

May Newsletter: Recent Visit to EBCCK/EHS; Let's All Smile; Thanks for the Seats!

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Newsletter

Partners with Elma Barnett Children's Centre Kamonong

Vol 4 Issue 2

A Visit to EBCCK & EHS

During the week of April 6-10, three members of the Walindwa Board of Directors (Jill Weller, Beth Nidzieko and Keith Edwards) traveled to Kenya for three days to meet with the Kenyan Board. These meetings yielded the following exciting news:

1. **EBCCK**-- The younger children are advancing in their K-8 studies and are being well fed and nurtured. The dorms have been upgraded with new cubbies for the children's belongings; there are primary school classrooms complete with three gifted, loving teachers; and the kitchen, dining hall, and play areas have all been improved in the last few years. Chickens, cows, and several kinds of crops are raised on site and keep operating costs down while improving the children's nutrition. The surrounding community is fully invested in the success of the home. These HUGE improvements have been accomplished with your help and with God's blessing.
2. **Elma High School** – The two boards agreed that the high school would become a boarding school rather than a day school. This will allow us to closely oversee the schooling of the EBCCK kids when they reach high school age, while potentially

quickly expand to offer all four years of high school (only the first two years of high school are currently operating). The school will have both a high-tech and advanced agricultural focus – setting it apart from other schools in the area. Up to 70% of Kenyans are involved in farming and there is an increasing job market in mass agriculture, therefore the Kenyan board believes this focus, in addition to teaching computer skills, will optimize job opportunities for our students. It was agreed that in the future an on-site technical school (electrical, engine repair, plumbing, etc.) would diversify the employability of our graduates.

- 3. Fundraising**—Efforts addressed include pursuing local Kenyan support by actively involving the Town Church in Eldama Ravine where several members of the board worship. Child sponsorship through Walindwa continues to thrive, however costs to care for the children are on the rise. Sponsorship will be expanded to cover these costs, provide university training for those qualifying, as well as have a contingency fund for unexpected events (medical expenses, repairs, etc.) The high school will need to be funded.
- 4. Communication**-- The importance of close communication between the boards was discussed. All agreed that we would include all concerned parties in any discussion about the Centre or the High School so that there are no misunderstandings or surprises as we proceed.

The future, with your prayers, support and help is indeed bright. The best part, as always, was the time we got to spend with the kids--playing, distributing gifts and sponsor letters, and seeing the many fruits of all the love and treasure given by our donors. Please know you are truly a God-given Blessing for these children and their dreams.

Keith Edwards, M.D.

Director

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Our wonderful donors contributed \$850 towards seats for Elma Kamonong High School. See the markings on the front of the desks?

EKH = Elma Kamonong High

F = form (grade) level (1 or 2)

D24 = desk number

14 (or 15) = year purchased.



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