



Friends of Kenya Schools and Wildlife

November 2019



Celebrating 15 years in Kenya

In 2004, Mike Lawrence of Westminster Safaris introduced us to the Il Chamus community of Longicharo, a small village at the foot of a steep cliff on a spit of land that jutted out into Lake Baringo. Access to the village was by foot or by boat. Mike was acquainted with Stanley Lemukut, a leader in the village, who shared with him the community's dream of having a nursery school in their village. At the time, Stanley's daughter-in-law, Grace Lebene, a high school graduate, was holding class for about 15 tiny students under a tree with only an easel, a broken piece of blackboard and some chalk. The children sat on stones.



Stanley Lemukut

provide leadership and support to the school, working with the school committee and with parents and families at Kirepari. Grace teaches at the nursery level and is a strong advocate for the school. She also serves as a community organizer.

Many of the children who attend Kirepari Primary School are the first in their families to attend school and this younger generation inspires the community with their enthusiasm and excitement for learning!

Building a nursery classroom at Longicharo was FKSW's first activity in Kenya and we have maintained our collaboration with the community even after a forced relocation of the residents to Kirepari on Kokwa Island in 2006.

Today, Kirepari Primary School serves children from nursery school through grade 5. Grace is now a trained teacher and served in the lead administrative role at the school until the Kenyan government registered the school two years ago and hired 3 classroom teachers and a principal. FKSW and the community pay salaries for 3 other teachers.

As visionaries for education in the community, Stanley and Grace continue to



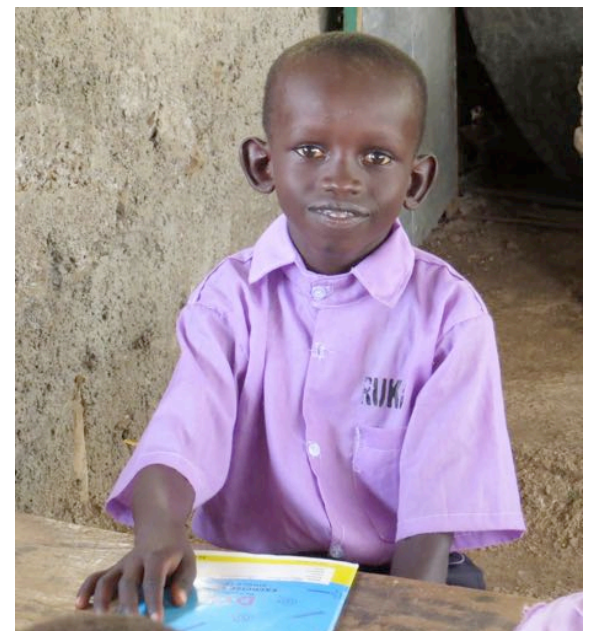
Mike Lawrence visits the Longicharo community in 2004 to talk about building a nursery school



Grace Lebene



Students at Kirepare Primary School greeted us when we arrived in August



Leshan, a student in the Pre-Primary 1 Class



Colorful community members

Eugene Metropolitan Rotary Club's project to construct a cattle dip at Kachiuru is finally underway! On August 4th, the Rotary Club of Nithi, our host partner on the project, held a training in Mutuati for Kachiuru Primary School officials and residents who will be managing and operating the facility. The local ward administrator, a Ministry of Livestock representative and other stakeholders attended the training which focused on the importance of the cattle dip to the community and its management and maintenance, including the safe and environmentally appropriate practices for use of the acaricides. Livestock will be free of parasites after dipping, and operating the dip will create jobs in the community.




Filling the marker form with concrete



The marker task completed, Kachiuru residents and Rotarians gather around

On August 30, we visited Kachiuru with Nithi Rotarians for the launch of the project. The community gathered at the future site of the dip to create a concrete marker, an official symbol of the project and a representation of the collaboration between the Rotarians and the community in this effort.

