A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Thanks and hope! I bring deep gratitude from Crossroads Springs Africa to you and all our donors for your generous response to our Covid-19 Relief Fund and #GivingTuesdayNow appeals. You met the April and May goals of assisting all of our 120 students’ families with $38 each month for food, soap and necessities. Among the heartfelt expressions are these: from a grandmother raising several children with no income, “I didn’t have money to buy food but my family will eat sardines today!”

We realize the impact Covid-19 has had in our own community and we see the challenges we are all facing in these uncertain times. Thank you for keeping our global community in your heart as well as our own communities that are being so deeply affected by this pandemic.

Thank you for your support in crisis times and in the future!

- Alison Hyde, President CSA

A MESSAGE FROM KENYA

I bring greetings to you all wherever you are with great hopes that you are keeping safe. There is a lot of hunger in Kenya; the economy has been hit badly plus other effects. I sit here and a day hardly passes without someone popping in my office to seek help, needing food or help of some kind. In short, it is not easy! I suggest that we continue assisting the families as much as we can. Any small amount to them is very important. The COVID Relief Fund has been very much appreciated by our families and they have been able to use the monthly allowance of $38 per family to buy food, soap and other essentials.

Presently, Kenya has 2600 Covid-19 cases and a mandatory, country-wide curfew is imposed between 9pm and 4am for at least another month. Those that are violating the curfew will be arrested and put in mandatory quarantine for 14 days at their own expense.

No one knows when primary and secondary schools will be reopening. We have no idea if exams will be done as planned or postponed to some other time. It is a matter of wait and see.

Our colleges and universities are also closed but are now offering online courses. At some point students will have a choice to either continue with online classes or attend face-to-face learning. Online admissions are available for our incoming qualified high school graduates and our staff is working on this. Our staff has been reaching out to all our students to follow up and help them with their studies including information on the availability of classes on the radio, TV or online, when possible.

Thank you for caring about us.

Ida Nelson
Program Administrator for CSA and KCC

“We were about to go on an empty stomach when I received a confirmation that we had been sent funds. We were able to put some basic needs on our table. My family thanks our donors for their continued support - going forward we shall overcome! “

- A CSA High School Student

We will be publishing some newsletters that will be only sent via email. They will include helpful links to pdfs, web pages and other online documents of interest such as slide shows. In times of COVID-19, this may be a safer solution. Keep following all of our news and sign up to receive our newsletters in your email. Go to our home page to sign up: crossroadsspringsafrica.org. Thank you.
All of the students we support live within families. There are often three or four siblings and cousins in each home, and the guardians can include single parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, or both parents. CSA's mission has always been to support vulnerable students, and over the years working with them we have become strongly aware that not only is the student vulnerable to extreme poverty but so are the siblings and family.

As we evolve, in close unison with our partner, Friends of Kakamega, we are adapting to changing circumstances by focusing more on helping families rise above poverty. Together, we have already provided solar lights and improved cook stoves to many households helping all children study and everyone breathe easier. Moving forward we will be finding even more ways to assist all the children in homes to work efficiently and sustainably to empower the whole family to earn more income, grow more nutritious food, enjoy better health, and see that all children get an education. Our newest high school class has been benefiting from our “Family Care” pilot, where along with the student’s education, guardians get training to make the most of their farms to improve food security, with special initiatives to uplift the households and all children within them. Stronger families can help each other and the impact of our work will grow when we support them.

“FAMILY CARE for a Greater and More Sustainable Impact”

Stephen is one of CSA’s Form 1 students. He and his older brother Kevin have been living with each other in a child-headed household for some time. It is just the two boys. Kevin was unable to proceed with school after eighth grade and had been supporting them as a casual laborer.

Now that Stephen is sponsored by CSA, his brother has been able to piece together enough to also enroll in high school. Stephen shares one of his two school uniforms and almost everything else with his brother. Whatever pocket money Stephen has from CSA, he uses to help his brother. They both work together tilling their small farm. In short, the two young men are very close and work hard to support each other.

Unfortunately, the home they’ve been living in for years is old, with a leaking roof and walls nearly falling down. The boys’ plight has not gone unnoticed in the community, and a neighbor and a kind local government leader collected building materials. After Ida Nelson visited and saw the dire situation, CSA bought whatever else was needed. Several villagers volunteered with the labor, and together, with the boys, they were able to construct a small house. Putting a smile on the face of these two boys is a great joy for all involved in the effort. CSA will be paying for school fees and requirements of both boys, who attend an affordable day school, whenever school re-opens.

How CSA’s “Family Care” Program Can Help a Community Pull Together

Stephen, Kevin with Neighbors in Front of the Old House

The New House

A CSA Student, Victor, with his siblings.

Help us share our story. Follow us on facebook. We cherish all donations you are able to make! To donate to the COVID-19 Relief Fund you can make a payment on our website or mail a check to CSA PO Box 242 East Aurora, NY 14052
crossroadsspringsafrica.org