



**Sincere Thanks:** As we begin a new year, we want to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks for the support that our donors have provided to Life4Kids during the past year. We have overcome



*Female staff at Life4Kids in Nairobi, Kenya*

many challenges at the home in Nairobi: a devastating fire in the home in February; the COVID-19 pandemic that closed schools and imposed a



*Male staff at Life4Kids in Nairobi, Kenya*

curfew in Nairobi, and drought in parts of Kenya and floods in other parts that caused food shortages. But, through it all, our staff in Kenya has been wonderful and our donors faithful.

**Sponsorship Program:** We introduced a new concept in this Journal last month. And we are delighted by the response. If you have an interest in sponsoring a boy for \$170 per month (*either personally or with a group of friends*), please contact Fred Hacker at 705.526.9867 or [fred@itvision.ca](mailto:fred@itvision.ca)



**Donate Now:** If sponsorship is not possible for you to undertake, we would be grateful for your financial support. If you could set up a monthly donation, that would be so helpful in meeting rising costs. Go to [www.life4kidscanada.ca](http://www.life4kidscanada.ca) and click “**Donate Now**”.



*Christmas cheer from some of the Life4Kids boys*

**Christmas Greetings:** Six of the boys in Santa hats (and one with facial make up) extend Season’s Greetings on behalf of Life4Kids.

**Meet Paul VanderWel:** Our Life4Kids Canada Board has seven members, each of whom brings special skills and experience to our volunteer work. Paul is a prime example. With a background as a senior corporate executive at McCain Foods and post-retirement as CEO of an NGO, Canadian Executive Service Organization, Paul brings a wealth of international experience and insight to our Board.





## Update from Kenya:

We're delighted to report that all is going very well at the Life4Kids home in Nairobi. Schools have reopened and the boys are back in class. We now have nineteen boys under 18 and ten aged 18 and over.



We often speak about the little boys. But we thought you'd enjoy seeing some of the "grads" and older boys. From left to right above, Mike (who grew up in

Life4Kids and is now a Nairobi policeman), Dennis (who also grew up in Life4Kids and now is employed as a caregiver at the Life4Kids home), Job (who is our first university student), and Ian (who is now in high school).

## New Boys:

Our goal is to have 25 little boys under the age of 18 (in addition to the boys 18 and over) in the care of Life4Kids. Four little boys have recently joined the family.



These two are the latest, pictured where they were found at the dump, scrounging for food. Life4Kids provides a loving home, food, education, health care, and most importantly, hope for the future for these little boys.

## Sponsorship Program:



In our December edition of this "Journal", we introduced the concept of sponsorship. For \$40 a week (\$170 a month), we can provide for one of our boys, three wholesome and nutritional meals a day, clothing, medication, and toiletries, counselling and therapy, education (tuition and supplies), and a bed in which to sleep, safe and secure. We are delighted to report that we have been overwhelmed by the response. Fifteen (15) boys are now sponsored. Can we count on you?

## Meet Fred Hacker:



Fred is the Chair and President of Life4Kids Canada. He also serves on the Advisory Board for Life4Kids Kenya. Fred is the Chair Emeritus of the MCC (Midland Cultural Centre). He is the host / community producer of "A Day in the Life" a televised conversation with famous Canadians.

## Life4Kids Canada Board:

Other Board Members are:

- |                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Nancy Hargarve, Secretary | Bill Goman, Director           |
| Andrew Markle, Treasurer  | Paul VanderWel, Director       |
| Danielle Dorion, Director | Pastor Martin Giebel, Director |



## Update from Kenya:

We're pleased to report that the Kenyan authorities have completed their health inspection of the new home, and they are pleased with the size of the home and the outdoor space for the boys to play.



We are planning to welcome two new boys into the home this month. That will bring our numbers to a total of 31 boys (21 under 18 and 10 aged 18 or older).

## Sponsorship Program:

We are grateful for your support of the sponsorship program. All but one of the most recent new boys are now sponsored. But with two boys arriving in March,



there is an opportunity to fund meals, clothing, education, medication, and toiletries for one of our little boys for \$170 per month. In some cases, we have groups of 3 or 4

people sponsoring a boy. We'd love to discuss this with you. The picture above is of the three newest boys heading off for school.

