



Erokamano!



Spring 2022 | Friends of KMMA-CAITHS 501c3 www.kmma-caiths.org kmmakenya@gmail.com

Building Hope on Scaffolds of Light

As we give thanks for the easing crisis of a global pandemic, let us remember, too, the resolve for change and collective action that is summoned by people found in crisis. That resolve is evidenced in the world all around us and can be harnessed in many ways. It can imagine cathedrals of compassion or architectures of otherness. We must decide what it is that we want to build. When we forget, there are builders around us, in whose work we are reminded of the commitment and solemnity of that perpetual decision—what to build. We are grateful for their example. To give thanks (“Erokamano” in the Luo language) is to recognize the truth of our shared humanity and the grace of our service to one another. Let us enact the spirit that we hope for, and build a cathedral of compassion. Let us kindle a flame atop its spire and fuel a light for all to see. Let that flame be a beacon. And let us remember to look up... often! Erokamano!

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Experimenting with the Future: KMMA students participate in global science research

The spirit of collaboration is at the heart of Luo culture, and thus when KMMA faculty heard that the University of Michigan was looking for a local research partnership, they were eager to get involved. The larger project aims to document the isotopic composition of rainwater to better model and map the sources and pathways by which precipitation reaches different areas. But for KMMA faculty, it represents a hands-on opportunity to teach students about the scientific method, careful measurement, and rigorous documentation, all while contributing to global research on water sourcing.

Three students took the lead on this project due to their particular interest in science: Eunice Owuor, Lavender Akinyi, and Clinton Andrew. Supervised by Head Teacher Charles Okongo, students have been carefully monitoring and measuring monthly rainwater, then sampling it from a simple catchment basin, storing it, and recording their observations. Even during school holidays, these junior scientists have been motivated to continue their data collection. Now, after nearly a year of research, KMMA will be hosting one of the University of Michigan scientists who is visiting to retrieve the water samples, update the catchment system, and perhaps meet some of her future scientific colleagues.



Little Things that make Big Things happen:

	Clean water treatment tabs:	\$5/month
	Student uniform (<i>required in Kenya</i>):	\$10
	5 Books for the school library:	\$10
	Shoes:	\$18
	Notebooks for an entire classroom:	\$20
	Electricity budget:	\$20/month
	School meals for 5 children/month:	\$25
	Home water purification container:	\$25
	A month's rent for the school:	\$75
	Teacher salary (<i>average</i>):	\$110/month
	Medical staff salary:	\$270/month



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).



Kids Making Cross-Continental “Change”

The global pandemic forced into hiatus so many things, and this includes the annual Penny Wars fundraiser at Gotha Middle School, in Windermere, Florida. But, this year’s 8th graders came back with a vengeance! In Mrs. Miller’s Service Learning class, students study Africa’s human geography, read *A Long Walk to Water*, and learn about The Kathy and Mike McNulty Academy as part of one of their units of study. To conclude the unit, students look at the money raised in years’ past,

Hakuna Matata!

One of the iconic songs from *The Lion King* teaches us that the Swahili phrase hakuna matata means “no worries.” But, whereas the movie frames this catchy, lighthearted ditty as an ode to adolescent irresponsibility, the interpretation of hakuna matata by those who live in Kenya is quite different. Rather, “no worries” is verbal affirmation that we are not defined by our challenges: life can be difficult, it can be scary, but it is also exciting and beautiful! We can face our problems without being consumed by them. Hakuna matata projects resilience among hardships, happiness amidst struggles, and hope when life seems dark – that is the Kenyan mentality. Hakuna Matata: a truly hope-filled philosophy.

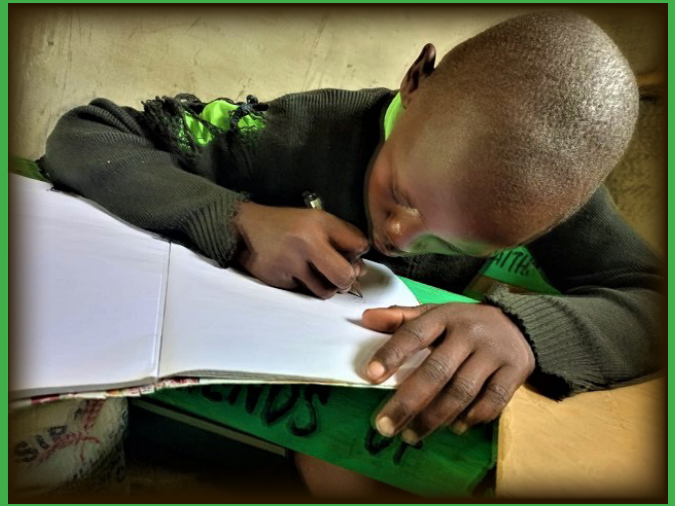
and this year, set a goal to raise a combined total of \$2,000 between the six Service Learning classes. Each class competes for ten days to try to bring in the greatest number of pennies, and sabotage their opponents by putting silver coins and dollar bills in their jars. Money used as sabotage counts against your penny total! A class with ten dollars worth of pennies could go into the negative if other classes put more than \$10 into their jar using silver coins or dollar bills! This fundraiser is exciting and ruthless! At the conclusion of this year’s fundraiser, the students were just shy of their goal, earning a total of \$1970.05.

A meaningful part of this fundraiser is deciding how best to direct such a gift. Rather than simply dictating how the donation should be spent, CAITHS director Samwel Owuor provided insight into the biggest needs for the students at KMMA. Following his advice, students decided to apply their donation to help repair and replace school uniforms, buy new playground equipment, and enhance the school feeding program. Although pennies may be only a small fraction of a dollar individually, Penny Wars shows the power of combining each cent and person we have to create a substantial positive “change” for others.



Student Spotlight: Clinton Andrew

Clinton Andrew excels as a group leader and team player. He is a grade four student working on the Rain Water Sample Collection project research team. In this position he is responsible for reminding the head teacher of upcoming collection dates and organizing his team of fellow students to collect, measure, and record the water sample data. Clinton enjoys this work and is eager to explain the research team's role to other interested students and adults. In addition to his skills collaborating and leading his peers, Clinton Andrew also enjoys building projects that showcase his interest in architecture. Maybe he can help us with our new school building!



“No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.”

-Charles Dickens

Connect and support education, health, and sustainable development on Rusinga Island, Kenya

A+

100% of your gift goes directly to Kenya to fund programming through CAITHS and KMMA!



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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, educational outreach, and sanitation programs where they were 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 the CAITHS organization are helping to break the cycle of poverty on Rusinga Island through broad-based interventions and educational programs.

