KILIFI KIDS
Developing Tomorrow’s Leaders in Kilifi, Kenya

ANNUAL REPORT
2007 / 2008

Kilifi Kids is supported by the Rotary Foundation, Rotary Clubs from around the world, corporations, foundations, and individual investors.

www.kilifikids.org • info@kilifikids.org
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Summary of How Far Your Investment Goes
Intelligently Investing in the Children of Kilifi

Dear Friends,

Kilifi Kids was started one year ago to help support the dynamic community leaders in an impoverished region of Kenya. The support—your support—for the people in need is overwhelming. Kilifi Kids works hard to make every dollar given go as far as possible, and we are proud to say that your investment is making a huge difference for children and the whole community. In 2008, because of your investment:

- 27,000 children in Kilifi between the ages of 6 and 12 will receive treatment for intestinal parasites that sap their health and their ability to learn;
- A new group of 13 leaders are currently learning in secondary schools across Kilifi District and will have a chance to break the cycle of poverty their families live in; and
- 2,000 people now have access to computers, and soon the internet.

One hundred percent of the donations from individuals (and 85% of the donations from Rotary clubs) was matched at a rate of 3.5:1; every $1 you gave turned into $3.50. In total, $160,000 from 2007-2008 will be invested in the future of Kilifi. That is overwhelming support.
The impact, of course, goes beyond figures and dollar amounts. Let me share with you the story of a girl you have helped:

Christine Kahindi turned 14 in 2007 and was set to graduate from the eighth grade. In Kenya, all students take a national exam for placement into secondary school. Christine scored the highest score out of all girls in 2007 in Kilifi District, a region of 700,000 people. Christine was selected for a “national school”—the best in Kenya. She is exceptionally bright and hardworking.

But, unfortunately, Christine’s family is very poor. Her father has died. Her mother has no employment: she fetches firewood to sell, and sometimes makes palm leaves used for roofing to sell around her village to support Christine and her four brothers and sisters. While primary school was free for Christine’s family, there was no way the family could afford secondary school. Here is the recollection of Janet Midega, one of Kilifi Kids’ founding partners in Kilifi:

When we first met Christine at her home, she was very quiet and shy, obviously worried about her future. She knew she had done very well in school but she saw no opportunity for secondary education. We interviewed her with her mother, and all through the interview they could not believe what we were saying to her. The possibility of funding for Christine to continue her education didn’t appear real to them.

Thanks to Kilifi Kids Scholarships, Christine is attending one of the best girls schools in Kenya, the Limuru Girls Secondary School. She is obviously very excited to be at this school.

It’s interesting to note that when we next met Christine after her first term at school she had changed a great deal: she was more excited, looked at us right in the face, and definitely is developing some confidence in her.

You are making stories like this possible. Christine’s future is very bright and so are the other children’s whose lives have been touched. From the bottom of our hearts—the Kilifi Kids members in the United States, the Rotarians in Kenya and the cooperating organizations in Kilifi, we thank you for your investment. It has gone a long way in changing the life of Christine and thousands of other children in Kilifi.

Thank you for your support of Kilifi Kids in 2007-2008.

Sincerely,

Michael Olsen, Kilifi Kids

Marc Olsen, Kilifi Kids

Christine Kahindi, new secondary school student
Kilifi District: an intersection of great need and unique opportunities to promote fundamental social change

Kilifi, a rural town and surrounding district of 700,000 residents, faces problems endemic to the developing world. One in eight children die before the age of 5; undernourishment, exacerbated by human parasites, is persistent, leading to a host of opportunistic diseases, including malaria. Kilifi has some of Kenya’s highest infection rates and most abject poverty. However, it also has significant assets—for example, the town’s coastal location makes it a significant tourist destination.

Statistics: Health & Education in Kilifi

• 41% of children in Kilifi are undernourished. Students cannot learn without nutrition and are much more susceptible to diseases like malaria.

• 80% of children carry schistosomiasis, a parasite that can sap 20% of a child’s nutrients. Children are infected by these parasites because of poor sanitation: parasites live in soil and standing water and reproduce in people’s intestinal tract.

Statistics: Secondary School in Kilifi

• The 8th grade dropout rate is 90%, as most Kilifi families cannot afford secondary school.

A Note About Political Troubles in Kenya

As you may have heard, Kenya had a contested election in December. While there was an eventual political compromise reached between the two disputing parties, the controversy stoked ethnic tensions; thousands in Kenya died and hundreds of thousands were displaced.