## Tax Receipts:

We now have issued charitable donation tax receipts to all donors in 2020. Note that if you donated through Canada Helps, your receipt is provided directly by Canada Helps. Life4Kids Canada is sincerely grateful for the wonderful support received in what was a challenging but encouraging year.

## COVID-19 in Kenya:

The pandemic has had a dramatic effect in Kenya. Schools in Nairobi were closed from March until January. But now, news has been released that vaccines will be available beginning early in March.

## Big Boys:

You have heard us refer to the "big boys". These boys have been part of Life4Kids for more than a decade in most cases. Seven of the "big boys" are pictured here. They are all in school.



## Life4Kids Canada Board:

The Secretary of the Canada Board of Life4Kids is Nancy Hargave, a retired Respiratory Therapist.



Nancy also serves on the Friends of Awenda board, and Penetanguishene Lions Club, and volunteers for the OSPCA fundraising committee.

## Kenya Board:

We have introduced you to two Kenya Board Members: Executive Director Jane Wasike, and Inger Bremvik, Kenya Board Treasurer. Pictured here is the most recent addition to that Board, Shadrack Onzago Mang'ere & his wife Grace.





## The Pandemic in Nairobi:

The Government of Kenya has announced lockdowns in Nairobi and surrounding area. Social meetings, sports and political events have been banned, churches have been closed, and all transportation has been shut down so there is no movement by vehicle, air or rail.

## Schools Closed in Nairobi:

Schools in Nairobi were closed last week so most of the Life4Kids boys are now at home, including the boys attending college, and boarding schools. One boy



is attending university in Western Kenya and remains there, but not in school. Having the boys being at home all the time places an added burden on the staff at the Life4Kids home in Nairobi. Imagine almost 20 young boys in your home 24/7. Keeping them engaged is critical.

## Sponsorship Program:

Have you thought about sponsoring a boy who was abandoned and now lives in a home with love and support? Don't look away! You can join with friends or relatives to sponsor one boy for \$170 per month (with 3 friends, that's just \$10 a week.)



## Alvin Needs a Sponsor:



This is Alvin. He's 8 years old. He's in Grade 2. CEO Jane says: "He is very good at academics." He moved in to the Life4Kids home in December. Could you find it in your heart to help support little Alvin?

## New Boys:

We are pleased to advise that two new boys are joining the Life4Kids family. These street boys from the Dandora slums were referred to the Life4Kids home by the Chief of that slum. They are 5 years old and 4 years old.



## Staff Member Dennis:

In our January edition of this "Journal", we introduced you to Dennis (with three others). Dennis was one of



the original boys living in the Life4Kids home. He is now a caregiver at the home. Since our January edition, Dennis was attacked on the streets of Nairobi and beaten. We are pleased to report that he has recovered from the beating and is doing well and fully back on duty at the home.

## Meet Andrew Markle:

Andy volunteers with Life4Kids Canada as a director and treasurer. He enjoys being a "part time" assistant for his daughter who manages a family business. For more than fifty years, he has volunteered with many community organizations including the Midland YMCA, Community Living Huronia, the Midland Cultural Centre, and the Canadian and Alberta 7th Step Societies, organizations supporting offenders and ex-offenders as they prepare and make new starts in society after incarceration.



## COVID-19 In Kenya

Our Executive Director, Jane Wasike, reports that the children are doing well. None of the staff or children have had COVID-19. All are healthy. The President of Kenya has again locked down all movements in and out of four counties surrounding Nairobi.

## Schools in Nairobi

Jane reports: "All the young boys and our high school boys schools closed last week. They are all at home with us!! We have made a schedule that will run for a full week for the whole period while boys at home." The staff are now working in two shifts. Each shift works twenty-four hours a day for four days and then four days off.



## New Boys

The staff went into the Dandora slums and brought home two young street boys who were referred by the Chief of that slum. They are five years old and three years old.



