

Our Kenyan Kids

Helping young Kenyans - one child at a time



Mission Statement

Our Kenyan Kids supports Children and Youth affected by poverty and or HIV/AIDS, in Kenya and elsewhere, by providing education, training, humanitarian aid, and nurturing relationships, one child at a time.



Board of Directors 2017-2018

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Our Kenyan Kids thanks the countless Canadian and Kenyan Volunteers who ensure our programs and events are successful.



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Spring 2017 Newsletter

Successful RTO Grant Application Lends Support For Substantial Improvements at Kambui School

We are pleased to announce a new partnership with The Retired Teachers of Ontario (RTO/ERO), an organization of retired teachers and others who worked in the education field. RTO/ERO provides its members with comprehensive health and travel insurance plans, a travel program, and acts as an advocate for retirees, seniors, children and active educators.

Each year this organization provides financial assistance to a number of education related and/or community projects at the local, provincial or world level. Last spring the local RTO/ERO Leeds and Grenville District 48 selected an application from

Our Kenyan Kids to submit at the provincial level. We are excited to announce that the Provincial Project Service to Others Committee has chosen our submission on behalf of Kambui School for the Hearing Impaired. We have received a cheque for \$4000!

Project funds from The Retired Teachers of Ontario will address three areas of need at Kambui School.

Library: Funds will be used to enrich the education of students by providing books and other learning materials for students and teachers.

Playground: Funds will be used to replace unsafe playground equipment with repaired and/or different

equipment which will enable not only younger students to play with friends at recess or after school, but older students to benefit from physical activity and social interactions with peers as well.

Dormitories: Mattresses are thin, and mattress covers are stained, soiled or threadbare. Funds will be used to begin to improve the health, well-being and comfort of students residing in the dormitories. Fifty new mattresses and mattress covers will be purchased with funds from this project.

Watch for updates about this 2017 project at Kambui School for the Hearing Impaired.



Above

2016 Provincial Service to Others District 48 Grant Recipient Representing the Kambui School for the Hearing Impaired in Kenya. Carolyn Matheson and Donna McMillan (Board members Our Kenyan Kids) with Martin Higgs (Past Pres. RTO), Dave Huether (Pres. District 48), Lisa Leroux (Secretary District 48)

Upper and Lower Right

Dormitory Improvements and New Mattresses



Support from Retired Teachers of Ontario Supports Kenyan School

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Partner Update:

Thanks to the generous grant from the Retired Teachers Federation of Ontario, Our Kenyan Kids has been able to make some much needed upgrades to Kambui School. On February 1st, 50 new mattresses and covers were delivered. The entire school gathered together with great excitement to receive this generous donation.

"The first 4 beneficiaries of the mattress poured out their heart with excitement and promised to work very hard," explained Winnie Adoyo, Administrator for Our Kenyan Kids in Nairobi.

Next they will be looking at the repair and replacement of some of the playground equipment. The Canadian team is hoping to have some pictures to share with everyone when they return of the new play structure.

Our Kenyan Kids Welcomes New Chair to the Board

Jan Murray Returning to Kenya in March 2017

Well the 2017 Project Experience Trip team is almost ready to leave, bags are packed - or at least we have begun to put things together. We are in the process of packing up donations and gathering last minute items to take with us to share with the children as we visit the projects.

It's been a difficult year for many organizations, and Our Kenyan Kids was not spared.

Donations are down and although fundraising efforts continue, each month we must face the reality that we need to find more ways to raise money; more ways to help.

We are hoping to be able to share those ideas with you when we return and present our findings at our wrap up meeting.

Currently Our Kenyan Kids is looking for a part-time volunteer bookkeeper as well as accepting

applications for board of director positions. If either of these opportunities sound interesting to you, please contact us.

Watch for updates on our Facebook page and be sure to come see us, view the photographs and hear the stories upon our return.

Jan Murray



Making a Difference On the Ground In Kenya

Submitted by Winnie Adoyo, Our Kenyan Kids Project Administrator

In a world with many countries facing huge challenges of poverty, corruption, illiteracy, insecurity, unemployment, bad governance, among other vices, Kenya has not been an exception. More often than not, the children in these countries are neglected, ignored, abused and tend to suffer more in many aspects of life. It is very unfortunate though that the plight of children in our society has never been a top priority for religious, political, economic and entire community's consideration. One question that has been lingering on my mind for a long time is "can I ever make a difference and bring any change to this situation?" I finally found the answer to my question and it is a big YES.! This happened when I joined OKK trust founded on "the starfish story". I had heard of this story before but when I was reminded of it through Our Kenyan Kids it made so much sense to me. I may not have been there long enough to learn everything, but my greatest discovery is that my acts of charity and your acts of charity, however big or small will always make a difference. I have interacted with wonderful people who are the project partners, friends and the management in different projects under Our Kenyan Kids. These include; the children's homes, the selenium immune booster project, the tailoring project and scholarship project and I must say it has been an interesting journey since for me it's an opportunity to combine my passion and work at the same time. I consider it a great privilege and honor to serve as Our Kenyan Kids Projects Coordinator.



