

Our Kenyan Kids

Helping young Kenyans - One child at a time



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Monica's Story



Monica came to the Nairobi Children's Rescue Centre through Milimani Children's Court on the 28th of May 2018, in need of protection. From the Mt Elgon Kipkwale area, her mother was widowed and mentally challenged, therefore unable to properly care for her. She is the biological mother to Baby Quincy. Sadly, Monica was sexually abused by a family member which resulted in her pregnancy. She could not bare to murder her child, which her culture dictates, so she chose to run away. She came to the centre with her sister, but unfortunately, her sister abandoned her at the bus station. She began working as a house mother at the centre, but before much time passed, the staff at NCRC saw great potential in her and arranged for her to attend school at Gacio Primary School where she is thriving!

Nairobi Children's Rescue Centre

The Nairobi Children's Rescue Centre is doing well this quarter despite some unfortunate number challenges. The 8 volunteers, paid for by Our Kenyan Kids, currently care for 61 children in total; 34 boys and 27 girls. They have been receiving new children on a regular basis from the court system which puts a strain on the number of workers at the centre. On top of the 8 workers, that Our Kenyan Kids supports, the centre is also supplied with 6 government paid workers. However, with three 8-hour shifts daily, and only 14 workers, to cover the care of the children, the cleaning, the cooking and security, they feel they are overwhelmed, yet they try to not complain. In this latest report, they have expressed their appreciation for "OKKids in a big way for making life for our children more comfortable through the support that has come to the institution."

In the second quarter of 2019, Nairobi Children's Rescue Centre hopes to begin raising chickens! To add to this they are hoping to begin a small garden where they will plant vegetables to improve the nutritional value for the children.



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Gathaithi Orphans & Vulnerable Children's Centre

The Gathaithi OVC cares for and supports children who are orphans and vulnerable due to social, economic and/or physical challenges. Their objective is "to prepare these children to be responsible individuals, who can be relied upon in future for nation building and sustainability of God's purpose in mankind, despite having come from a needy background."

At present time, on a daily basis, they feed 84 children, shelter 30 orphans and ailing (HIV positive/jigger infested) children. They supply writing and reading materials, provide care and protection, provide uniforms and casual wear and educate 42 primary children, 33 in secondary and 9 in college. This quarter they hope to extend their income generating dairy farming project and visit more jigger infested families twice a month for a period of three months.

They are proud to report that this quarter, 5 children have joined secondary school, and five more are waiting to attend college and they have reintegrated 2 girls and 1 boy back to their families.

Thanks to the success of their dairy farming project they now produce enough milk to provide 50% for the children's consumption and 50% for sale to the Githunguri Dairy Farmers & Cooperative Society for income!

Unfortunately they have not been without their struggles this quarter. Due to the prolonged dry season, there is inadequate water supply for proper care of their gardens and therefore they will be short on fruits and vegetables this season. Even the once flourishing greenhouse has suffered from the lack of water. To make matters even worse, the greenhouse suffered extensive damage to 50% of the structure, due to heavy winds.

The jigger education program has continued to register success with our assistance. In the first quarter of 2019, Gathaithi OVC has reached out and cared for three families infected by jiggers.

Despite their trials and tribulations, they are grateful for each day and continue to receive non perishable food items from churches and communities around the home.



Their Dairy Farming Project



Their dismal gardens due to lack of water



Damaged Greenhouse

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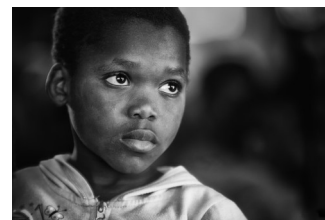
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Kambui School for the Deaf

In the first quarter of 2019, Kambui School for the deaf enrolled 25 new students in nursery, primary and vocational classes!

The main objective at Kambui School is to offer quality education for pre-school, primary and vocation students within a period of 9 months of the year.

This quarter, students at Kambui School participated in "Zonal and County Peace Giving Day" and are very proud to announce that they were the recipient of the "Most Improved School in the Zone" Award. Congratulations to all of them!

In the second quarter of 2019, the school plans to take the children on a field trip to attend a sporting event in July as well as attend a popular music festival in August.

Currently, Our Kenyan Kids supports 2 children in Primary School as well as 4 in Secondary School at this project.



Students

Geoffery
Kimani and
Anthony
Nganga at
Kambui
School for
the deaf

An Update from the Grandmothers

St. John Ambulance Manager, Nelson Mwaniki, is kind enough to keep Our Kenyan Kids updated each month on the progress of our four groups known as the PLWA (Partners Living with Aids). This project began in 2005 with the Itabua group being the first to be supported.

Itabua Group—They have suffered some setbacks in the first quarter of 2019 but are hopeful that things will turn around shortly with a change in leadership. They have asked Our Kenyan Kids for assistance in developing a Poultry project, which we are pleased to announce, was approved and is scheduled to begin taking shape this month! Pictures to come soon!

Rwika Kwimenya Support Group— This group is considered to be the best performing group in the community, and this is attributed to strong leadership and discipline in the group. They are the recipients of the Our Kenyan Kids "Water Project", supplying each member of the group (over a period of 3 years) with their own water tank. To date we have sent 6—2 this quarter.

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Joseph's Story



When Robert Dayman, a retired high school teacher, passed away in January, his family chose *Our Kenyan Kids* as a charity to receive donations in his memory. The money donated by friends and family will support the high school education for Joseph, a boy who lives at the **Gathaithi Orphans and Vulnerable Children's Centre** in Kenya. Joseph is described as a "total orphaned boy, a bright and disciplined boy who has a future." Students must pay a tuition fee to attend secondary school in Kenya, and the generosity of the Dayman family and friends has allowed Joseph this potentially life changing opportunity.