*New boys Lawrence (5) and Blessing (3) having their first meal at the Life4Kids home in Nairobi.*

## Sponsorships

We have so much for which to be thankful. We now have sponsors for all our little boys. Two new boys will be joining the family shortly. If you would like to be a sponsor, contact Fred Hacker 705.526.9867



## Education Fund

Every parent knows that the older the kids, the more their educations cost. We're pleased to have one boy in university now, two in colleges, one who just graduated from high school, and six others in high school. So, we're starting a special fund for the education of the boys. If you'd like to donate to this Fund, go to our website to donate online, specifying the "Education Fund."



*"Little boys" grow up and education costs mount.*

## Thank You from Jane!

*"Always grateful for your support and love!"*



*Executive Director Jane Wasike shown with three of the little boys.*

## Prayers for Jane



Our Life4Kids Executive Director, Jane Wasike, has been hospitalized with typhoid. She apparently contracted it while bringing new boys into the home. Join us in praying for Jane's complete recovery to good health.

## New Boys

Three more little boys joined the Life4Kids family in the past few days. They have had incredibly sad lives until now. Because they have been living on the street, socialization is a challenge and the Life4Kids staff members are working extremely hard to prepare them for school in August.



## Schooling Update

After being closed for COVID-19, schools have reopened. Most of the boys are back in school. Five of the newest boys will not start school until August. Two boys will start high school next year and four more will be in high school in two years. Another boy has finished high school and will attend college in August. We now have twenty-four young boys in the house and eleven big boys in school. As the boys progress with their education, costs mount.

## Sponsorships

There are now twenty-four little boys living in the main home and ten big boys off attending school.



We have twenty-two of the little boys sponsored. If you have an interest in sponsoring one of our boys, the cost is \$170 per month. We have some co-sponsors of a boy. Contact us if you are interested.

## YouTube Channel

Life4Kids Canada now has its own YouTube channel. Check it out at [Life4Kids Videos - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

## Our Little Blessing

Our youngest boy is three years old. He's a charmer. The owner of a private school gave him the opportunity to play in "baby class" without charge. He wants to start learning in July. He is shown in his little school uniform.



## Meet Bill Goman



Bill is a Director of Life4Kids Canada. He is our IT guy who manages our web page, our database, our YouTube channel and who produces this Journal. Bill is one of those special community-minded volunteers who is supportive of many organizations and institutions in Midland. Among his interests are Huronia Players and the Midland Bay Sailing Club.



## News from Nairobi

The children are all doing well. They are in school until 15 July. The new school calendar starts on July 25, so the boys only have 10 days to rest at home. The short break is to make up for school time lost to the coronavirus. Education is particularly important in Kenya.



## Full House

The Life4Kids family has grown to 35 kids with 25 little boys living in the main house. It's crowded ... but not as crowded as this picture makes it look. Here, five of the little boys "pose" with a staff member.



## Meeting with Sponsors

Our sponsors had the opportunity to meet via Zoom this past week with our Executive Director, Jane, for a better understanding of how the home operates. If you would like to join a Zoom meeting with Jane, we'll be setting up another meeting. Please contact [fred@itvision.ca](mailto:fred@itvision.ca) if you would like to be part of that Zoom meeting.



## The Boys Have Chores



The boys all have duties around the house. Here 3-year-old Blessing is shining shoes. And some of the polish is actually getting on the shoes.

## Sponsorship Opportunities

With new boys joining the family, we still have sponsorship opportunities. Several of our boys are sponsored by three or four families going together.



## Meet Pastor Benard

Each month, we feature one of the leaders of Life4Kids. **Pastor Benard Omenta Kinaro**. Is Chair of the Kenya Board of Life4Kids. He was born in Nairobi and abandoned as a child. He himself grew up on the streets. He is an ordained pastor and was one of the original founders of Life4Kids. He lives outside Nairobi with his wife and 5 kids.



## Message from Jane

The last word goes to our Executive Director, Jane Wasike: "I am always grateful for all the love and support. Life4kids is running everyday because of your efforts and great love. Thank you for Loving Life4Kids!!"