Thankfully, Kilifi escaped the brunt of the violence. It is located in the eastern-most area of Kenya, and it does not have the same tribal make-up as areas with unrest. The focus of the fighting was in the western provinces (Nairobi and the Rift Valley.) There were a few disturbances immediately following the election, but within one or two days, day-to-day life returned to normal. Our partners in Kilifi are optimistic that those difficulties are in the past.

This is a typical Home in the Kilifi Countryside. As Marc Olsen recalled from a Kilifi Kids trip to Kenya, “Most of these utility shed-sized shacks consisted of thatched roofs and tree branches held together by dried mud or plant vines. In some, a fireplace was hastily built and paper-thin, single-person mattresses lined the floor. We heard stories of families of 7 or 8 living in these homes. It was a grim sight to see.”
Focus of Kilifi Kids in 2007 - 2008

1. **Immediate Transformations — Healthy Students for 29¢**: Students cannot learn when they are sick and underfed. However, there are very safe, inexpensive, and easy-to-administer treatments for some of the main causes, including de-worming pills that combat parasites affecting most of the school-aged population. Studies from Harvard University show that yearly de-worming treatment results in 1.5 months of increased school attendance per child per year, while medication costs are $0.29 per child per year. We are treating 27,000 primary students per year for 4 years for two types of parasites, hookworm and schistosomiasis.

2. **Long-Term Transformations — Secondary Education**: Only 10% of students get more than an 8th grade education. While primary education is free, secondary education is not. This project provides scholarships to cover all costs for four years. In addition to keeping their grades up, sponsored students will have service obligations to fulfill. The goal is to spark a call to service and build the community leaders of tomorrow. Based on costs of $250 per child per year, we will be sponsoring 48 students, staggered over 4 years.

3. **Bridging the Digital Divide — Computers**: Having a community fluent in technology will set Kilifi apart and strengthen the economy. Kilifi Kids is providing three schools and the Kilifi District Library with computer labs. We will also educate teachers on how to incorporate computers to improve student education.

4. **Enriching Our Own Communities, Too — Virtual Exchange**: With computers installed, we aim to enrich education in our own communities as well as Kilifi. Kilifi Kids is setting up a “Virtual Exchange” where students in the US will establish a dialog with students in Kilifi, broadening each child’s horizons and establishing connections.

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**History of the Organization**

The planning for Kilifi Kids started in November 2006 after Kilifi Rotary Club put their ideas to improve education onto RI’s World Community Service Database. Several clubs responded. The first project developed was a request from Kilifi Rotary for support for computer labs in schools. Quickly, the plans blossomed from computers to scholarships and deworming. In July 2007, three Rotarians—Gary, Marc and Michael Olsen—traveled to Kenya to meet our partners and plan the year’s projects.
### Kilifi Rotary Club
Chief among Kilifi’s assets is the local Rotary Club. The club’s central focus is education, and their record is impressive. They have installed concrete in dirt-floored primary schools, added running water to schools, and implemented school lunch programs to encourage students attendance. The club has extraordinarily active community leaders. Kilifi Rotary Club plays the central role in planning and implementing Kilifi Kids projects.

### KESHO Organization & Moving the Goalposts Kilifi
KESHO is our implementing partner on the ground for our secondary school scholarships. With many years experience in giving scholarships to the most needy students, KESHO is an incredibly enthusiastic and effective organization. Moving The Goalposts Kilifi is an NGO dedicated to empowering girls through sports and education. Kilifi Kids gives preference to MTGK students and works with the organization to ensure the girls we support get the most out of their schooling.

### Plan International
Plan International is working with Kilifi Rotary Club and Kilifi Kids to establish improved sanitation in conjunction with Kilifi Kids’ anti-parasitic efforts. Plan International also has worked extensively in providing community Internet networks elsewhere in Kenya, so they are natural partner for establishing increased Internet access in Kilifi.

### Ministry of Health
Kilifi District Hospital, working with Kilifi Rotary Club, will be implementing the anti-parasitic treatment for all 27,000 primary schools. The hospital covers the planning costs for the effort.

### KEMRI
KEMRI is a medical research organization and facility, based in Nairobi and Kilifi. They are a premiere example for developing country research. KEMRI provides public health analysis and medication sourcing for the anti-parasitic project. A large number of Kilifi Rotary Club members are world-class researchers or very skilled staff members at KEMRI.

### Computers for Schools Kenya
CFSK’s Mombasa office is providing computers and training for our computer project. With an ever enthusiastic staff, the computers they support and maintain will make a difference for thousands of students in Kilifi.

### Ministry of Education and Cooperating Schools
The leaders of Kilifi’s secondary schools have fully committed to the computer program. The computers will be installed in Bahari Girls Secondary School, Kilifi Township Secondary School, and Kibarani School for the Deaf. Each school’s headmaster or headmistress have been extremely enthusiastic.
## Team Members & Supporters in the U.S.

