



# Friends of Kenya Schools and Wildlife

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue!!!

June 2023



## Kachiuru.... No Longer Invisible!

Kachiuru village is farther from the Meru County government offices than any other town in the county. County government officials might have heard the name but few have ever been there. The town has been invisible.

Of the roughly 800 permanent Kachiuru residents, many are livestock owners, traveling with their camels and cattle throughout the year in search of feed. Their income depends on the sale of their animals.

Small shops line the unimproved road through the center of town. Toward the west, a recently constructed mosque shines white against the brown desert and a medical dispensary constructed by FKSWS in 2017 serves the residents' health needs.

The community operates a bore hole and concrete trough to provide water for their livestock and for other animals in the area whose owners pay for the service.

In 2017, a grant through Rotary International funded the construction of a cattle dip, a trough filled with water and insecticide, in which cattle walk and are immersed to protect them from ticks and mites that cause serious disease. The cattle dip is also a source of income for the community. The construction of the dip was completed in 2019 but Covid delayed the "handover" from Rotary to the government until January of this year.

## FKSW/NECOFA Teams Meet with the Meru County Governor



John Munene (NECOFA) Gwen Meyer (FKSW) Lucy Mathenge (NECOFA) Gov. Kawira Mwangaza, Dickson David Ntwiga (Rotarian) John Neumeister (FKSW) Angelo Gitonga (Meru County Chief of Staff)



## Cattle Dip "Handover" Brings Meru County Government Officials to Kachiuru

In early January, Kenyan Rotarian Dickson David Mugendi Ntwiga, a partner in the project, informed Meru County governor, Her Excellency Governor Bishop Kawira Mwangaza, about the proposed handover and described FKSWS and NECOFA's years of support for the Kachiuru community. She had never been to Kachiuru and agreed to meet with us in her office to learn more. We created a photo display to highlight accomplishments in the community and to demonstrate how FKSWS and NECOFA have worked with the residents since 2005 to address critical needs. Gov. Mwangaza planned to attend the handover on August 10, but was called to a meeting with the President that day. She sent her Deputy Governor and several officials to represent her.

This Press Release from her office following the event confirms her promise, during our meeting, to collaborate with FKSWS and NECOFA to benefit the Kachiuru community, especially in providing much needed water, sanitation, and hygiene services. We are excited about this collaboration and the direct relationship it will create between the community and the county in the future!



Kachiuru cattle dip

### PRESS RELEASE

January 26, 2023



### Governor's Collaborative Diplomacy with Friends of Kenya Schools and Wildlife

This morning H.E Governor Bishop Kawira Mwangaza met with the founders and directors of Friends of Kenya Schools and Wildlife (an NGO working in Meru, Kajiado and Baringo counties) to pay her a courtesy call.

Her Excellency discussed several partnership opportunities and key among them were: the launch and operationalization of a community cattle dip the NGO has built in collaboration with Rotary Club International at Kachiuru in Igembe North; operationalization of a school feeding program at Kachiuru ECDE centre; and support for the community dispensary they have constructed for the community.

The Governor's administration shall partner with the organization to provide Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services to the The Governor's administration shall partner with the organization to provide Water, Sanitation and Hygiene v(WASH) services to the vulnerable populations in Meru county

From the County's web page:

<https://meru.go.ke/1096/governors-collaborative-diplomacy-friends-kenya-schools-wildlife/>



**Decko Osman**  
Manager of the cattle dip and bore hole



**Ibrahim**



**Silas Alesso**  
Community Leader

Siku ya furaha katika  
Kachiuu!  
A happy day at Kachiuu!



**Women and children**



**Nicholas Mwingirwa**  
Kachiuu Dispensary Nurse



**Anastacia and her mom**





# 101 Students benefit from FKSW's Education program in 2023

FKSW's focus on education over the years has positively impacted hundreds of young people. We began our scholarship program in 2003 with 2 primary day scholarships. This year, 91 students have full or partial scholarships in the following categories:

- 16 in primary day (Class 1-6)
- 24 in primary boarding (Class 6-7)
- 9 in junior secondary (Class 7- 9)
- 41 in regular secondary (Form 1-3)
- 5 students in Special Schools (Class 1- 6)
- 4 students in university- 3 of them in teacher training and 1 studying to be a lab technician
- 2 young women are just finishing their student teaching and will soon receive their teaching certificates.
- 1 young woman has completed her training as a community health worker and is doing an internship this term in a clinic in a rural community
- 1 young woman who is blind is awaiting acceptance at a vocational trade school for the visually impaired



Secondary students at Endonyio Sidai



Boarders at Kiserian Primary School

Forty-seven of the 101 students FKSW supports this year have sponsors who help with their education costs.



Junior secondary students at Kirepari

For 1 year, that's:

- \$50 - primary day
- \$75- junior secondary
- \$125- boarding- room, board, tuition
- \$500- secondary- room, board, tuition
- \$500 Special schools
- \$500- \$1000 Post secondary



Chebet- Kokwa Boarding



Kirepari Junior secondary students in new track suits



Victor- Kiserian Boarder



Sofia- Community Health Worker

In January, we met with all of these students and their parents. We explained our expectations of them and our monitoring process for the students' performance to determine our continued level of financial assistance. Parents' involvement is critical, especially for students who are struggling. Our colleagues John and Lucy in Kenya visit the communities at the end of each term to follow up with them.