## \$10 a Week

Life4Kids now provides for thirty-five boys. Recently, costs have escalated (see story below). You have read our pleas for support. We still have two unsponsored boys. Will you step forward today to help? \$40 per week for a full sponsorship; \$20 per week for a ½; \$10 per week for ¼. Please consider!



## Costs are Rising

We recently received this message from Executive Director Jane Wasike: “Life in Kenya is very expensive right now as compared to the last few months. Last week the President signed a financial bill that has put more financial burdens on the common citizens. The prices for commodities have gone so high, life has become so expensive. For example, cooking gas was at 2,200, now is at 2,700 kshs [Kenyan Shillings]; Cooking oil 20 litres is at 4,900 kshs from 3,300 kshs. This will cause our budget to go so high....”



## Other News from Nairobi

Jane reports: “We are all doing well. The children ... returned to school for the first term. The new boys [the three recent additions] have been trained and prepared enough, they are now ready to go to school. We have budgeted for their schooling in the August budget.”



## Graduation is a Big Deal

... even if you're graduating from Kindergarten. Two of our young grads shown here now enter Grade 1. Their “brothers” celebrated!

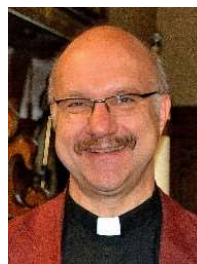


## Family Portrait

And you thought you had a problem fitting everyone into the family portrait. These are the twenty-five boys under the age of 18 who live in the Life4Kids home in Nairobi, Kenya.



## Meet Pastor Martin Giebel



Each month we introduce you to one of the leaders of Life4Kids, whether serving in Kenya, Norway, or Canada. This month we feature Canadian Director Pastor Martin Giebel. Martin was born in Germany and ordained there as a Lutheran Pastor. Today he serves as Pastor at St. Mark's Anglican-Lutheran Church in Midland.

## Message from Jane

As we did last month, we leave the last word to Jane who recently wrote: “I am always grateful for all your sacrifice, love and commitment towards this noble job. Words cannot express how all the staff and the children feel. Thank you for choosing to change lives.”



## The Coronavirus Pandemic in Kenya

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 are spiralling upwards in Kenya. The number of deaths per day is now the highest since the onset of the pandemic. Only 2.1 million of the population of over 40 million have received even one vaccination shot. Fortunately, the boys at Life4Kids are well.



## The Life4Kids Staff

Have you ever stopped to think what it would be like to raise a family of twenty-five? That is the task that our staff in Nairobi face every day of every week of every month of every year. And what a marvellous job they do. There are challenges. These are active little boys. They grew up on the streets. Life4Kids Canada pays tribute to the staff. We thank them and encourage them in all they do!



## The Economy in Kenya

Kenya actually has the third largest economy in Sub-Saharan Africa (behind Nigeria and South Africa). However, the country faces many

challenges including judicial ineffectiveness, poor government integrity, drought, lack of security, corruption, and political squabbling. Education is key for the nation as a whole and for our Life4Kids boys.



## The Challenges

There are a couple of current challenges being faced by the staff and by our Executive Director in Kenya, Jane.

**A. Security:** One involves the physical security of the home. A gang has broken down the perimeter wall at the home leaving it exposed to petty criminals. A night guard has been hired. Pray for the safety of the boys, the staff, and the home.

**B. Education:** Some of the boys are struggling in school. Some of the big boys are not applying themselves to the studies as well as they are capable of doing. As noted earlier, education is critical to any success in life the boys might hope to achieve.



## Update on the Little Boys

Our CEO, Jane, reports that all the boys and staff are doing well. All the boys are home for a school break from October 1st to 10th.



*"Thanks" from boys for new art supplies.*

**So, this month we want to share with you some fun** recently experienced by the boys and staff. Two of our supporters contributed additional funds earmarked for art supplies and for a "day out" for the boys and staff

## Update on Schooling

Fifteen of the boys are doing the Kenyan competency-based curriculum. This government mandated curriculum is more challenging and more expensive but is viewed as best for the Kenyan children.