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Grandmothers continued

Joy Kagumori Support Group—This group is in the process of electing new leaders who will strive to develop and bring change to the group.

They have been raising goats as their project and are off to a remarkable start. The young goats are doing well and will soon be mature enough to begin producing milk.

Challenges for the PLWA—Many of the participants require training on the importance of adhering to the prescription of drugs. It was recognized that they need to expose support groups to other groups in a sort of exchange program in order to empower beneficiaries.

Nelson believes there is a need to have a sustainable agricultural project that can be well developed to take care of the four community projects and we will discuss further, ways to implement this in the coming months.



Jane Mutitu, member of the Rwika Support Group, sadly lost her battle with



Itabua Support Group

Hope House Babies Home

During the first quarter of 2019, Hope House Babies Home has admitted 4 new babies; 3 girls and 1 boy! The young boy was there only a short time, and then reunited with his mother in early March.

They have discharged 2 baby girls, one to an adoptive mother and the other reintegrated back to her biological family.

On January 25th, 8 of the children, (Damaris, Prisca, Jonathan, Luke, Kenny, Esther, Valentine and Baraka) were transferred to a more advanced children's home as they were all over the age of 3 years. All 8 were under the umbrella of Child Welfare Society of Kenya (CWSK) which works with the Kenyan Government. They will continue to work on each of their individual cases and hope to integrate those who are able back to their biological families and the remainder to be adopted. Their new home is well equipped, very clean, with staff members who are well trained and friendly, providing a very good environment and a spacious playground.

Currently HHBH has 17 babies in total. In the first quarter of 2019 Our Kenyan Kids donated funds for the adopt-a-cot program as well as a donation toward unexpected hospital expenses.

Continued on next page...



Hope House staff bid farewell to the 8 older children.



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Hope House Babies Home, continued.

The home continues to struggle financially with many bills to pay, food to purchase, maintenance services and unexpected hospital expenses. Donors are encouraged to enroll in the adopt-a-cot program which helps with some of these and allows our donors a personal connection with children in the program.

Thika Rescue Centre—Machakos

Our Kenyan Kids supports three young developmentally disabled boys at Thika Rescue Centre, Robert Ingo, Matua Nzioka and Wandera. We provide the home with funds for the three boys to cover the cost of their school fees as well as school supplies.

Kawangware Tailoring Project

his project has also experienced a few setbacks in the first quarter of 2019 but we are hopeful that things have now turned around. Monicah had been ill for some time, but is thankfully on the road to recovery.

A very generous donor has enabled the tailoring school to repair many of their broken machines, as well as look at the purchase of some new equipment. We are hoping to have more details and pictures for the next issue of the Our Kenyan Kids Newsletter.

Julia, Ann & Dorah



The Amazing Grace Family



Amazing Grace Children's Home

At the end of 2018, Amazing Grace Children's Home had 4 candidates taking their class 8 exams and 3 were completing high school. We are pleased to report that Julia, Dorah and Ann are now in college studying security, beauty and computer course (respectfully). The home is actively seeking support for all of them.

Their green house has enabled them to cut a few more costs in their food budget s they are able to grow crops such as spinach, kale and tomatoes. Enough in fact, that they were able to sell the excess and the returns helped to support the children's school fees.

In the first quarter of 2018, one of their biggest challenges has been finding sponsorship for the children who have left AGCH and proceeded to college.

They are still actively seeking help to complete the installation of their water pump, which is critical to ensure there is no lack of food.

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A Prospective New Project—The Children of Turkana

For the last couple of years, Pastor Dan Kariuki (formerly a member of the Kenyan Advisory Board) has been traveling to the far north of Kenya to spread Gods word to the children of Turkana. Typically a very poor area, Pastor Dan has been traveling to the area to teach Sunday School to the children. As an added treat, he brings with him porridge to feed to the children—which has been instrumental in his attendance numbers increasing tenfold.

In the first quarter of 2019, Our Kenyan Kids sent a donation to Pastor Dan to help supply porridge as well as a cooking pot, cups, bowls and teaching materials. He now preaches to over 1000 children every Sunday. He believes that without the porridge, they would not have shown up to learn the word of God. Now, thankfully, they not only learn the word of God, but are taught other life skills and important hygiene care. Without this promise of porridge, most of them would not eat, as there is never a guarantee of a daily meal. Most of the children here do not go to school.

Our Kenyan Kids Project Experience Team is hoping to visit the children in the village of Turkana during our 2020 visit, as a prospective new project.

Our Kenyan Kids

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A message from the Chair,

I can honestly say that I have never been more proud to be the chair of such a wonderful organization. IN the first quarter of 2019, we have seen significant change and an increase in our donations! We have a remarkable group of volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure that 100% of your donations go DIRECTLY to Kenya. Any administration expenses are easily covered by the fundraising efforts of the committee. As we move into the summer we look forward to our Annual Garage Sale (June 7 & 8 at Wall Street United Church) , followed soon after by the PET presentation for the 2020 Project Experience Trip (Jan.29,2020—Feb. 13, 2020) We encourage anyone interested in learning about the upcoming trip, as a potential traveler or simply just to hear of our upcoming adventure, to join us on Tuesday, June 18 in the living room of WSUC. In the fall (Sept. 27) we will once again be having our Annual Murder Mystery Dinner and will wrap up the year with our Meaningful Gift campaign. Please come out and hear the stories, share in our adventure and see for yourself the changes we are making, one child at a time.



Jan

The Children of Turkana

