

Crossroads Springs Africa



Summer 2019

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Rev. Dick Young, CSA board member and vice president for many years, is now moving to a new leadership position at a camp and retreat center on Lake Tahoe. In 2010, Dick took his wife and three young children to Hamisi, Kenya to spend several weeks with the children, teachers, and villagers there. The family immersed themselves in the culture and community, playing with children, sharing meals and conversations. When he returned, Dick said, "The children grabbed my heart!" As a board member, Dick brought energy, insight, and leadership to all our pursuits toward the goal of educating vulnerable children and youth for their future independent, healthy lives. We send Dick and his family off with our deep gratitude and warm wishes for the next chapter of their lives. Thank you Dick from the bottom of our hearts,

- Alison Hyde and Friends of Crossroads Springs Africa



STRONG YOUNG PEOPLE

With a \$10,000 donation from a family foundation, Crossroads Springs Africa will be able to support a new initiative in Kenya to help improve the lives of those students who did not qualify for university. **We are excited to adopt a program started by The Friends of Kakamega and the**

Kakamega Care Centre. Strong Young People will expand our mission of helping deserving but vulnerable young people build strong, independent, and healthy lives for themselves and their families. The program will offer training in small business planning and income-oriented farm production or trading to about 15 high school grads, while also providing them micro-grants and knowledge about micro-finance lenders as they launch their independent ventures.



Over 80 Students Attended the Retreat

CAMP RETREAT IN HAMISI

CSA's high school students and incoming university students attended a one-day "camp" in Hamisi where they received their sponsors' letters, enjoyed soda and snacks, and listened to a presentation from Marie Stopes Kenya, a not for profit organization specializing in reproductive health. There was joy in the air as students read letters from their sponsors and carefully wrote their replies. After refreshments, representatives from Marie Stopes offered frank advice to the students. The first topic was making sound choices to avoid the traps of drinking and drugs, followed by a conversation about risk-factors that lead to sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and early pregnancy. To cap it off, the students learned about the importance of abstinence while also receiving complete, honest information about protection from STDs and the various contraceptive options available and how to access

them. This last talk was initially very awkward, but the Marie Stopes crew knows how to talk to youth and soon there were audible giggles echoing through the room. The question and answer period was particularly raucous but also made clear to us that this education is crucial. A majority of Kenyan girls give birth before reaching age 20, and this honest talk, where students saw and learned in detail about birth control methods is an important step in ensuring they are equipped to build successful futures. We believe it made a big impact and are proud that the young people we support have the knowledge they need to follow Marie Stopes' motto of "children by choice, not by chance." As the students went home, Form 1 (freshmen) received the same SunKing solar lights that others already have, which will help them study in the dark because many of their families do not have electricity or cannot afford to keep the lights on.



A LETTER FROM SHARON

Sharon Kasaya pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Education combining chemistry and physics at Eastern University of Africa Baraton.

Dear Friends,

I am working hard to ensure that my dream of becoming a qualified teacher of physics and chemistry is achieved. This will enable me to serve the children of this nation by providing a quality education to them. During this one year experience on campus, I have been able to gain various skills including skills in communication, social interaction among my fellow students. I have also learnt how to organize my day to day lifestyle and daily expenditures and I have learnt some research skills.

Currently I am on my long holiday which ends on August 19th. The holiday is long and as a result I decided to find a small job to keep me busy. I am therefore teaching at a secondary school near my home Gavudunyi Secondary School. This job will enable me to remain busy during the holiday hence I will be able to avoid unnecessary idleness. Once again I am grateful for your support and may God bless you abundantly.

Yours loving, Kasaya Sharon



SPONSORSHIPS

We will have 30 new incoming high school freshmen this January and are in need of sponsors. Please consider a sponsorship for \$800 per year that can be paid yearly, quarterly or monthly. We have individuals, family groups, book clubs and grandparents, on behalf of their grandchildren, sponsor a child! If a sponsorship is not something you can do then please consider a donation to support one of our programs. Our Polly Fund supports university students and our pilot project, Strong Young People, will help create opportunities for recent high school graduates. To sponsor a student or make a donation please visit our website: crossroadsspringsafrica.org.

KISUMU FIELD TRIP

In the middle of their August holiday, CSA high schoolers piled on to two hired school buses and went on a field trip to Kisumu City on the shores of Lake Victoria, one hour's drive away. Many of them had never been to Kisumu or any other city, and it was an exciting day. The students walked around town and each of them purchased one book at a bookstore. They were each given \$2 to buy a lunch of their choosing, which they savored (and from which some of them saved a big portion). Following, they visited a zoo-like conservation area called Impala Park, and then they saw Lake Victoria at a fisherman's landing called Dunga Beach. Staff member Beryl said "The day was awesome, and the kids really enjoyed it... especially the Impala Park. They loved having photos taken, it was a lot of 'take us with this baboon!' and 'take us with this giraffe!' " Laban, a Form 1 student (freshman), said he most enjoyed seeing a lion because "it is the king of the jungle." Quentin, a Form 4 (senior), reported that Impala Park was also his favorite, but the lake was a runner-up as "you can see a lot of fish being harvested from the lake, and there are so many boats and activities happening there." His classmate Brian added



Happy Students and Staff During the Field Trip

"it's also very smelly." Florence, a Form 3 (junior), said the trip was "fabulous" and that she enjoyed seeing an ostrich because it is "tall and smart." Ringing true with Beryl's analysis that the students loved having their photos taken with animals, Florence said her favorite part by far was "the snaps!". We will make sure the students have a chance to access their photos on-line, and we will also print some out for them to keep at home. All in all the day was a joyful, grand success.



Our Gala Event "Off to the Races" was held on May 4, 2019, the same day as the Kentucky Derby, at the historic Main House in Knox Farm State Park. Thank you to our sponsors, advertisers, all guests who attended, businesses that donated or helped out and our amazing Derby Committee. We will look forward to greeting you at our next Derby Gala which will take place on May 2, 2020 in Knox Farm State Park. The pictures above were taken at the 5th Annual Gala last May.