Three of the big boys (18 and over) are now in college or university. One boy just started college and is coping very well with his new friends and new surroundings.



*The boys went swimming, a special outing.*

## An Outing for the Boys and Staff



*A birthday party for ALL the boys on the same day.*

So often we report to you on serious subjects like COVID-19 in Kenya, the economic situation in Kenya, the challenges faced by the home and staff, rising costs for Life4Kids in Kenya, or school related issues.



*The boys had their first boat ride.*



*The boys visited The Great Rift Valley.*



## Question You Have Asked

In this edition of the Life4Kids Journal, we're going to try to provide some responses to questions we have been asked.

### Where do the Boys Come From?



The boys in Life4Kids are all orphans or abandoned boys. Most have been homeless, begging for food in the streets or living at dumps and eating from the refuse. The boys are referred to Life4Kids by the police, by government authorities, by tribal chiefs and even, sometimes, by older boys living on the street

who fear for the safety of the little ones. *[The little boy in the accompanying picture asked to go back to visit his grandmother at the dump].*

### What Qualifications do the Staff Have?

Our CEO, Jane Wasike has a university degree in social work. Five of the caregivers are qualified social workers and all are trained caregivers through government training. Their primary qualification is love!



### What is the Staff to Child Ratio?

We have 25 boys under the age of 18 living in the home. They are attended by 10 staff including our CEO, a cook, 6 caregivers, a security guard, a part time bookkeeper and part time trauma therapist. We also support 10 boys 18 or older who live at their schools. We provide an apartment for school breaks.

### Where does the Money Go?

All funds donated to Life4Kids are accounted for in financial statements prepared by our accountants in a Review Engagement Report. All funds are sent to



Life4Kids Kenya, a charity. The Kenya home provides a monthly budget and reports on how all funds are expended. The only funds spent in Canada are for accounting services, bank fees, insurance, and minor office expenses. We are all volunteers in Life4Kids Canada, including our bookkeeper.

### Does Life4Kids Canada Have Any Input in the Operation of the Home?

Two of our Canadian Directors serve on the Advisory Board. They advise the Board in Kenya and meet monthly with the CEO and Kenyan Board. One of our Directors and several Canadian supporters have visited the home in Nairobi, Kenya.



### What Schools do the Boys Attend?



One boy is in second year university. Two are in first year college. One is waiting to start college. Eight are in high school (two on scholarship). The nine youngest (ages 4-7) are in private school. Thirteen junior boys (ages 7-14) are in a government operated primary school.



## Questions You Have Asked

As we did in last month's Journal, we'll again provide responses to questions asked...

### How Is Health Care Provided?

Kenya does not have a public health care system similar to Canada. While care is provided for the



poor, it is not of the same quality as private care. We provide health insurance for our boys for private care.

### How are Birthdays Celebrated?

You may recall this picture of the group Birthday Party in our October edition of the Journal - The actual dates of birth of the boys are unknown. So, they all are registered with a date of birth of January 1 in the



year of their birth. And Life4Kids celebrates all their birthdays on the same day (although the actual date varies).

### Do the Boys Receive Christmas Gifts?

Life4Kids tries to provide small gifts for each of the thirty-five boys at Christmas. This year two of our Canadian supporters provided additional funds for gifts for the big boys.



Recently, supporters from Norway visited the home and shared gifts with the boys.

### Are there Sponsorships for Big Boys?

We are delighted to advise that all the boys under 18 now have Canadian sponsors. But we do not have sponsors to help offset the cost of education for our



10 boys aged 18 or older. The cost to sponsor a "big boy" is \$3,000 per year. If you (or you and friends) are able to sponsor one boy, please let us know immediately.

### Appeal for Support at Christmas

We in Canada have no idea what horrors these boys have faced in their tragic past or what challenges the future may hold for them. But we do know that they are now safe, well fed, happy and loved. Each year at this Christmas season, many of you provide special financial gifts to help sustain Life4Kids in Kenya. Our Executive Director in Nairobi sends this message of thanks: **"Thank you for helping us raise Africa's future leaders. This is love in action!"**