

Hello from Kenyan Kids!



Safe Haven Supportive Activities



Left: Volunteer teacher Josephine (front) with children greeting visitors. Wish we could all join them!

Right: Visitors and children, with gift bags of needed items, listen intently to inspirational talks.

All schools have been closed throughout Kenya until at least January, 2021, due to the Covid-19 virus. This presents real challenges, as it does anywhere. (While writing this, news comes that 4th and 8th graders return to school October 12. No others until January.)

What is different on Rusinga Island? There are strong social pressures to quit school -- for girls to become pregnant and for boys to fish on Lake Victoria, both especially dangerous with high HIV rates. For this reason, a Girls Day and a Boys Day were created to inspire the children to continue their studies. The Safe Haven education program resumed on Aug 3, as soon as the government permitted, and continues until all children are back in school in January. Then back to regular schedule, with studying during school breaks.

Braille Teacher for Collins and Kevin

Mwalimu Mary (left) is the new Braille teacher at Safe Haven for Collins (middle) and Kevin, who have attended Kibos School for the Visually Challenged for the last few years. We are fortunate to have special help for the children with a Braille machine.

Both boys have had serious physical challenges lately but are getting through those and will continue their studies until they go back to school.



Medical Challenges

Our organization has cared for the 30 children's many bouts with stomach upsets, malaria, and other common local ailments, even sickle cell anemia. We had never been faced with the recent challenges.



Happy days in the past for Collins (left) and Kevin. Happier days are coming for both the boys again!



KEVIN: (right, file photo, school uniform) Kevin has apparently had untreated glaucoma for years. He has attended a school for the blind for about 5 years and is scheduled for eye surgery after 2 years of increasing pain. He must be better soon!

COLLINS: (file photo) On August 31, Collins was hit by a motorcycle near Safe Haven, fortunate enough to have relatively minor injuries and a few front teeth missing. Dental work has been planned for him.



Amazon Smile helps the kids, at no cost to you

With holidays coming soon, if you use Amazon, please consider this. One quick designation of Rusinga Island Children's Fund for Smile on Amazon, and Amazon Foundation sends a small donation to the children at no extra cost to you, ever. A nickel here, a dime there can make a huge difference for the kids.

Here's how: 1. If you are an Amazon customer, go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile). This is still your account.
2. Near the top, under the Search box, you see "Supporting". Here you can designate your charity—Rusinga Island Children's Fund. Thank you!

Speaking of Smiles...

Idah and Rose are happy to receive much needed items for young girls. →



Wilson and friend having fun.

Thank you for all you do for the children!



Rebecca & Dave

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