## Your Continuing Support for FKS<sup>W</sup> Has Changed Hassan's Life!



2010



2011



2013



I am Hassan Abdi Bosso. I enrolled in Kachiuru Primary School in 2007 and completed in 2015. I am born in the family of ten children and I am fourth born, the first and second born are females. I am the only child who benefitted to reach High School and furthered my studies to university level. I am pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Education (Arts)

To: NECOFA and FKS<sup>W</sup>  
Re: Thanksgiving

21/04/2023

Receive a lot of thanks and gratitude FKS<sup>W</sup> and NECOFA for paying my school fees for the past two years. Without you I know that journey would have been tough but I thank God you were there for me. Unfortunately, I don't have something to give you in return. Mine is just praying for you. May Almighty grant you good health and bless you for your kindness and generosity. I was working hard since I was in first year of university and I would until the end. I promise I won't let you down.

Your effort paying my school fees on time motivated and inspired me to work very hard. I remain with 3 semesters equivalent to one year to complete my studies at the university. Long live NECOFA and FKS<sup>W</sup>. Thank you again and again. You mean a lot in my life. Am in less of words to express my gratitude and love. I have for you.

Yours Sincerely,  
Hassan Abdi  
Meru University of Science and Technology  
School of Education

Before 2005, when FKS<sup>W</sup> built the first classroom at Kachiuru, children did not attend school. When Hassan began school in 2007, an FKS<sup>W</sup> scholarship bought a uniform and shoes for him. His scholarship continued until he completed Class 8. Another organization covered his secondary school costs and FKS<sup>W</sup> is supporting him at University. He has just completed his student teaching and is finishing his final course work.

Congratulations Hassan!!!

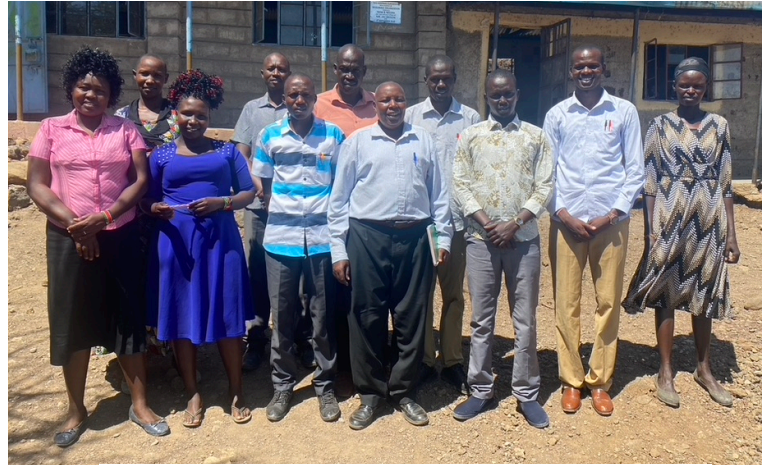


## Other FKS<sup>W</sup> Activities

Besides our time in Kachiuru, John and I traveled with our NECOFA partners Lucy Mathenge and John Munene to visit Endonyio Sidai and the Kirepari community on Kokwa Island. At Kirepari, the student population has continued to grow and is projected to be 150 children in nursery through 8<sup>th</sup> grade by the end of this year! In spite of few government resources and the harsh conditions on the island, the staff are dedicated to the children and to their work and welcomed us to their school which FKS<sup>W</sup> has built for them, over time, since 2006 after the community fled from the mainland.

The requests for Kirepari are:

- construction of a staff room for the 8 teachers who have only a tent in front of the school to do their work
- a new outdoor kitchen to replace the current, inadequate one where lunch for the students is prepared
- 2 nursery classrooms to replace the existing structure built in 2006
- A water tank for the school



Kirepari Primary School Staff



A Kirepari Primary School student

### TO YOU...

*...our wonderful Friends of Kenya Schools and Wildlife!*

The smiles on the faces of the Kenyans in these photos are a testament to your generosity and support for the efforts of FKS<sup>W</sup> and NECOFA in these communities over the past 20 years!!!!

*You are changing lives!!*

Your continuing support is critically important in the future as needs arise and conditions change in these marginalized and vulnerable communities.

*We depend on you!!!*

Please consider making a donation to help with...

- School scholarships (see page 3)
- A staff room and new kitchen at Kirepari
- 2 nursery classrooms at Kirepari
- A water tank for Kirepari
- A maternity room at the Kachiuru Dispensary
- Costs for people needing medical care

*...or make an unrestricted donation in any amount to help with the greatest need...*

## Thank you!!

Donations can be made through Paypal on the FKS<sup>W</sup> website

## Hayo ni yote kwa sasa!

That's all for now!



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# Friends of Kenya Schools and Wildlife 20 Years in Kenya!!!

YOUR SUPPORT FOR FKSW SINCE 2003 HAS TRANSFORMED THESE  
CHILDRENS' LIVES and THEIR COMMUNITIES

## KIREPARI



2004 Lessons under a tree at Longicharo, Lake Baringo, sitting on stones



2023 Students in one of 8 classrooms at Kirepari Primary School

## KACHIURU



2004 Sitting on dirt and stones in the only classroom at Kachiuru



2023 Students in one of 8 classrooms at Kachiuru Primary School

## ENDONYIO SIDAI



2004 The community church served as the school on weekdays at Endonyio Sidai



2023 Endonyio Sidai Primary School - 8 classrooms, Head Teacher's Office and Staff Room

Thank you!!!