Join us for our Annual Garage Sale ~ June 9th and 10th, 2017

Contact Linda James (613) 342-7591 if you have any items which need to be picked up for the sale.
Items may also be dropped off at Wall St. United Church.

Partner Updates

A Snap Shot of What's Happening In Kenya from Winnie Adoyo

Gathaithi Orphans and Vulnerable Children's Centre

Our Kenya Kids, through one of our Kenyan board members Dan Kariuki, hosted a medical camp that reached out to 178 residents of Kiambu from both Gathaithi OVC and the neighboring community, with keen attention being given to the children present. Some of the clients who came for the camp had very serious illnesses and were referred to nearby health facilities for further medical attention. The community of Gathaithi really appreciated this act of love from Our Kenyan Kids and Covenant Medical Outreach (C.M.O) from Phoenix Arizona. On the same day, Gathaithi received 5 balls as well as a water filter, all which will be used well.

Through the Chairman of the Kenyan board, Steve Lombo, OKKids has previously partnered with Enwealth organization to support the vision of Our Kenyan Kids. This is the same organization that organized a Christmas party for Gathaithi in December 2016. Enwealth, this time has given us 3boxes of sanitary towels (Always) designated for the girls at Gathaithi.

The Grandmothers Project

Itabua PLWAs group- This group has been doing a tree nursery project as an income generating activity but recently the drought has caused the project to deteriorate due to lack of water. They still hope to carry on with this project when the rains come.

The group also has plans to start up water packaging and selling. The process of doing this has not been easy since they need authorization from different stakeholders and the authorities involved. They have been a little hesitant though to brand the water as "Itabua PLWAs" for fear of discrimination. Winnie had a discussion about this and other things and it was agreed they can use the group name without putting the word PLWAs to avoid discrimination.

Wanja- is a blind lady and a member of this group, who lost her sight from using an overdose of antiretrovirals. She is separated from her husband and is now back in her paternal home. She has been selling tea leaves and trying to fundraise from friends and relatives to try and put up a house for herself and daughter on a small piece of land which her father has offered her. She will have another fundraising activity on 18th March for the same project. She made a request for any support from OKK towards building the house.

Rwika kwimenya self-help group- among the three groups, this group normally has the highest attendance and on the day of data collection only one member was not present. They also have some ideas of income generating activities to supplement the bead work and the poultry project, which was doing well but over time has declined as chicks became ill.

Loise ndegi, is a 56-year-old female member who has been taking selenium from 2014 and is in great pain. In November 2016, she was diagnosed with cervical cancer and other complications. She was scheduled to go for a surgery in December but the Kenyan doctors went on strike. From that time to date. Loise is also mobilizing funds with a hope that when the doctors come back from strike she will be able to continue with the surgery and live without the pain again.

The visit to the grandmother's was very successful and Winnie was able to collect the data of 25 women. She hopes to complete the data for the rest of the people who were absent on our next visit. Each person present got to share snacks and a packet of beans to carry home.



Partner Updates

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Kawangware Tailoring Project

The Kawangware Tailoring project has had some improvements this month with the number of students steady at 24; some are for half day and others are attending the full day course.

Kenyan Board Member, Faith Njeru was allocated the Kawangware sponsored tailoring project making her maiden visit to the project in the month of February 2017, accompanied by Winnie, our project administrator. The visit was very successful and the two were able to collect more information about the project that will be very helpful in making an appraisal. They were able to discuss a number of concerns with the lead teacher together with the couple in charge of the project. They also had a session with the students, who were given some wonderful insights in line with their tailoring profession. Faith Njeru happened to be a professional trainer and examiner who has, over the years, gathered a lot of skills and experience which she has brought to Our Kenyan Kids. Sharing her wealth of experience with the students came out so naturally. She and the students were happy to share the time together and the students were grateful for an opportunity to learn from a professional in their field. She challenged the students that apart from acquiring the skill, seriousness and discipline are paramount to success in the tailoring industry.

The students asked a number of questions which Faith was able to respond to satisfactorily.

The students still had a number of concerns, ranging from poor lighting of the classroom, blocked toilet, having to deal with broken machines most of the time and inadequate machines which often forces them to share and work in turns. In other words, lots of challenges remain!

Hope House Babies Home

During the last three months, there have been no new admissions to Hope House, but there has been one adoption! One baby has been adopted by a Kenyan lady and another little girl has been reintegrated back to her biological family. Currently, Hope House has 22 babies.

Though the majority of their funding over this last quarter has come from Australia, there were also generous donations from the US, UK, Kenya and Canada. Thanks to these generous donations, Hope House is now completely up to date in salaries.

At the end of 2016, Our Kenyan Kids sent a donation of 22,125ksh (\$289.88 CAD) to Hope House, which they used to purchase a blender and a thermos flask. The remainder of the money was used to construct a baby cot that the carpenter is still working on. The team will be sure to get some pictures of this when we are there the first week of April 2017.

Amazing Grace

Margaret, the Director of Amazing Grace tied the knot on November 12, 2016 at Lord Delamare gardens in Nakuru. This has been an extremely busy time for her. Her work in the children's home has remained steady throughout the entire time.

