



Kisaru Nkera Initiatives (KINI)

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"Rescue a Child – Rescue a Community"



1-2023 March

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

The year is moving along at a very quick pace and I cannot believe almost 3 months is over. So much has happened in those 3 months which has kept me from producing our first newsletter for 2023. I will share with you some of the highlights of what it means to live here with the Maasai Community and 25 children, as well as trying to get 154 children into 57 different learning institutions (including 27 into Form 1).

Christmas was busy but then we had 2 days at Serena Mara Lodge where the children entertained the visitors and were cared for so well by the staff (and I had a couple of days of R&R), then received school bags as gifts. It is such a special time for the children to be spoilt by the camps that believe in what KINI is doing and are willing to help.



Words to KINI Kids (written by the children to the tune of Kings Kids)

*We are KINI kids, Yes we are KINI Kids
Our mother is the queen over everything
And I will sing a song
Coz I know that I belong
To the Queen of the KINI Kids*

*Isn't it just totally amazing
The love that our mother shows*

January is also birthday month for one of the oldest and youngest in the family. Jane and Naileku like to enjoy their birthday together each New Year. So pleased we have an oven so we can cook birthday cakes for the children.



Jane is now 20 and has finished secondary and will go to College in May. Naileku is now 7 years and in Grade 2. The years have flown by and I hope she doesn't grow too fast.



Singing "We are KINI Kids"

KINI is growing very fast with the number of children needing help to continue their education and KINI Mara Academy exploding with so many children coming from the local community and further afield to attend the school.

Thus my time is usually taken up from early morning until late with all that needs to be done, but God keeps me in good health to keep going and care for the children.

It took 3 weeks of searching different schools to find the best ones for the new Form 1's, as it depends on their abilities and marks which school is suitable and also will accept them. Then preparing them with shopping and raising money to ensure they start, admitting them to each school (all go into boarding schools for Secondary), is a huge and tiring work. Luckily Jane was with me and other friends to help on the days we needed to take them. Jane always asks "is this what you have to do every year mum?" She was exhausted by the time we finished!



Three very happy children – of the 27 KINI put into Form 1 – who would not be in school if it weren't for KINI helping them.



A huge thank you to all who support KINI and who came to the call to give us enough money to ensure they were able to start their secondary education.

I am humbled and amazed at what KINI has achieved in the 10½ years we have been here in Kenya and the lives that have changed but we have only been able to achieve this by our partners and sponsors. Please take this as a personal thank you from myself and all the children.

It has been over 6 years since I have been home to visit so have booked a time in September/October to visit family, friends and donors.

I would like to leave my children in the hands of a friend to care for them the 5 weeks I am away so if anyone would like an amazing experience in the wilds of Kenya and look after some amazing and beautiful children, please drop me a line.

MARA KINI ACADEMY (KMA)

KINI Mara Academy is bursting at the seams with our Grade 2 class now meeting under the trees (and on the verandah when it rains) and other classrooms with up to 70 children in each.

Building works have been going on but have stopped due to the lack of funds to finish the roof, water tanks and other finishings. Prices have skyrocketed with the change in Government so it will **cost \$20,000 to completely finish the 3 classrooms.**



Class 2 under the trees until their room is ready



With no roof the rooms are our swimming pool!



As we now have 50 children in Grade 1 we will now also need another classroom plus two for next year's new intake. If anyone is able to help with some major fundraising event ideas, please feel free to message me.

Please remember we are able to offer tax deductible receipts from both Australia and USA. Please email me for links.

LIVING YOUR DREAM

Living your dream always sounds like a wonderful life full of happy times and fun. But sometimes it is hard work and scary moments which make you feel most uncomfortable, sometimes you feel like you never want to get out of bed. But when you see lives changed it is all worthwhile!



The scariest part of the road



Makes the drive better



Rough and now muddy in the rain



River or Road??



And as if the stress and tiredness of the last week isn't enough the wiring has to catch on fire as you are driving along! Quick thinking and throwing mud instead of water (as the helpers suggested), tie it up with a piece of cloth and we are off home!!

These roads cause havoc with our vehicles and they need to be taken to Nairobi for welding and other urgent repairs as soon as funds are available.



When a grandmother is given children (which often they are) to care for, they are wholly responsible for that child, including education fees. This grandmother had 3 children to care for and no income. KINI has been helping educate 2 of the children over the last few years and this week she came bearing gifts of a sheep and a shuka (a Maasai way to say thank you in a big way). It is beautiful to see the impact KINI has on families and especially grandmothers who want their grandchildren to be educated.



Half of the children when we are all home.



