



Erokamano!



Winter 2019 | Friends of KMMA-CAITHS (501c3)

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A note from the Board

It is with great pleasure that we bring you this brief newsletter highlighting a few achievements at the Kathy and Mike McNulty Academy and CAITHS during 2018. The newsletter's name, *Erokamano*, means "thanks" in the Luo language – a fitting moniker for our message of gratitude. We at **FRIENDS OF KMMA-CAITHS** were overwhelmed by the generous support – donations, but also prayers and well-wishes – received during our first year. Your gifts are transforming the lives of children in rural Kenya: not in abstract ways, but in practical, observable improvements in their academics, nutrition, and emotional wellbeing. THANK YOU for your generosity, and we hope you enjoy this mailing.

- Kieran McNulty, Ph.D.
Co-Founder and Board Treasurer
Friends of KMMA-CAITHS

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St. Patrick Clinic opens at KMMA!

We are excited to announce the opening of a new medical facility within the Kathy and Mike McNulty Academy. Thanks to generous donations from parishioners at St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church (Colorado Springs, CO), the clinic opened on July 16 to great fanfare and broad participation from the local community. To honor such generous gifts, the CAITHS Executive Committee voted unanimously to name the new clinic after the church!

St. Patrick Clinic is a Level 2 medical facility licensed by the Kenyan Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board. It is staffed by a full-time, certified nurse to handle medical care plus a full-time social worker to monitor students' mental and social health.

Clinical services are free to all students at KMMA, and already the access to health care has made a noticeable difference in school attendance and performance. Local community members can also receive care at St. Patrick Clinic, but are asked to pay (at cost) for medications they receive. Since the clinic opened, more than four hundred patient visits have been logged. Truly, the St. Patrick Clinic is a blessing to the Rusinga community!



Left: a student at KMMA being treated by the full-time nurse at St. Patrick Clinic without having to be taken out of school.



Above: Ribbon-cutting for St. Patrick Clinic at KMMA. From left to right: **Mr. Fred Apollo** (local teacher), **Mrs. Sarah Okeyo** (CAITHS Health and Sanitation officer), **Fr. Anthony Ngwatu** (Mombasa Archdiocese), **Pastor Tom Ateto** (behind; CAITHS Secretary), **Fr. Robert Sewe** (St. Johannes R.C. Church, Rusinga Island), **Mr. John Oloo** (Ministry of Health), **Mr. Samwel Odhiambo** (CAITHS Director), **Prof. Kieran McNulty**

“The future of Rusinga lies in the **CHILDREN**. The only way to liberate them is to give them their **BASIC NEEDS** and **EDUCATION**.”

- Fr. Robert Sewe,
St. Johannes R.C. Church

KMMA students “ace” their exams

Students at the Kathy and Mike McNulty Academy continue to grow academically, outperforming their peer institutions in regional standardized testing.

In 2018, Grades 1-2 competed twice in joint exams with several other area schools. In the first round of tests (May), KMMA students placed second out of all the schools. They topped this during the September session, when KMMA scores exceeded those from every other participating school! This is one of several reasons why the Kathy and Mike McNulty Academy was named the most improved school for all of Rusinga Island in 2018. Congratulations to the students, teachers, and administrators!



FRIENDS OF KMMA-CAITHS MISSION: working together to save lives and improve the prospects of the men, women, and children of Rusinga Island, Kenya, by supporting sustainable and safe solutions for education, health, nutrition, and sanitation through our partnership with the Kathy and Mike McNulty Academy (KMMA) and the community-based organization Centre for Advocacy and Interventions on Talent, Healthcare, and Sanitation (CAITHS).



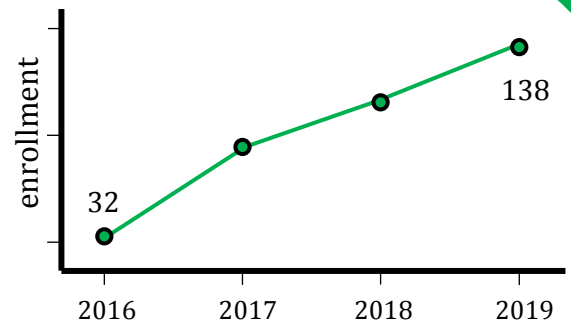
LEFT: KMMA student and grandfather receive a “clean water system.” This set-up is provided to every student’s family, and includes a water cannister, metal stand, and purification chemicals.



RIGHT: Every student gets two meals a day in school – sometimes the only food they receive. When school is not in session, CAITHS members deliver foodstuffs to the students’ homes! In 2018, more than 1,000 pounds of food was distributed.

KMMA/CAITHS by the numbers...

- Number of students (3-10 yrs): **138**
- Percentage of girls/boys: **55%/45%**
- Proportion of students who have lost one or both parents: **88%**



- School meals provided each month at KMMA:

5,500



- Patient visits to St. Patrick clinic:

400



- Beaches and villages cleaned by CAITHS:

32



- Teen girls provided with sanitary supplies:

99





Student Spotlight: John Otieno

We are delighted to feature Johnstocktone Otieno in our student spotlight. Like most KMMA students, John lost both of his parents to disease; he currently lives with his elderly grandmother. John showed tremendous academic improvement in 2018, but really stood out from his peers through his passion for planting and caring for trees. John has shared his stewardship skills with other KMMA students and now regularly visits their homes to make sure their young saplings continue to thrive! Bravo!

Support education, health, and sustainable development on Rusinga Island, Kenya



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Minnesota Girl Scouts make educational tools for KMMA

When Girl Scout Troop 55924 from St. Croix Catholic School (Stillwater, MN) was searching for a service project for their Bronze Awards, they considered several local, national, and international organizations. After thoughtful deliberation and presentations from each girl in the troop, they chose to help the Kathy and Mike McNulty Academy!

The Girl Scouts worked throughout the year to develop teaching supplies and educational tools for KMMA. This included a variety of math and reading flash cards, educational poster displays, and simple learning games. The girls used their ingenuity, creativity, and artistic skills to create fun and colorful tools that can be used to educate Rusinga children for many years.

Their gift was greeted enthusiastically by the students and staff at KMMA, and teachers immediately put the new tools to use. Everyone in the CAITHS and KMMA community sends Troop 55924 *erokamano maduong'* (many thanks) for this kindness and congratulations on earning the Bronze Award.

CAITHS (Centre for Advocacy and Interventions on Talent, Healthcare, and Sanitation) is a Kenyan grassroots organization dedicated to improving lives in impoverished and disease-ravaged communities on Rusinga Island. Started in 2013 by a handful of volunteers, CAITHS began conducting small acts of charity, education, and sanitation where it was most needed in their villages.

In 2016, CAITHS initiated their flagship program, the **Kathy and Mike McNulty Academy** (KMMA), to provide free education, food, and health care to the orphaned and needy children in the area. With the help of the U.S. organization **Friends of KMMA-CAITHS**, the Academy and CAITHS organization are helping to break the cycle of poverty on Rusinga Island through broad-based interventions and educational programs.