### US Rotary Clubs
Several Rotary Clubs have provided leadership and support to Kilifi Kids. There are participating clubs across Georgia, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Virginia and Florida.

### Rotary Districts
Districts in Georgia, North Carolina Virginia, and East Africa provided grants to Kilifi Kids through the Foundation's District Designated Funds.

### Rotary Foundation
A great supporter of the efforts in Kilifi has been the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. Beyond substantial matching grants, the Foundation has lent the program expertise and planning grants.

### Individual Investors
Individuals from 25 states invested in Kilifi Kids; all of this money was matched.

### Individual Participants
We have also gotten people involved in planning and setting the direction for this project. On our website, we have a portal that allows individuals to communicate and strengthen the project through brainstorming & research.

## Fundraising & Grant Management

We’ve raised US $160,000 over the past year. This includes about $15,000 from individuals, which was matched to reach $52,000. Other seed money comes from Rotary Clubs in five states.

There were two grants awarded to Kilifi Kids by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International: first, a non-competitive grant for the computers (for a budget of $17,000); and second, a Competitive Matching Grant for scholarships & deworming with a budget of about $143,000.

### Press

There’s been a lot of interest about Kilifi and the opportunities it offers leaders and investors in the US. It is a great example of how changes in the world have made it possible for US citizens to make a huge difference in the fight against poverty and disease. It is the story of Rotary allowing ordinary people the chance to do extraordinary things. While there have been several stories already published, the most exciting news from a publicity standpoint is that the ABC affiliate in Atlanta has agreed to put together a half-hour segment about Kilifi Kids.

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**Kilifi Kids: Showcase Project, District 7680**

In April, Kilifi Kids was honored with the designation of “Showcase Project” in North Carolina Rotary District 7680. Kilifi Kids was chosen from all international projects in the District. Thanks to John Barrigner and Dilworth Rotary for their support.
In the words of Janet Midega, Kilifi Rotarian:

Georgina is from Mayowe in Ganze. She is 14 years old and has 8 siblings. Her mother has never had a job. Her dad used to work, but is now retired. She has 2 male siblings in high school and one in primary school. Her dad supports her brothers in high school and says that he has no resources to take on another child in secondary school. Georgina appears enthusiastic about education. She has been an active soccer player at her primary school and we identified her through Moving the Goalposts Kilifi [an organization in Kilifi that empowers girls through educational programs].

Kilifi Kids’ parasite treatment program means that 27,000 kids like little Misara here will grow stronger, be less susceptible to diseases like malaria, and receive a better education.

A Life You’re Changing: Georgina Katana
In Georgina’s Own Words:

I am Georgina Mkeya Kalona from Magowu. I live with my two parents. They practice subsistence farming so as to earn their living. We have two brothers and six sisters. At home I live with my three sisters and my little brother. Also there are three poorer children, my father’s younger brothers.

I live in a thatched house which is made of mud, reeds and “makuti.” It has two rooms and a small but made of palm leaves and a roof which I share with my little sister. I don’t have a mosquito net. Many times I suffer from malaria.

During holidays I help my family carry water, collect firewood and some days going to shamba from dawn to dusk.

I am now in St. John’s Girls Secondary School in Kaloleni. It is a boarding school. It is far from home thus when the holiday is over I have to take a vehicle to school.

In school we wake up at four in the morning and we prepare ourselves for classes. At five we are supposed to be in class for morning lessons. At six we are supposed to be in school. At eight we take breakfast made of strong tea and a loaf of bread. First lesson begins from eight. At lunch time we mostly eat a mixture of maize meal and beans. Sometimes we eat fish. At four p.m. we are dismissed and I usually play football during my leisure time.

I hope I have gone accordingly to the instruction and I will meet my request. Thank you.

Yours Faithful,
Georgina Kalona
A Life You’re Changing: Isaac Fikiri

Isaac hails from Ganze and is 15 years old. He attended the Dzikunze Primary school and scored 386 Marks out of 500. Both his parents are alive, but they do not work. His parents have 10 children, and he is the fourth child. His older brother is a manual laborer, and his 2 older sisters are married. They married young.

We interviewed Isaac and he told us that he is saddened by the fact that his entire family lives in poverty. He said that he would like to go to school and work hard so as to be able to assist his family to live a better life in the future. He is the first child to complete primary school education in his family, and so the first one to go to secondary school. Isaac is on a full sponsorship.
### Deworming 27,000 Primary School Students

**Partners:** Kenya Ministry of Health, Kilifi District Hospital & Plan International

**Achievements in 2007-2008:**

1. Kilifi Rotary Club completed a successful negotiation with Kilifi District Hospital to provide deworming treatment to 27,000 kids. The hospital agreed the Kilifi RC/Kilifi Kids would pay for the cost of medication and the transportation on treatment days, while the hospital covered planning and survey costs.

