

Schools close at end of Term 1, and Safe Haven begins for them



Kevin arrives home from Kibos School for the Blind, on a “piki” (motorbike)



Challenge: kids in makeshift classroom

Safe Haven starts April 11: Challenges and the Future

Children arrived home from their various schools to Rusinga Island in early April. The Safe Haven program started a year ago for physically challenged and/or orphaned children needing food, medical care, and/or a safe place to sleep during school breaks. The program has grown in scope, as we have learned more about the kids and their needs. Initially focused on food, and a bed if needed, we quickly found the need for medical care and for a full-time teacher.

Challenges: Children are often with their teacher in a makeshift classroom, if access is not given to a normal classroom with desks and chairs. Having 19 little ones who have a mix of blindness, deafness, and other physical and health challenges can make for an interesting academic setting, especially when there are no desks or chairs and assignments are being given to students for writing and math. For days, the children were lying on a floor trying to do their assignments, when the classroom was unused but not made available for the children.

Future Needs: A facility for Safe Haven is critically needed. The facility used in the past is a school which meets the basic needs, but availability is always questionable. So far we’ve been lucky to have a portion of the new dorm for sleeping. Otherwise we would be back in the room used a year ago during rainy season, where children got wet in their beds during heavy rains. One possibility is to add a room to the house which is used for the Year-Round Feeding Program. We are currently looking into costs, which we pray will be minimal. More news on that soon. We so appreciate your prayers for these kids -- God’s precious children.



Children in classroom on the few days that it was available to them.



Some of the boys at Safe Haven. Kevin, in back, had injured his foot while playing ball, as he can no longer see the stones and debris at this school very well.

Medical Challenges for the Children

We are blessed to have with us children of all kinds – some with “just malaria” occasionally, while others are HIV positive, have sickle cell, have had polio, are blind or deaf, and have other physical challenges.

This is a great opportunity for learning, and we wonder now why we didn’t go into some field of medicine. Fortunately we have good local advisors, as well as the Internet and online friends. Tropical Medicine has many challenges we had never even imagined before.



Seth and Fancy have huge physical challenges. We are so grateful that they are both doing well now!

Thank you so much for all you do for these children! You are changing their lives.



Rebecca and Dave

Facebook: Rebecca Rowson

RusingaIslandChildrensFund.org

501(c)(3) charity

Mailing Address: 500 Westover Drive #6564, Sanford NC 27330