

LIVE AND LEARN IN KENYA INT'L



EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO THE FUTURE

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

2017 was very a very successful year for us. We achieved a number of goals. At Live and Learn in Kenya Education Centre we started the year with 6 classes, middle class to class 4 and by the time year ended we had 8 classes. That is from Day Care children to class 5 - with a school population of 240 children with a maximum of 30 pupils per class.

During the year we carried out a number of projects; we constructed a modern kitchen and a 7th classroom. Both were ready for use by the end of the year. Our feeding program was very much alive courtesy of **FEED A SMILE** events and various sponsor meal donations, often given as birthday presents to their sponsored children. Our children received warm and nutritious meals throughout the year.

Our program children who are in vocational training, colleges and university stayed in school uninterrupted by lack of school fees and other learning requirements, which were paid in time to make that possible.

Parents who have received funds for micro-credit businesses were very happy because they were able to put food on their tables. We helped them to help themselves. We thank our donors for supporting these families. They helped their sponsored children to stay healthy and at the same time stay in school.

Our school participated in a music competition for the first time this year. They did very well and reached the Regional Level in Eldoret. We hope to do even better in 2018.

In October 2017 our sponsors from the USA, Germany and the Netherlands visited our project. They came to assess the progress of our project and officially open our new kitchen and a classroom. Everyone was happy and impressed with our work.

As always, both parents and children received Christmas presents on 22nd, December just before we closed for Christmas. They were very happy and grateful to sponsors and donors.

We had a number of children who sat for class 8 and form 4 national exams. A number of them passed very well and are able to join high school and university.

In general, we achieved all of our set goals of the year.

Below are some of the activities we carried out in the year 2017

a) ***ADMISSION of NEW CHILDREN***

This year we enrolled 60 new children. We admitted children to kindergarten class and day care.

The government has changed the system of education from 3- 8-4-4 to 2-6-3-3-3. In the old system, children had 3 years in nursery/kindergarten, 8 years in primary, 4 years in high school and 4 years of university. The new system will have 2 years in nursery/kindergarten, 6 years in primary, 3 years in lower secondary and 3 years in upper secondary/high school and 3 years at university. The new system no longer takes the very young children into consideration. Instead it accepts day care for children aged 3 years. We have admitted 30 children into our new day care. This makes a total number of children at our school 240.



Sharline Chepkoechf - Day Care Pupil

b) FEEDING PROGRAM

We have a school feeding program for our public school children and our own school (Live and Learn in Kenya Education Centre). We pay for lunches for our children in their respective public schools on a term basis. Apart from keeping our children healthy, the feeding program also keeps them in school. Our feeding program has also helped children to improve in their studies as they are always at school to be able to have a warm meal every day – and they are able to concentrate on their schoolwork without a being hungry. It is also a relief to their parents, as they don't have to worry about being able to provide a meal for their children.

At our center we have our feeding program from Monday through Saturday. Children have breakfast at 10 am and a warm and nutritious meal at lunch time.

Rice/ugali, vegetable, beans, sometimes meat, milk or fruits are always on the menu.

We are very grateful to our sponsors and donors for their generous support. Special thanks go to the ***Feed a Smile*** program and **GlobalGiving**.



Children at Freehold primary having lunch



Our children enjoying a meal at our center

c) SCHOOL UNIFORM

In the year 2013, we initiated a tailoring workshop at our school. Youths who had finished vocational training come to volunteer. They make school uniforms for our school going children - from nursery to high school. This year, all students received school uniform complete with shoes and socks before schools opened on 2nd January.

Pupils who attend Live and Learn in Kenya School also received African attire. They put on this attire every Friday. This is our special day for African culture. We encourage our children to know their roots and culture. We initiated this activity 3 years ago.

In the process of making school uniforms and other clothes, these youths earn a profit. They have managed to use this profit to buy 200 plastic chairs and 2 tents with a capacity of 100 people each. This saves us the costs of renting tents and chairs whenever we have visitors or larger events/activities.



