



Friends of Kenya Schools and Wildlife

November 2021



In the Beginning...

Friends of Kenya Schools and Wildlife began its activities in Kenya in January 2004 by meeting the members of three rural communities to learn about the challenges they faced in accessing educational opportunities for their children.

Our first visit was south of Nairobi at Endonyio Narok, (now called Endonyio Sidai.) This Maasai community sits on the edge of the Great Rift Valley's Nguruman Escarpment which rises 4,000 feet from the valley floor. During a meeting with residents, we learned that their primary school-aged children walked down the escarpment daily to a school on the valley floor and then hiked back up in the afternoon, often crossing paths with cape buffalo or other wild animals. The hike was time-consuming and unsafe and the community's priority was the construction of a primary school nearer their homes. We promised those with whom we met that we would keep their request in mind. Before we left, we gave them wall charts, educational materials, and toys for the nursery school class that was housed in the community's church.



Nursery school class in the church at Endonyio Narok in 2004



Endonyio Sidai Today...



We kept our promise to the community and in 2006, with FKSWS funding, local builders completed the first stone classroom of what would eventually become the Endonyio Sidai Primary School. Since then, FKSWS has worked in partnership with the county and national governments and with the community to complete further construction, to furnish the school and to provide teachers. Today, the school has eight classrooms, a staff room and a head teacher's office and serves 200 students from nursery through 8th grade. The Ministry of Education provides learning materials and salaries for 6 teachers and the Endonyio Sidai parents pay salaries for 3 additional teachers and will soon hire a 4th to meet the demands of a newly expanded government curriculum.

In short supply, however, is housing for the 10 teachers, most of whom come from outside the community. This situation creates a continuing struggle to keep good teachers at the school. Recently an organization that creates wind farms in the area donated 4 large metal shipping containers to Endonyio Sidai. The school committee requested that FKSWS help "rehabilitate" the containers to create housing for 4 of the teachers. The remodeling began last month. The new container homes are furnished and rent free. Each has a new roof, a door, windows, solar lighting and will receive a fresh coat of paint. The teachers prepare their meals in a separate building and there's a toilet block nearby. Our friend Moses Kipaliash says the teachers are happy with their new homes.



Samuel visits one of the teachers at his home

STANLEY MOROYAN LEMUKUT

Sunrise - 1949

Sunset - September 12, 2021



Our dear friend Stanley Lemukut passed away unexpectedly on September 12, 2021 due to complications from leukemia. At 72, Stanley was a respected elder in the communities at Lake Baringo, where he had been a teacher and strong supporter of education in the Rift Valley Region. He served as the chairman of the school boards in 3 communities, and he was a founder of the Longicharo Primary School in 2004.



Mike Lawrence and Stanley discuss the construction of the Longicharo School in 2004

Stanley was born in 1949 in Ilmekuri Village on Kokwa Island and was the eldest of his parents' 19 children. With his 3 wives, he had 14 children of his own. We met Stanley in 2004 when Mike Lawrence, our partner at the time, took us to Longicharo Village to begin construction on a school Stanley wished to build for the children who lived in the village. Friends of Kenya Schools and Wildlife provided the funding for the one-room school that would later become the Kirepari Primary School on Kokwa Island after the community was forced to move from Longicharo because of insecurity in the area. Today, the Kirepari Primary School has an attendance of over 150 children in nursery through Class 6 and is registered with the Kenyan Government Ministry of Education. There are 6 teachers.

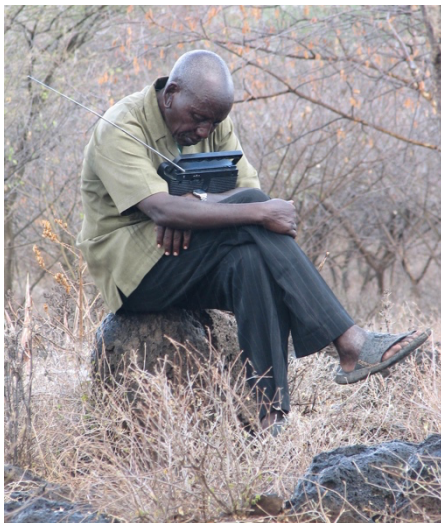
Stanley was committed to peacebuilding at Baringo and in 2008, helped to create the Ruko Conservancy which was formed by the Il Chamus and Pokot communities to promote peace and help the local communities achieve development and resilient livelihoods through sustainable use of the land. The Conservancy was recently involved in removing endangered Rothschild's Giraffes from Longicharo due to flooding at Lake Baringo.

Stanley loved his small herd of cows whose milk he shared with people in need. His children's words below are a tribute to his kindness and concern for others:

"Daddy, thank you for your generosity when you were blessed with the herd at Longicharo. All who had no animals enjoyed the privilege of milking as well as owning your cattle both as family and village. We grew up knowing that both cattle and goats you had were meant to help all"

Stanley's wisdom, his vision for the children in his community, most of whose parents had not been to school, and his commitment to their education was a great gift to them.

