

## Update

*Giving Young Kenyans a  
Brighter Future*



### The Struggle to Survive

Four children living alone in the family home in Australia is unthinkable. Not so in Kenya where few services exist to help orphaned children. The Juma children had been fending for themselves since the youngest child was just 5 years old.

KKI works in a part of Kenya where many children have lost a father or mother or sometimes both parents. Hunger, disease, accidents and crime are common reasons for this. Orphaned children are usually cared for by relatives or sometimes by other caring adults called "well wishers".

KKI became aware of 4 siblings living by themselves with no one to care for them. The children were tragically orphaned after their father was murdered and their mother died from malaria. The children survived by "hustling" ie. begging for money and food.

One of the first things we did was to repair a broken external door and install a lock to improve their safety. The children were vulnerable and frightened someone might

*Rikki with some of the children assessing the Juma's needs.*

enter the home and rob them.

Initially the eldest boy was sponsored to complete secondary school whilst very limited support was provided for the other children. Recently some of KKI's generous donors provided much needed funds so KKI can better care for the children.

The children's 3 room brick home lacked amenities. A high priority was to improve their living conditions. KKI used its Special Needs Fund to concrete dirt floors in 2 rooms, whilst outside, a much needed latrine and wash room was constructed.

We engaged 2 mature women as live-in Carers, each working for 2 weeks on and 2 weeks off. A budget was set to ensure sufficient food is available every day. The eldest boy is now sponsored to attend university whilst the eldest girl attends boarding school. Fees, books and uniforms were provided for the 2 youngest children to attend primary school. No more hustling needed!

What a wonderful outcome for these resilient children who have lost so much. Thank you to all our caring donors for making this result possible.



*Above - 2 carers pictured with food bought for the Jumas. Bottom - The eldest girl showing off some of the new items bought for the household*

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...and we are off!



In April Rob & Rikki together with Peter Harding (a KKI sponsor) made the long trek to Kenya. (Peter shares his experience on the back page). The journey began in northern NSW and ended on the shores of Lake Victoria, having taken more than 30 hours.

This is the rainy season in East Africa, made deadly by El Nino bringing floods to many countries, including Kenya. Fortunately the floods did not extend to Karungu where we were staying. However on some days rain disrupted our plans until the muddy roads dried sufficiently to allow safe travel.

As per usual we had a busy schedule of meetings with students, families and our Kenyan partners the KPC. The Karungu Progressive Community CBO is a committee of local volunteers who play a leading role in supporting our programs.

A major objective was to appoint a new Student Care Worker and 2 female Carers for an orphan family KKI supports. Representatives from the KPC and KKI interviewed suitable applicants and appointed Judith Wara as the Student Care Worker and Everline and Irine as Carers.

**For a 2023/24 tax deductible receipt donations must be received before 28th June**

Send donations to KKI at Summerland Credit Union  
BSB: 728728  
ACCOUNT: 22314767  
Tax deductible receipts for donations available on request.  
Email treasurer@kenyakidsinternational.org.au

**Health Issues sorted**



Little Monica is an orphan just 12 months old. She is in the care of the Nuns at the Baby Home at Macalder. When we visited the home Sister Dorcas asked if KKI could help with tests and treatment for Monica.

Because of the wonderful response to our appeal last year we had sufficient funds to send this sick child to hospital. The results shocked us. Monica was suffering from malaria, severe eczema, septicaemia and malnutrition.

Thanks to your support Monica is receiving the treatment she so desperately needs to thrive and grow.



Rikki connecting with one of the children at Macalder Baby Home

**Trip Highlights**



**New Student Care worker Employed**

Judith Wara comes with years of experience working with the community and children.



**Records broken**

2024 marked a new milestone in sponsorship. A record number of students were sponsored to attend secondary school thanks to our many faithful donors. As a result 14 needy families are now able to send their sons and daughters to school. Currently KKI sponsors 39 students to attend secondary school and since 2017 has sponsored a total 72 students.