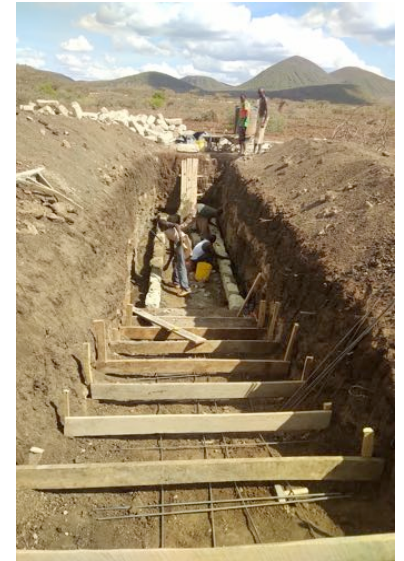
Excavation began in late September and was difficult because of the solid rock that lies just below the shallow layer of soil on the surface. On October 14th and 15th, Samuel visited Kachiuru and met with the newly created Cattle Dip and Borehole Committee. This group will manage the cattle dip and the borehole that provides water for livestock and for the dip. Samuel inspected the construction work and advised the crew on critical aspects of the excavation, including how to prevent future leaks from the tank. The project should be completed sometime in early November.

 **Laboratory Report from the Dispensary**

Esther Kanini, the laboratory technician at the Kachiuru dispensary, reports that the tuberculosis clinic that began in February of this year has been running very well. Patients from the community who have completed the six months' course of treatment have been tested and are negative for TB. But almost half of the TB patients are nomads and reaching them to make sure they get



Excavation work on the cattle dip



Japhet Mururu, Martin Mukaria and Esther Kanini
Kachiuru Dispensary professionals

their full treatment has been difficult. They move continually with their animals across large distances and collecting follow up blood samples from them is a challenge. It's also very difficult to make sure they take their medication as prescribed. The motorbike ambulance that FKS^W provided through Eugene Metropolitan Rotary Club will help with that task. By removing the bed and covering from the motorbike, it can be used alone as transportation to visit patients.

Other illnesses recorded and treated in August were malaria, arthritis, salmonella, HIV, intestinal problems and urinary tract infections. Currently, patients visit the clinic for free and costs are supported in part by FKS^W. In the future, the dispensary will begin charging a nominal fee to patients.

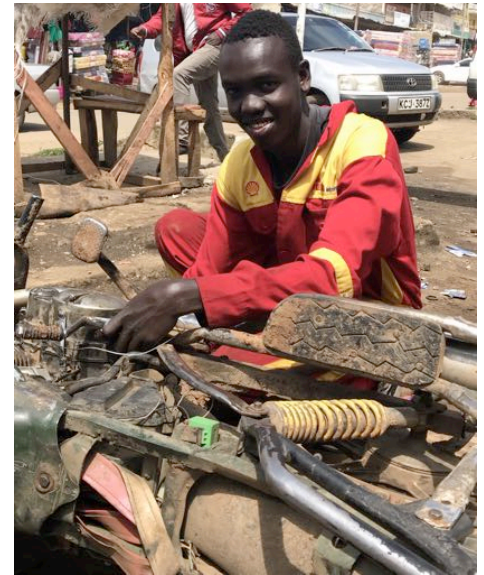


Other Activities



Calvin in 2007

Calvin Lemukut joined FKSWS's scholarship program in 2007 when his community still lived in Longicharo at Lake Baringo. In 2018, Calvin graduated from high school and had an interest in mechanics, specifically small engine repair - chainsaws, lawn mowers, boat engines and motorcycles. Since completing a training program, Calvin has been apprenticing with repair businesses to practice the skills he learned. Currently, he is working in Molo in an outdoor shop near Samuel's NECOFA office. When I was in Molo in August, Calvin was able to take a few minutes from his work to tell me that he really likes what he's doing and enjoys working in Molo even though the weather is much colder than at Baringo. He said he likes living on his own and earning an income. When asked if he was homesick for Kokwa Island and family, he grinned and replied "I'm not homesick. I'm a man now!"



Calvin Lemukut
Motorbike and small engine repairman



Elburgon Abattoir Rotary Grant

The Eugene Metropolitan Rotary Club sponsored this \$43,000 Rotary Foundation Grant to equip a new abattoir constructed by a self-help group of butchers, farmers and other workers in Elburgon. The group bought land and built the facility but still needed funding for the second phase of the project to provide power, water, and the equipment necessary for operation. In late August, the abattoir was within two weeks of opening. The water system and power had been installed and all the necessary equipment was in place. The county government assisted the group by building a manure shed and a building for the hides and skins from the animals. **Congratulations** to this group whose members have been a joy to work with and who are successfully managing this project to improve the safety, efficiency and enjoyment of their work!