Christmas morning presents

MEDICAL HELP

KINI is often called upon to help children who have medical issues. This is Fatuma who has had problems with her eyes for quite some time. Originally I took her to the Eye Surgeon and we found an ulcer in the eye. After quite some time and treatment it healed, however has now come back again and she needs to be taken to the Ophthalmologist in a town 3 hours away, as soon as funds are available. To take her to the hospital and for treatment will be \$250 if anyone is able to help.



Leparan has been living with us in our home for the last 18 months and his breathing was not the best nor the snoring. As we guessed, he needed his adenoids and tonsils out and we were finally able to have it done last week. He is back in school and doing much better.



SPONSORSHIP OF CHILDREN



Sponsoring children also means attending orientation days and academic days to check the progress of students. A busy time with the new Form 1's and in 20 different schools! I don't have time to attend ALL. This is a Girls School where I am a member of the Board of Management (BOM) of the school thus I try to attend meetings to meet with parents and students. Presently I am on the BOM of 2 secondary schools and also a Parent Rep in 2 other schools. Makes for busy times and much travel as the schools are 3½ hours drive from home. It provides good opportunities to give input to the schools and get to know the teachers and staff.

Emmaculate is a girl who has just begun Form 1. KINI agreed to help her as she did not have any way to go to school as her mother is a widow and there are no other family members who can help them. A huge THANK YOU to SERENA HOTELS (Serena Mara) who were willing to partner with KINI and sponsor Emmaculate throughout her schooling.



Thank you SERENA for believing in KINI and for acknowledging the work we do and coming on board to keep girls in school.

There are still quite a number of children who still need sponsorship

Moses is from a single mother who has no land or home of her own and does well in school. He was not able to go to Secondary as his mother had no funds to do his shopping or buy his uniform, or pay fees. Teachers from his Primary School and the community, helped with funds to buy his uniform and KINI has come to the rescue and put him into school. However,, he doesn't have a sponsor and we still need to pay the rest of the fees for the full year.

FEES PER YEAR: \$600 (3 terms per year)



This is the home where his mother currently lives with her 3 children.



Henry Ochieng was recommended by a Principal from a National School. Henry's mother is blind and cannot look after him or his siblings. Henry ended up on the streets until his grandmother took him in but she is not able to pay for any of his schooling. He got one of the highest marks in his primary school and was accepted to a very good school.



Fees/Shopping is \$700 year

Emily is from a very poor family from a surrounding forest but does very well in school. We were able to get her into one of the top schools but she needs a sponsor to pay her fees so there will be no disruption to her schooling



FEES PER YEAR: \$600 (3 terms per year)

Jannifer is an orphan being cared for by a friend of her mother's. She is one of 3 children who are being cared for by the same family and who have their own children to care for. Jannifer has been part of the KINI program for 3 years but needs a sponsor to continue in secondary school.



FEES PER YEAR: \$600 (3 terms per year)

Jane Nankine Mempe's father passed away when she was quite young and her mother struggles to ensure her 4 children are in school. Jane now in Form 1 and her mother asked KINI to support her to ensure she continues in school and does not succumb to the problems for young girls in her community.

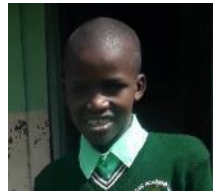


FEES PER YEAR: \$600 (3 terms per year)

Moses Tekan's father abandoned the family leaving the mother and grandmother to care for the 6 children, Moses is now in Form 2 and doing well.



FEES PER YEAR: \$600 (3 terms per year)



Sankau Shuruu passed well in Primary and is now in Form 1. His mother is a widow with 5 children still in school. She works very hard keeping the children in school but it is very difficult with no income. Her dream is for all her children to complete Form 4 and go onto tertiary education.

FEES PER YEAR: \$600 (3 terms per year)



Sheila Chebet did very well in Primary School and was accepted into a much sought-after secondary school but had no way of going as her mother has no

income or money. A teacher from a local school asked KINI to help and they did some fundraising with neighbours to get enough to do Sheila's shopping. She needs a sponsor to continue her education and help her family in future.

FEES PER YEAR: \$600 (3 terms per year)



Koiyanto Julius is from my village and his mum is the one who is responsible for ensuring her children's fees are paid and they are in school. As she has a number of children it is very difficult to pay all school fees. Koiyanto is a very humble and

hard working boy and very happy in his school

FEES PER YEAR: \$600 (3 terms per year)

Mathew Jackson



Mathew is one of 6 children and his family struggle to educate all the children. Mathew does well in school and to ensure he reaches his potential it was decided to send him away from the local school to a boarding school in the closest town. He is currently in Class 8 and doing very well.

FEES PER YEAR: \$430 (3 terms per year)

If you have not chosen a child to support and help give hope for the future, please inbox Barbara and we can send you a list of the children who still require sponsorship.

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If you would like to be part of this exciting work please contact Barbara for links for tax deductible receipts.

Thank you for sharing in our dream.

"To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world:"