2. The District Hospital conducted surveys of infection rates across the district that were used for determining coverage areas and as a baseline for future infection studies.

3. In mid-May, 150 primary school teachers from the treatment areas were trained in Kilifi town about the problems of intestinal parasites and the procedures for treatment.

4. On Saturday, May 24, the anniversary of the founding of Kilifi Rotary Club, the first treatment was launched in Basi School, Kilifi.

**Future Activities:**

1. Treatment will continue twice a year for 4 years. In total, 36,000 kids will be treated.

2. Kilifi RC is coordinating with Plan International to assist in a sanitation improvement project to reduce re-infection rates.

3. Plans to extend treatment to expectant mothers and children under 5 are underway.

### Providing Scholarships to 50 Students

**Partners:** KESHO & Moving the Goalposts Kilifi (MTGK)

**Achievements in 2007-2008:**

1. In January 2008, KESHO, a scholarship organization in Kilifi, and Kilifi Rotary Club visited the homes and met the families of all scholarship applicants graduating from grade 8. They also collected their grades and test scores. MTGK, an organization that uses soccer to empower girls in Kilifi, also assisted in identifying high-achieving students who were in need of financial assistance.

2. KESHO and Kilifi Rotary Club selected 7 girls and 6 boys, representing the best academic achievement in Kilifi District for the year. These students will receive full funding for all 4 years of secondary school.

3. Each selected student attended “KESHO Day” before the school year began in February to celebrate their achievements in primary school. Students were also told of their responsibilities and given checks to pay schools for tuition and books.

4. The students attended another KESHO Day in April after the completion of their first term to share their report cards.

**Future Activities:**

1. KESHO and Kilifi RC will pick a new class of recipients each year for the next three years, for a total of 48 sponsored students.

2. Kilifi RC & US partners are further brainstorming about how to incorporate a service requirement and provide additional scholarships to students in Kenya.
Computer Labs for 3 Schools & District Library

**Partners:** Computers for Schools Kenya, Participating Schools & Kilifi District Library

**Achievements in 2007-2008:**

1. In the three schools chosen, the facilities were upgraded to support the creation of a secure and learning-oriented computer lab. The funding was provided by the schools themselves.

2. In District Library, Kilifi Kids supported the upgrade of a room suitable for the computer lab with improved electrical facilities and bars for the windows.

3. In April, 15 teachers and school principals were given four weeks of training on how to use computers and how to teach students to use computers.

4. In early May, computers were installed by Computers for Schools Kenya.

5. Computers for Schools Kenya is contracted for maintenance for four years for each computer to avoid breakdowns.

**Future Activities:**

1. Followup with the schools and library to ensure the computers are being appropriately used in and outside the classroom.

2. Provision of internet to all sites, in conjunction with Plan International and Computers for Schools Kenya.

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Virtual Exchange

**Partners:** High Schools in Wisconsin, Georgia, & Kilifi

**Achievements in 2007-2008:**

1. Identification of students from Kilifi and the United States interested in the Virtual Exchange.

2. Introductions over the internet between students from the two countries.

3. Creation by students in Wisconsin of a questionnaire to begin conversation.

**Future Activities:**

1. Establishment of ongoing conversation.

2. Building the exchange into the curriculum of both American and Kenyan schools.
YOUR INVESTMENT GIVES A BRIGHTER FUTURE TO THOUSANDS

The impact of your support this year to Kilifi Kids

8¢ (matched by Rotary Foundation to 29¢)

1.5 MONTHS OF PRIMARY SCHOOL  With 3.5:1 matching from Rotary International’s Rotary Foundation, an 8¢ donation turns into the 29¢ needed to provide a child with treatment from the burden of intestinal parasites. This has been proven to provide each child with the equivalent of an extra 1.5 months per year of schooling due to increased attention and less absenteeism.

$28 (matched to $100)

SECONDARY SCHOOL ENTRANCE FEES  Required books & uniforms for a 9th grader starting secondary school.

$215 (matched to $750)

5 COMPUTERS FOR SCHOOLS  Installation of computers in a secondary school to provide useful job skills and help address the Digital Divide.

$285 (matched to $1,000)

A HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION  Four years of tuition for a secondary school student. Students with a secondary school have a dramatically brighter economic future.

To continue your support, visit www.kilifikids.org.