Children going to public schools in their respective school uniform



A tent and plastic chairs bought from tailoring profits



Kindergarten class pupils in their new uniform - including shoes



Original African attire that the LLK children wear on Fridays

D) KITCHEN AND CLASSROOM CONSTRUCTION.

i) School Kitchen/Septic and pit latrines

The kitchen we began constructing in January 2017 was completed in October. It is a standard kitchen, which is why it took us a long time to build and was quite costly. It is fitted with energy saving stoves, steam hood, oven, changing rooms and restrooms for both men and women. It was officially opened when our sponsors came in late October.

A 10,000 liter water tank was fitted to this kitchen for rainwater harvesting. This tank was donated by Renate and Kay Angermann. They are sponsors are also sponsoring 2 project children. We all appreciate this donation.



Our modern Kitchen with a 10,000 liter water tank



The inside of our kitchen (steam hood being fixed)



Septic tank/Pit latrines/showers (parents need to bathe after work)

ii) Class 5 Construction

There was need to have a classroom for the 5th in 2018. We were lucky to find a donor who paid for the construction of this classroom. This classroom was donated by the German family - Tanja, Klaus and Loredana Grünling and the firm Andres GmbH with Gerhard and Brigitte Süß. Construction began in January and by the end of March, it was ready for use.



The 5th grade classroom

E) VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Pupils who don't qualify for high school are given the opportunity to attend the vocational training institution of their choice in Nakuru. Various trades are open to them. Most of them choose mechanics, tailoring and hairdressing. After training, they are expected to volunteer at our school, especially those in tailoring schools. They help in making school uniforms for our project children.

We visit them at their institutions on a regular basis to monitor their progress as shown in the photos below.



Simon Kigo Mwatha at his training school



Faith Awour Kagiri in her tailoring class

F) GlobalGiving

A visit from Michael Rothwell from GlobalGiving

Global Giving is a US based charity organization which funds projects throughout the world. Through GlobalGiving we have received several thousand Euros through regular donations and sponsorship funds which go through them. These funds have helped in school construction and other project requirements – and are tax deductible in the USA and Great Britain.

Michael, from GlobalGiving, visited our school on 3rd April. He was welcomed by both parents and children. He was impressed with what we are doing for the children and the community.

Below is his short report that he wrote after the visit:

Note from the In-the-Field Traveler

Ken was incredible in assisting me during my time in Nakuru; picking me up and dropping me off at the bus terminal, arranging my accommodation and organizing a fantastic site visit at Live and Learn's school. I had a truly amazing time visiting this organization.

Recommendation for how to better use GlobalGiving

Overall your project pages on GlobalGiving are very good - your photos are engaging and the project descriptions are excellent. However, I think you can improve your project reports by switching their focus to telling the compelling stories of the students you've helped in your school. By focusing on telling an individual's story you will be able to demonstrate the impact of your work to your donors - stories about the beneficiaries' personal transformations has been shown to be a lot more effective than general updates on the organization as a whole.

Feedback on your programs

It might be worthwhile pursuing some other means of income generation alongside the tailoring workshop you currently have on site e.g. keeping livestock or a small farm etc. Likewise you could have a look at applying for some funding from other organizations such as 'The School Fund' or 'Level Up Village'.

Quote from the In-the-Field Traveler

Leben und Lernen and Live and Learn Kenya are doing an incredible job of giving

the poorest children of Nakuru a fantastic education and the opportunity to create a foundation on which to build the rest of their lives.



Michael enjoying a dance from our children during his visit

NOTE: We are taking his advice very seriously.

G) FARMING

Planting of crops for Feeding program

Every year we plant crops for our feeding program. We plant maize, beans and vegetables. This reduces the cost of buying food from the market.

This year farm crops did not do well. This was due to shortage of rainfall. Nakuru had been dry most part of the year. The 2017 harvest was very poor.

Parents came, as usual, to plant and weed the farmland that we rent from our neighbors. Our youths also give a hand - especially at our school farm. They plant and weed vegetables.