For us, to have known and worked with Stanley over the past 17 years was also a great gift. We will miss his calm presence, his smile, and his wonderful laugh each time we visit Kokwa Island. And we'll remember him with great affection.



Stanley listens to post election violence news on the radio in 2008





Reflections from former Kachiuru Primary School Head Teacher Samuel Mutabari

Samuel Mutabari was employed as a teacher by the Kenyan Government in January 2008 at the age of 31. His first post was to Kachiuru Primary School, where FKSW had begun construction in 2006. Samuel taught there for two years before he was promoted to Head Teacher in 2010 when the former Head Teacher passed away unexpectedly. He served in that position until the end of 2019 when he was transferred to a school in Tharaka Nithi County.

The Kenya Ministry of Education regularly moves its Head Teachers to different schools every 5 years or so, but Samuel was at Kachiuru for 9 years. His extended tenure and commitment to developing a quality education for the students there was instrumental in the overall growth of a school that was not well-served by the government. With Samuel Muhunyu’s mentorship and support, Teacher Samuel successfully led the inexperienced school committee to work together to manage not only the school, but to take a leadership role for the entire community. As the school grew, so did Samuel. In his message below he shared some of his thoughts about his experience at Kachiuru and about his own growth during the time he was there.



Samuel Mutabari



Samuel Muhunyu and Samuel Mutabari during a school committee meeting at Kachiuru Primary in 2019

“Madam Gwen,

Just allow me to say that I owe you and Mr. Samuel a lot of respect. We started the journey when I was so naive. But your patience and humility in handling issues is what has made us celebrate the achievements we have made up to date. Have always admired the way you consult before you come up with a solution either for a project or an issue that needs to be addressed. You really mentored me to be what I am today both in my profession and in my individual life.

I have interacted with so many individuals both in and out of my profession and this has given me a lot of experience. I have gotten a lot of courage to enter various offices where you have sent me to consult on the various projects we have implemented, especially the dispensary and the cattle dip. Sometimes when I flashback to where we were when we started and where Kachiuru is today I find tears of joy flowing.

We could not accomplish everything, but we did our best. Lest I forget one more thing I have learned from you is appreciating the small effort one makes because it gives courage for one to do something bigger.”



Kachiuru Primary School





Six Students from Four Communities Attend College This Year

In the July newsletter I wrote about Felix Lekilui who had graduated from secondary school in March with high marks and was hoping to be admitted to a nursing program for the coming year. He did receive invitations to two nursing schools and accepted one for a 3-year program in Registered Community Health Nursing from the Chogoria PCEA Hospital's Clive Irvine College of Health Sciences. He began classes on September 27. Felix's training will include compulsory theoretical and clinical instruction and will prepare him for work in County and National government health departments, private and mission hospitals, Medical Research Institutions or NGOs such as the Red Cross and Volunteers in Medicine. Felix has been in FKSWS's scholarship program since he was in Class 1.

Five other students are also in college or university programs this year and all of them except Naomi have been in the scholarship program since they were in the early grades of primary school. We've enjoyed watching them grow!

FKSW does not always cover these students' entire costs for college. Their families are expected to contribute what they can through their own resources or by fundraising with friends and family. Samuel talks with the families to determine their need and then we decide what percentage of the total cost FKSWS will contribute.

For example, Hassan Bosso's home is at Kachiuru and he is the 4th born of 10 children. His older brother takes care of other peoples' camels for a living and his younger siblings are in primary and high school. His family cannot help him pay for college, so he's fundraised at Kachiuru with residents and well-wishers in the community. He asked FKSWS to assist him in paying his school fees for this Term 1 of his first year at Meru University of Science and Technology. Next term, his need for assistance may be different.

For Mercy Koinale, FKSWS will pay 80% of her school fees, and her family will pay for the remainder and for her room and board and other costs. We're excited to see these young people following their dreams!



Felix and his mother Lucy



Mercy Koinale
Rift Valley Technical Training Inst.
Science Laboratory Technician



Naomi Ntinyari
Lukenya University



Diana Sintoyia
Zetech University
Education and Social Sciences
Teacher Training



Sofia Adan
Kenya Medical Training College
Community Health Nursing



Hassan Abdi Bosso
Meru Univ. of Science and
Technology
Education Arts /Teacher Training



Sunset at Lake Baringo

Hayo ni yote kwa sasa!
That's all for now!

If you'd like to make a donation for a specific purpose, we've received a growing number of requests for scholarships at all levels, especially secondary and post-secondary, and we expect the number of requests to continue to increase.

You can help with scholarships for one year at:

- \$50 for primary school (uniforms, shoes, books)
- \$125 for primary boarding (room and board at school)
- \$500 for secondary (room, board, tuition, and supplies)
- \$1,000 for college/university (or more depending on the need and the program)

OR

make an unrestricted donation in any amount to help with the greatest needs such as:

- * Skill training and education for income generation
- * Services for women and children



Thank you!!



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