Members of the Elburgon Abattoir Self Help Group



Karunga Women's Group



The Karunga women in front of the new workshop

The Karunga women are busy! In addition to making and selling reusable hygiene kits for girls and women, knitting school uniform sweaters and sweaters for the general public, weaving lovely blankets, scarves and shawls, they are now producing tote bags and clothing to order for a business in Spain. The owner of the business sends the group photos or drawings of the items she wishes them to make, and they create the patterns to use in the creation of the items. The work is fine tuned through texts back and forth with the business owner. Some of the women continue to knit small animals and clothing by hand. They are currently remodeling/enlarging one of their floor looms to allow them to produce larger items like bed coverings. The new workshop has been a critical addition for the expansion of production and for the storage of raw materials and completed products for sale.



Kokwa Students at Ochii School for the Hearing Impaired

Petro and Reteka Achuka love school. Deaf since birth, the brother and sister were at home until 2 years ago when teacher Grace Lebene at Kirepari brought them to our attention. Petro and Reteka are now at Ochii School for the Hearing Impaired. Reteka is in 2nd grade and Petro is in 5th grade. Grace takes the children to school by bus at the beginning of each term and brings them home when school is out. It's a several hour ride. They signed for us their gratitude at being in school! Their older cousin, Mulan Lekaranga, who is also deaf, has been in the FKSWS scholarship program since he was 8 years old. He is now in his second year of high school at Ngala School for the Deaf in Nakuru.



Reteka and Petro Achuka at school

Kataran

On our last day at Lake Baringo we took a boat to the northeast edge of the lake to visit a small Pokot village called Kataran. As we approached the mainland I was reminded of our first visit to Longicharo in 2004 when men, women and children lined the shore to greet us on our arrival. Just as the Longicharo people did 15 years ago, the villagers from Kataran met our boat and then led us on a narrow trail through dense vegetation to a meeting place under the trees. Men and women, many with small babies, sat in separate groups on large rocks or on small wooden stools. Children watched the gathering with interest. We, too, sat on stones and after a warm welcome and introductions, a village elder invited Samuel and me to address the group. Because many of the residents speak only Pokot, a young woman translated from Swahili to Pokot for Samuel and from English to Pokot for me.

When the formalities ended, our hosts took us back to the lakeshore to examine the pump they use to bring water to a large garden nearby and then we visited the garden where tomatoes and maize grew in abundance. The residents supplement their diet with fish and also keep cows, sheep, goats and chickens.

On our way to see the new church, homes of mud and thatch, hidden by the thick foliage, became visible. We ended our tour in the market where women prepared chapatis, fish, chicken, vegetables and maize for purchase.

With little infrastructure in evidence, the community is nevertheless well organized and focused on the future. NECOFA has provided two large beehives for the village and some goats. The residents told us that their next goal is to build a nursery school classroom for the youngest students who now sit on stones under the trees, just as the children did at Longicharo so many years ago. For us, the visit to Kataran was a vivid reminder of where FKS^W began and how far we've come!



The meeting at Kataran



The garden



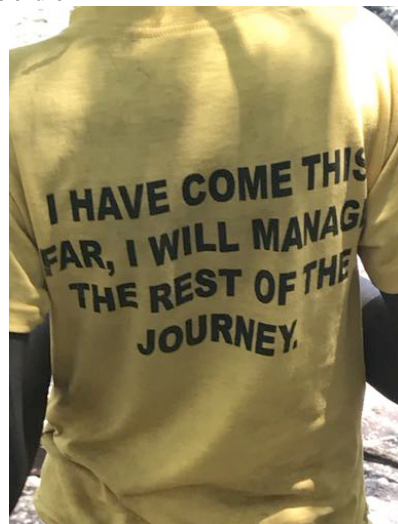
The church



Githeri (beans and maize) and fish stew



Children of Kataran



Making chapatis in the market



FKSW's 15th Anniversary Celebration

Our 15th Anniversary Celebration at Temple Beth Israel in Eugene on September 22nd provided such a nice opportunity for us to recognize our donors for the positive changes they've made possible in the communities we serve in Kenya. Through photo displays and short presentations by Gwen and Samuel, we were able to share with our guests, both the structural and social transformation that has occurred at Kachiuru, Endonyio Sidai, Kokwa Island and Elburgon since we began partnering with them in 2004.

