

## Rotary Grants to Improve Healthcare Access in Western Kenya

In 2012, Nebraska optometrist Dr. Kim Baxter and his son Craig joined a medical mission team traveling to the village of Shikunga in western Kenya to provide eyecare for adults and children who have no local health services. As they prepared to return to home, Craig told his father: “We need to come back; these people really need us.” Shortly after that trip, Dr. Baxter’s Rotary club participated in a global grant project that renovated the maternity department at Kakamega County General Hospital, producing a 40% decrease in hospitalized newborn deaths, as well as a sharp reduction in maternal mortality. Craig Baxter died in a tragic accident in 2016, and Nebraska Rotarians and friends of the Baxter family began raising money to honor Craig’s promise to “come back to Shikunga” by building a medical clinic in that remote and underserved village.

This facility, known as the **Craig Memorial Rotary Clinic**, will open in 2024 and provide primary care for 11,000+ people in Kakamega County, Kenya. Shikunga is one of the poorest and most remote villages in Kakamega County, and residents who need medical care must travel 8+ kilometers to get to the nearest facility, with few private vehicles and no public transportation available. Having a local medical clinic and pharmacy will improve the health status of Shikunga residents and reduce the service burden at **Kakamega County General Hospital**, where people go now for emergency and ordinary medical care.

The Craig Memorial Rotary Clinic (CMRC) building is under construction, with completion expected in early 2024. The building is funded by Nebraska Rotary clubs and donors to the Craig Baxter Memorial fund. Grants and contributions will provide a significant portion of the CMRC’s start-up activity, as most patients do not have insurance or resources to pay for medical treatment. The CMRC will have a qualified manager and small medical staff, augmented by students from Kenyan medical, nursing, and optometry schools. In addition, medical professionals from Nebraska will make regular mission trips to Kakamega, bringing expertise that is not available locally. A permanent foundation is being established in Nebraska to manage bequests and designated contributions that will create a sustainable funding source for the Craig Memorial Rotary Clinic.

Currently, Rotarians in Nebraska and Florida are collaborating on a pair of Rotary grants to improve healthcare access in the Kakamega region. One grant will provide the equipment, furnishings and supplies to enable CMRC to care for thousands of adults and children in Shikunga and nearby villages. Services will include adult and child medical care, prenatal care, routine obstetrics and delivery, wound care, simple orthopedics, disease management, pharmacy, immunizations, and vision, dental and hearing exams and treatment. The other grant will provide equipment and training to improve surgical services at Kakamega County General Hospital, with special emphasis on ophthalmology and cataract surgery,

The grant budget for the Craig Memorial Rotary Clinic, which includes equipment and furnishing, is estimated at \$97,000 US. We have commitments for the CMRC grant (GG2351944) for around 70% of that budget, primarily from District 5630 (Nebraska), District 6940 (Florida), and District 9212 and the Rotary Club of Kakamega (Kenya). We also seek contributions for the grant to improve surgical services at Kakamega County General Hospital ((GG2351593), which will enhance staffing and patient referral services at the CMRC.

To fulfill the grant budgets and obtain maximum matching funds from The Rotary Foundation, we need support from other Rotary districts and clubs. **We ask you to consider a commitment of DDF and cash toward these global grants. DDF contributions are specially valuable because they are matched from the Rotary Foundation World Fund.** The grant applications have been started but will not be submitted until later this summer, so we can accept DDF from the current year (RY-2023) and the new year (RY-2024), or both.

To make a pledge toward these grants, or to get more information, please contact:

Kim A. Baxter, O.D. – Rotarian & GG Team Leader, RD-5630  
[kabaxter54@gmail.com](mailto:kabaxter54@gmail.com) Cell: 308-530-6997



**Rotary**  
North Platte  
District 5630  
**Brian Phares, President**



**Funding Prospectus:**  
**Global Grant 2351944**  
**Medical Equipment for**  
**Craig Memorial Rotary Clinic**  
**in Shikunga, Kenya**

**Rotary**  
Kakamega  
District 9212  
**Ponyochi Kunyobo, President**





## Community Clinic is Needed

Kakamega County, in western Kenya, is a remote and medically underserved region, and residents of the village of Shikunga have no place to obtain basic medical care and medicine. Kenya has a national health insurance program, but participation requires a steady job and income, putting it out of reach for most people. This causes people to seek charity treatment at the national and regional hospitals, which become backlogged and overwhelmed.



School children waiting to receive typhoid vaccinations and basic medication



Chiggers are common health problem for Kenyan children



**Craig Baxter fitting boy with glasses**



**The Craig Memorial Rotary Clinic in Shikunga is under construction, with expected completion in early 2024. The Clinic will provide on-site primary care for adults and children from Shikunga and neighboring villages, including:**

- **Prenatal and Obstetrical Care**
- **Vision & Dental exams and basic treatment**
- **Malaria prevention and treatment**
- **Immunizations and Chronic Disease care**
- **Pharmacy services**
- **Health and Hygiene education**



**Nebraska Rotarians conduct Vision Care clinic in 2022**



## Regional Training Venue

The Craig Memorial Rotary Clinic will become a resource to train Kenyan medical professionals and provide health education for patients.

Masinde Muliro University of Science & Technology will use the Clinic as a training facility for students of nursing, public health, and optometry.

Visiting American physicians and nurses will provide specialty care in ophthalmology, optometry, family medicine, OB-GYN, and internal medicine.



Visiting Kakamega  
County General Hospital



Medical mission clinic  
provides free immunizations



## Craig Memorial Rotary Clinic has sustainability:

- Some patients will pay modest sliding-scale fees for treatment and medications.
- Staffing costs will be low, thanks to student interns and residents working at the Clinic.
- The Clinic will earn revenue as training facility for healthcare students from nearby medical school.
- Community education will increase number of patients with national health insurance.
- U.S. foundation will be established to provide financial resources to support Clinic operations.
- Kakamega General Hospital will treat patients with serious medical needs and share information with CMRC via cyber technology.



Child's first doctor visit



Medical mission trips bring specialty care to Kakamega children



# Grant Budget



Medical Equipment	\$20,000
Clinic Furniture	\$3,000
Technology	\$3,000
Butterfly Ultrasound & Tablets	\$5,000
Vision Care Equipment	\$30,000
Dental Care Equipment	\$7,500
Pharmacy Equipment	\$3,500
Laboratory Equipment & Supplies	\$3,500
Staffing & Training	\$10,000
Clinic Supplies	\$ 5,000
Contingency	<u>\$5,000</u>
<b>TOTAL USD</b>	<b>\$95,500</b>



Healthcare students assist with medical mission care



Primary care for Kakamega students



**Rotary**   
North Platte  
District 5630  
**Brian Phares, President**




**To Contribute to  
Global Grant 2351944  
&/or Global Grant 2351593**

**Contact**

**Kim Baxter, O.D.**

**[kabaxter54@gmail.com](mailto:kabaxter54@gmail.com)**

**Rotary**   
Kakamega  
District 9212  
**Ponyochi Kunyobo, President**