Parents weeding the rented farmland



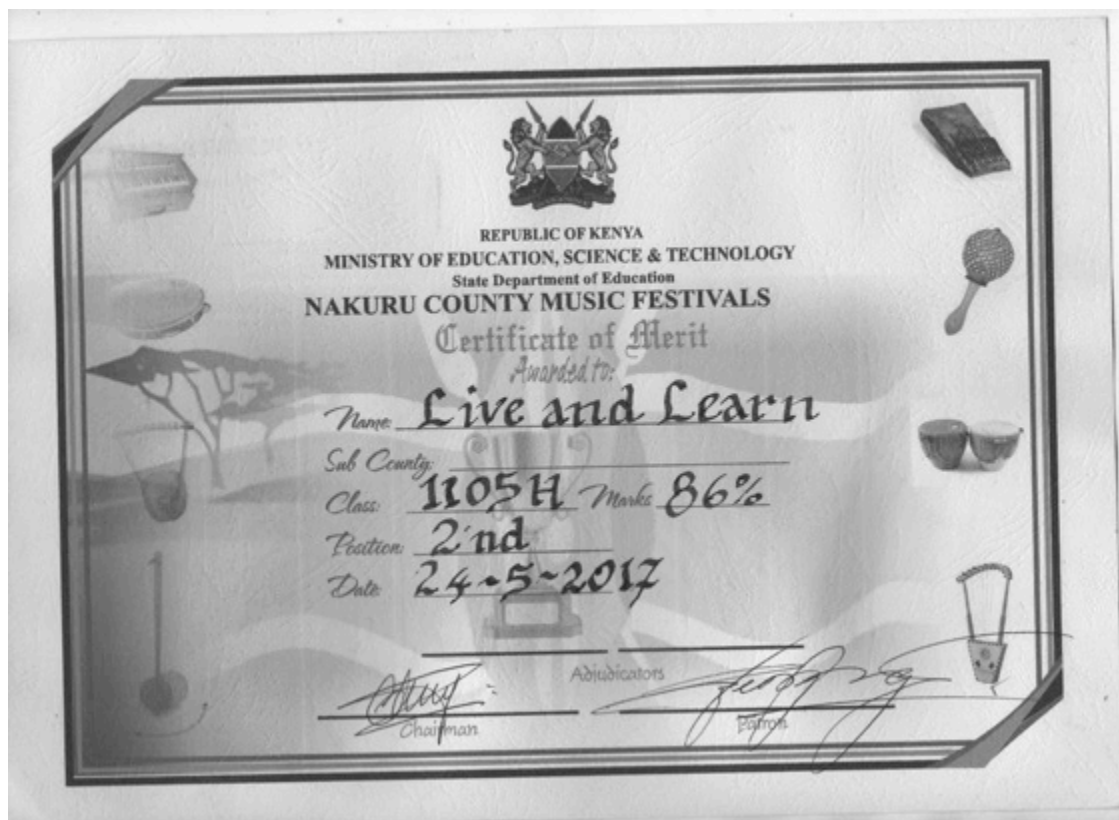
Maize and beans on our rented farmland. It is not doing well.



Vegetables planted by our youths at our school farm

H) MUSIC FESTIVAL

Our school participated in music festival this year for the first time. They had a number of presentations - from songs to poems. They performed very well and reached the Regional Level, which was held in Eldoret. This was a great success for both teachers and pupils. We hope they will reach National in the 2018 festival.



A certificate our children received at the County Level

I) MEDICATION

Medication is one of our project objectives. We take care of medication of all our project children. We have a contract with the Kimsaw Hospital, which is a 24-hour hospital where we take our children whenever they fall ill.

We also have a contract with Optical hospital for eye checkups and treatments with a **Hi-Tech Optician**. They both treat our children and we pay them at the end of the month. Doctors, opticians and public health also provide routine children checkups at no cost.

Hygiene workshop

There was a cholera outbreak in Nakuru and Nairobi in July. We invited a public health officer to come and give a workshop for both children and teachers. They were taught personal and environmental hygiene. After the workshop all children were de-wormed.



Public health officer giving de-worming tablets

J) MICRO-CREDIT

In early August, we visited all parents' micro-credit businesses. Currently we have 32 parents with a micro-credit business.

Most of these parents received funds from their children's sponsors. Sponsors decided to help these families to help themselves. A number of parents in business are also foster parents for whom we received funds to initiate the micro-credit, from Elsbeth Hirsche. She donated 400,000 Kenya Shillings from her retirement benefits to motivate foster parents. These parents have taken in orphans from our program. Their businesses support both their foster children as well as their own.

Most of the businesses we visited are doing well. Most parents/guardians are able to pay house rent and buy food through this income.



