackle hut with a preschool for 25 little ones. Over the years, with KCEF's partnership, the school purchased land, constructed a good, solid classroom building, and expanded through grade 8. Enrollment has increased nearly tenfold to 220, including 19 boarders. ALL—one hundred percent—of Class 8 graduates go on to secondary school with scholarship help from KCEF.

Esther's dream is being fulfilled!

When our board felt called to serve more Kenyan children, we decided to focus on the "poorest of the poor"—those, like the children of Gentle Bells, who have very little chance to even finish primary school.

We began to meet visionary people who were founding schools in the Nairobi slums, including Kibera and Mathare, considered to be the worst in Africa. Despite abysmal living and health conditions and scant reasons for hope, faithful individuals like Esther are trying to make a difference there:

Anne Owiti, Kicoshep School

Seline Munyasa, Blessed Children's Centre

Pastor Jenipher Jomo, Gospel Victory Academy

Irene Waweru, Karem School

Ajema Kikuyu, Mawewa School

Pastor Boniface Gathuo, Penuel Transforming

Aided by KCEF support, each of these schools has grown in size and quality, adding grades each year through Grade 8, which makes them complete primary schools. As their partners, we have provided:

- ◆ more classrooms for growth
- ◆ more desks and chairs
- ◆ desperately needed books and teaching materials
- ◆ tanks for clean water for drinking and cooking
- ◆ support for grossly underpaid teachers
- ◆ support for two nutritious meals at school each day
- ◆ laptop computers, available in only a very few schools in Kenya



Though these schools and programs have grown rapidly to involve over 1800 of “the least of these,” we realized making a long term difference requires providing opportunities to go to secondary school for families who could never afford school fees, books, or uniforms. We are now mentoring and sponsoring over 120 promising primary school graduates in secondary schools and even universities.

Much has been accomplished, but there is much more opportunity in this country where only 11% of children from the poorest families ever complete secondary school. We still have “promises to keep, and miles to go before we sleep.”

So we are excited to have just been informed of a generous MATCHING GRANT of \$25,000 from a foundation that loves this work and wants to see it impact even more children. To receive this grant and move to a new level of impact, we need your help to raise matching funds or leave the grant on the table. Every gift given through June 30 will count toward this match, so please think about what you might do.



- ◆ you can go to [KCEFund.org](http://KCEFund.org) and donate online
- ◆ or you can send a check to KCEF, 6 Maple Street, Essex, MA 01929



The dollar goes a long way in the Nairobi slums, so whatever you give will have a lasting impact on kids in Kenya, for whom the future would otherwise look grim. Together, let's give them some life and hope!

Thankfully,  
*Craig Hammon*

Craig Hammon, Board Chair  
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## 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.

**Mailing Address:** Kijabe Children's Education Fund  
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Essex, MA 01929

**Contact Us:** [www.KCEFund.org](http://www.KCEFund.org)