Our message to our guests was that FKS^W and NECOFA support the residents of these communities in ways that enable them to identify their needs and build their own capacity to achieve their goals. We do that by providing information and resources to meet basic needs like health care, food and nutrition and education because when people are healthy, nourished and aware of their potential and possibilities, they are able to nurture and support development in their communities through their own agency and advocacy.

We also gave some examples of "visionaries" in each community, like Stanley and Grace, who have shared their ideas for change and helped to lead the way toward desired outcomes over the years. We displayed photos of children we've supported since nursery school who are now in high school, college or vocational school, or, like Calvin Lemuket, are earning an income using skills they've learned.

Since 2004, FKS^W has received almost \$700,000 in donations from our individual donors. Grants from the Eugene Metropolitan Rotary Club and from the Rotary Foundation have added another \$250,000 for projects in all of the communities. We are so incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported our efforts over the years and amazed at what it is possible to achieve little by little over time. The Kenyans might say it this way...

"Kidogo kidogo hujaza kibaba!"

"Little by little we fill the cup" or "A lot of small steps will make big difference!"

Hayo ni yote kwa sasa!

That's all for now!

Please help us to address critical needs like...

*** Scholarships for one year:**

- \$50 for primary school (uniforms, shoes, books)
- \$125 for boarding (room and board at school)
- \$500 for secondary- room, board, tuition, and supplies

*** Teacher support and training**

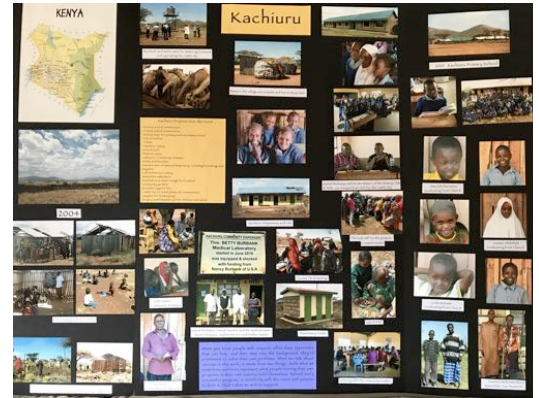
*** Services for women and children**

*** Skill training and education for income generation**

• A nursery school classroom at Kataran at a cost of \$14,000

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

Thank you!!



Two of the displays describing the transformation in the communities



John Kukut Tepangor
Resident of Kataran and a former teacher



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Neema Is Walking!!

In the July newsletter I included a photo of 5-year old Neema Tom, for whom FKSWS provided funds for surgery to correct a deformity of her left foot. Neema had not been able to walk before the surgery and it was a wonderful moment, (with a few tears) when she walked from her classroom to greet us. It's so gratifying to be able to transform a child's life like this! Our donors made it possible!



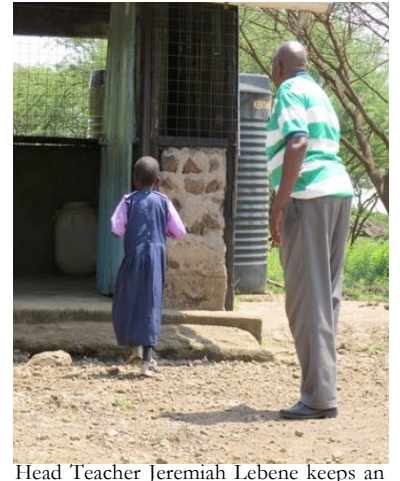
Neema walked out to greet us



Standing tall



Neema with her mom and dad



Head Teacher Jeremiah Lebene keeps an eye on Neema



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