Rehema Mbogah mother with her fruits & vegetable business in the Ronda slums.



Miriam Mbonne's mother in her clothes and shoes kiosk

K) VISITORS FROM the USA, GERMANY AND the Netherlands



Happy visitors before leaving for Germany/the Netherlands

Every year on the last Friday of October we welcome our sponsors and donors from abroad.

This year, we received the largest group since we started our project. They came to celebrate our Kenyan organization's 10th Anniversary (LLK in Germany is already 17 years old). They arrived on 27th October and left on 5th November.

While here, they participated in a number of activities; singing and playing with children, construction of a playground, family visits, taking children to Nakuru National park among others.

Below are some of activities:

a) Construction of Playground

Construction of the playground started two days after visitor's arrival. All construction material was bought by one of the guests (Kay Angermann). He spent more than 1,000€ on material and some skilled labor. Visitors were joined by male parents and youths to do the work, which took 4 days to complete.



Parents and visitors working on the playground



A completed playground

b) Official Opening of the School Kitchen and the 5th Grade Classroom

During our sponsors' visit, both the completed kitchen and 5th grade classroom were officially opened. The kitchen was funded by several sponsors and donors from Germany and the USA. The 5th grade classroom was funded by Andres GmbH and Klaus, Tanja and Loredana Grunling, Andre Media AG and Gerhard and Brigitte Süß from Germany. They donated the entire funding for the classroom so that we were able to have it built in only two months time. Both the kitchen and classroom were officially opened on 4th November.



Official opening of the 5th grade classroom by Loredana Grünling (partly hidden)



Official opening of the kitchen by Mama Brique (Chairperson of Live and Learn in Kenya Int'l and Leben und Lernen in Kenia e.V.)



Architect (Zebedy O'wakwabi) showing visitors round the kitchen

c) Annual Party

We held our annual party on 4th November. This is an annual event that takes place on the first Saturday of November every year. We invite guests from around Nakuru and parents. This year we invited Mr. Bishar Ali, Barclays branch Manager in Nakuru, area Chief, project contactor and architect among others. Parents and children also joined visitors from Europe. This event was televised on several local stations.

It is during this function that we also officially commissioned our school kitchen and classroom. Children who will be joining first grade in 2018 also graduated from preschool. Our parents were very appreciative. They do it in a small but traditional way. They buy small presents for our sponsors to appreciate their visit and the help they give to their children. The fabulous singing and dancing for their visitors tells it all.



Guests seated during the big party



Time to give presents to visitors as a sign of appreciation



Mama Brique giving a speech during the function



Visitors came with kilos upon kilos of presents for our project children.

d) Visiting families

A number of these sponsors have helped families of their sponsored children to start small income generating activities. The purpose of this is to help these families to help themselves. Most visitors were happy with the progress these families have made. A number of them are able to take care of their basic needs.



Above photo shows Caroline and her husband Thorsten Kramer when they visited their sponsored children.



Renate Oberdiek visited a micro-credit she helped to start

L) STUDENTS GRADUATION

We have children at all level of education - from nursery school to university. We had 10 students at university in 2017. Two of them finished their studies this year - **Robinson Kenga and Holiness Kishagha**.

Robinson was studying Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering at Mombasa Technical University while Holiness was doing her Bachelor of Commerce at Technical University of Kenya. We are expecting other two students to graduate in 2018. We thank all sponsors and donors who are making all this possible. These young people may have ended up on the streets – or worse without you.

Education is the Key to the Future is our organization's motto and seeing their own friends and family members graduating from university certainly motivates students to work hard in school.



Preschool class children also graduated to class 1



Robinson Kenga on graduation day in Mombasa



Holiness on her Graduation Day

M) CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

It has become an LLK tradition to give Christmas presents to both our children and their parents. This gives them the possibility to feel like other people in the society. It is good for them to enjoy a traditional Christmas, too.

This year parents received a live chicken, vegetables, rice and maize flour. Children received a warm blanket and sweets as their Christmas presents. These presents were given out on 22nd December before we closed for Christmas holiday.

Both parents and children were very grateful for the presents and thanked sponsors and donors from around the world. They danced on streets of Nakuru in praise of LLK.



Children with their warm blankets



Happy parents/guardians with their Christmas presents

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