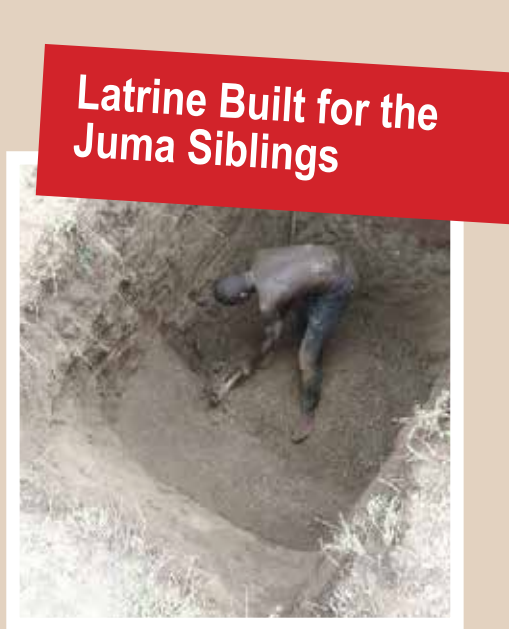


**W**hen in Kenya do as the Kenyans do. Pictured are Rob and Peter on the back of motorbike taxis (Piki piki), which is the only way to visit the sponsored students and their families who live in the surrounding hills where cars cannot venture.



**Clothes were distributed to needy families**

**O**n every visit we bring along as many bags of clothes we can legally carry to distribute, thanks to Blue Gum Clothing Company



**Latrine Built for the Juma Siblings**

**W**e were unaware that the Juma siblings didn't have a latrine or bathhouse until we came to employ 2 live-in carers and one asked where the toilet was. The kids had been using the neighbour's latrine and bathed inside after dark in the bedroom which had a dirt floor. Not ideal. Pictured above - a 5 metre hole had to be dug to get down to solid ground.

**Highlights**



**Peter meets his sponsored student**

**P**eter (above right) sponsored Gerald through High School. While in Nairobi we arranged for them to meet up. This was one of Peters highlights for the trip. Gerald is now sponsored by another couple and is in his 3rd year of Uni. training to become a surgeon.



Stone wall being erected for the toilet chamber.

**Local transport "Room for one more"**

**E**ven more remarkable is that this year 11 students have been sponsored to attend university. Previously only 6 students have attended university. KKI was able to sponsor these 11 students because of our generous sponsors and the support of our corporate partner Ability Consultants.



The completed latrine (squat toilet) and bath house next to it. We ran out of funds at this stage and still need to add some doors.





## Living with a Kenyan Family by Peter Harding



(L) Peter with the Owiti family all dressed up ready for Church.  
(Above) Bernard holding fresh fish donated by neighbours.



Top - Peter's bedroom made of Mud.  
Middle - Church in the hot tin shed  
Bottom - Kitchen cooking area.

I was fortunate to spend 2 days with the Owiti family - Ps Bernard, his wife and 6 children. One of his sons is sponsored by KKI.

Bernard arrived on his motorcycle. I climbed on the back and we traveled for twenty minutes to his home in the hills.

***"There was no running water, no electricity. The toilet was a drop latrine outside."***

There were two mud brick dwellings, the smaller one where I would sleep, plus a separate corrugated iron kitchen.

There was no running water or electricity, an outside drop latrine with a tin washroom next door. A "wash" consisted of using a plastic tub filled with water, which you tipped over yourself after applying soap! Donkeys and goats roamed around outside. The experience was so different to my comfortable unit in Australia.

Kenyans regard it as an honour to have a visitor. Neighbours brought food, fresh fish

and the loan of a new mosquito net for me to use. Bernard, Keith and I ate separately from the women and the other children. Our large lunch consisted of Ugali which is made from maize flour together with heavily fried fish, boiled cabbage and carrot, chapatis and ground nuts. Different but enjoyable.

The afternoon was spent exploring the property with a walk up the hill for a spectacular view of Lake Victoria in the distance.

The next day was Sunday. We all went to the Owiti's Church. The church building is under construction, services are held in a corrugated iron and **very** hot shed.

Whilst the praise, worship and singing was beautiful, it was very loud! I shared my testimony using an interpreter and this was well received.

I will treasure the memory of my time with this beautiful Kenyan family, seeing their struggles, resourcefulness and how happy they were, whilst living a simple life.

***Are you interested in visiting KKI projects?***

**Have a heart for the poor?  
Desire to make a difference?  
Or want to visit your sponsored student?**

KKI works with one of the poorest communities in Kenya on the shores of Lake Victoria. We invite you to join Rob and Rikki who plan to visit Kenya in August 2025.

Contact: [rob@kenyakidsinternational.org.au](mailto:rob@kenyakidsinternational.org.au) or Phone: 0409 413 248

**Sponsor a student  
for \$49 a month**