



Friends of Kenya Schools and Wildlife

20th Anniversary Issue #2

November 2023



Endonyio Sidai –A Community's Dream Coming True



Parents enjoy the students' performance. Music and dancing are part of the curriculum at the school.



We began our summer 2023 community visits in Kenya on August 30 at Endonyio Sidai Primary School. Our meetings in the communities give us the opportunity to talk with leaders to review ongoing projects and to learn about other challenges the residents might be facing. Of primary importance are the discussions we have with students who have received scholarships and with their parents. Before the meetings, we review the overall performance of every student for each term of the current school year. Based on their performance, we continue, or modify, our level of support. The conversations help us learn about any challenges the students and their families are currently facing that might impact the childrens' learning.

In 2006, FKSJ funds built the first classroom in the Endonyio Sidai community. Today, 13 teachers instruct 213 students in classes from nursery school through 8th grade and this year, 30 children attended boarding high schools. FKSJ gave scholarships to 19 Endonyoi Sidai students in primary grades, high school and college.



The best news, though, is that the primary students in grades 1-8 continue to excel in their academic performance. Endonyio Sidai Primary ranked #1 out of 10 neighbor schools in a local review of performance for the 2022 school year. In another more comprehensive review, the school ranked #3 out of 42 regional schools!

On the day of our visit, as we met with the leaders and parents, 30 children in classes 5-8 prepared for a performance of their traditional Maasai songs and dances. When our meeting ended, the dancing and songs began- a celebration of the community's efforts to transform this spot that 17 years ago was grazing land for sheep and cattle into a place of learning for their children. The smiles on many faces were a testament to the realization of the vision and dreams of a better future for the children.



Kachiuru -A Motorcycle Ambulance is Ready for Service



Kachiuru leadership team (and John) and the new ambulance

The Kachiuru Medical Dispensary, funded by FKS'W's generous donor Wide Awake.org, opened in June 2017 and has been of great service to the isolated Kachiuru community. Nurse Nicholas Mwingirwa (in the dark blue shirt in the photo above) has attended to the community's medical needs for the past 5 years. The nearest hospital is about an hour away by motor vehicle, over 41 miles of rough, unimproved roads. Until now, there has been no vehicle that is reliably available for people in urgent need of care. In mid-August, the residents of Kachiuru celebrated the arrival of a new motorcycle ambulance that will be able to provide emergency service.

Funded by the Rotary Club of Eugene Metropolitan in Oregon, the ambulance consists of a specially constructed heavy-duty trailer with a bed designed to safely carry a patient, with an attendant, on the rutted, rocky roads to the nearest hospital.

In preparation for the arrival of the ambulance, workers built a shed attached to the Dispensary, that will be locked to keep the bike and ambulance covered and safe from unauthorized use. Nurse Nicholas received the ambulance with gratitude on behalf of the community. He will also be able to use the motor bike by itself for trips to town to purchase medications or other supplies for the dispensary.

We acknowledge and express again our most sincere appreciation to The Rotary Club of Eugene Metropolitan which has been a frequent and very generous supporter of FKS'W projects in the past. This donation will most certainly assist in the effort to save the lives of Kachiuru residents and others who may be in the area.



The ambulance in its shed



The dispensary



The road



School Lunches Keep Children Healthy and Enable Them to Learn



Every school day morning, Saweria Thirindii starts a fire in the fireplace in the Kachiuru Primary School kitchen. As the wood begins to burn and the fire grows hot, she fills two very large “sufurias” with dried corn, beans and water and sets them over the fire. It will take two hours for the food to be ready for lunch for the 195 students at the school. From the smallest students in nursery classes to the “big kids” in 8th grade, each child looks forward to lunchtime when their bowls will be filled with the food that Saweria has prepared for them. If there are leftovers after everyone has been served, some children will return for a second helping. For many of the children, this will be the most substantial meal of the day.



Sufurias with the day’s lunch cooking



Saweria in her kitchen



Esther slices cabbage to add to the corn and beans

At Kirepari Primary School on Kokwa Island, Lake Baringo, school cook Esther Nchaule prepares a similar meal for 150 students in classes from nursery school through grade 8. On the day of our visit, she also had a cabbage to add to the meal. Next year, the school will also have Grade 9 students, and the amount of food prepared will increase.

Esther has been the cook at Kirepari for a number of years. Her son Ronny began his education in first grade at Kirepari and this year, he will graduate from high school.



Friends at Kirepari enjoy their lunches

TO YOU...

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

The well-being of the Kenyans in these photos are a testament to your generosity and support for the efforts of FKS 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!!!



Our Kenyan Partners at NECOFA



ASANTE SANA to our wonderful NECOFA partners Lucy Mathenge and John Munene in Kenya!

2023 College Graduates



Tony Kantet and Diana Sintoyia from Endonyio Sidia have just graduated from college, Tony with a BA in community development and Diana with a Teaching Diploma. FKSWS has supported them since they began 1st grade. Congratulations to you both!

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



Silas Alesso, a leader at Kachiuru

Thank you so much!!

We are SO GRATEFUL to you for your continuing support for FKSWS. Some of you have been with us for 20 years- when your donations at John's and my wedding in 2003 funded FKSWS's first project at Lake Baringo. But, no matter when you began supporting our efforts, you are all helping to make a huge difference in many lives and we so appreciate every one of you!!!!

Through your generosity, people have been able to lift themselves out of poverty, recover from serious illness, send their children to school, or enjoy nutritious food that fills an empty stomach. Young people graduating from high school and/or college are able to earn a living because of the education they've received.

You can make an unrestricted donation in any amount to help with the greatest need or help us with funding for FKSWS's education program which continues to expand.

* Scholarships for one year:

- \$30 for primary school (uniforms, shoes, books)
- \$125 for boarding (room and board at school)
- \$300 for secondary (room, board, tuition, and supplies)
- \$1000 for a student with special needs
- \$1000-\$2000 for a year of university study

Checks are always accepted and donations can also be made through Paypal on the FKSWS website

