



The Request

We're inviting individual Rotary Clubs in District 7010 to commit \$1000 per year from their International Service Budget for the support of [Life4Kids Canada](#).

The Cause

Life4Kids Canada is a registered Canadian Charity that provides a loving home for 25 homeless and abandoned boys in Nairobi, Kenya. Life4Kids rescues abandoned boys from the streets and garbage dumps in Nairobi. We provide for their emotional, physical, and educational needs. We provide a loving and nurturing home conducive to personal growth. We empower the boys to develop physically, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and spiritually.

We also provide ongoing support for the boys when they pursue post-secondary education. We provide accommodation, tuition and schooling costs, and an allowance for food and personal needs. In addition to the 25 boys in the home aged 17 or under, we also have 8 boys aged 18 or older, who are continuing their schooling.

The Program

It all costs money! Our small organization is based in Central Ontario. Our funds are currently primarily raised in the Georgian Bay region of Ontario.

The Rotary Clubs of Midland and Penetanguishene are both sponsors of this program. **Now, we'd like to seek the support of your Club.**

The Impact

Our Executive Director in Nairobi, Jane Wasike, describes the support we seek this way: "Thank you for helping us raise Africa's future leaders. This is your love in action!"

Some Background

In Canada, we're not used to dealing with the horrors that these boys have endured. Many were living on the streets, begging for food. In some cases, they were abandoned by a parent. In other cases, their parent died. Some fled to avoid beatings. Each boy has a story. And Life4Kids works to give that story a happy ending. Many of our boys had never had three meals in a single day in their lives when they came to us. In fact, many of our

boys struggled to get the equivalent of one meal a day. Few of them have ever eaten off a plate or used utensils.

Many of our boys had never slept in a bed when they came to us. Many of them had never been in a schoolroom. The streets were their home. The streets of Nairobi are dangerous for all ages, let alone little boys.

Now they are happy and safe for the first time in their lives. They get healthy. They go to school. They get medical attention. They have a family (with many brothers!). They are loved!



What's Special About Life4Kids?

Glad you asked. Consider:

- **"It's a Home"**: The boys are raised in a homelike setting. The boys and staff are like one big family. Meals are cooked on site. The boys are walked to school by caregivers. This is not an institution. It's a home.
- **"There is virtually no overhead"**: All the funds we raise go to the home. We have no staff in Canada. We're all volunteers. Even the bookkeeper. We pay for our audit, for insurance and bank charges. The rest of the funds go to raising the boys.
- **"We're Local"**: This is not some institutional organization with paid fundraisers and a distant executive team. You probably know people on our Board. Our President/Chair is Fred Hacker, a long-time member and a Past President of the

Midland Rotary Club. Our Secretary (Nancy Hargrave) and Treasurer (Andrew Markle) both have service club histories. Director Paul VanderWel is a member and Past President of the Penetanguishene Rotary Club. Bill Goman is a former member of the Midland Rotary Club. Danielle Dorion and Katie Farhan are respected citizens in the area.

- **“We’re Transparent”**: Our donors and sponsors are kept fully informed. They receive a full colour monthly newsletter that has current pictures of the home operation and the boys and that provides up-to-the-minute information about Life4Kids. We arrange Zoom meetings with our CEO in Nairobi, Jane Wasike, to meet with our donors and sponsors.

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Is Life4Kids Canada a registered charity?** Life4Kids Canada is incorporated under the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (Corporation Number 854852-8) and is a registered Canadian charity under the Income Tax Act (Charity Registration Number 84679 8650 RR0001).
- 2. Does Life4Kids Canada have administration overhead expenses?** Virtually all of the funds raised in Canada are sent to Kenya where the funds are entirely used for the costs of the boys. The only expenses in Canada are audit fees, liability insurance premiums, and banking / wiring charges.
- 3. How does Life4Kids Canada operate?** Life4Kids Canada is a volunteer operation. Life4Kids Canada has no staff, no offices, no overhead, and all work is done by volunteers (including our volunteer bookkeeper). All members of the Board of Directors live in or around Midland and Penetanguishene, Ontario.
- 4. What is the status of the organization in Kenya?** Life4Kids is registered as a Charitable Children’s Institution by the Government of Kenya. The Life4Kids management in Kenya adheres to all the regulations and rules that govern all the charities. The books are audited at every financial year end. Life4Kids in Kenya is overseen by a Board of Directors who are advised by an Advisory Board. Two Directors from the Board of Directors of Life4Kids Canada serve on that Advisory Board.



More Information

If your Club would like more information, the Chair/President of Life4Kids Canada, Rotarian Fred Hacker from Midland, would be pleased to address your Club. This can be done on Zoom or live. No obligation!

Contact Fred at fred.hacker@outlook.com or 705.528.8787 with any questions or to

arrange a visit to your Club.

UPDATE June 1, 2023

Rotary District 7010 has provided support for education for the Life4Kids "big boys" (18+) that we sponsor in Nairobi Kenya.



The big boys busy studying



The big boys thanking Rotary District 7010

May 2023 Journal

One of Our Boys Volunteers

As a parent, are you proud when one of your kids “gives back”? That’s the way we feel about Patrick, one of the Life4Kids college students. Patrick is in Year 2 at Nyeri National Polytechnic studying Social Work.

Patrick is “paying it forward”. He has joined volunteers and his patron from his college to bring food, love and supplies to a neighbourhood that has been devastated by poverty, droughts, and sickness. In a picture, Patrick is shown milking the cow to get fresh milk for, in is words,



“those small kids ...because they don’t have their mothers to breast feed them ... so sad.”

The baby shown in picture was “rescued” with an old woman. Patrick tells us that babies “were found being dumped in a dustbin because ... they don’t have the resources to raise them.”



Patrick shows us that even what seems like a small act can make a difference. Here is a boy who was given a second chance himself when he joined the Life4Kids home. And now he is helping others. Thank you, Patrick, for sharing the love.

Rains in Nairobi

Our CEO Jane reports that rain has come to the entire country so there are no more worries about water shortage. But now floods are displacing families .

Riots in the Neighbourhood

Our CEO Jane reports that there have been increasing disturbances in the neighbourhood of the home. While the house is in a gated community, there have been riots and protests in the last weeks near the home. The election results of last August have been disputed leading to protests. And the high cost of living in Kenya is causing riots. The police use tear gas to break up the protest. Our children and staff were directly affected by the tear gas and loud bursts. The boys have coughs and colds as a result and have had to stay home from school.

School Break

As of April 21, the boys are home for two weeks before beginning next term.



Canada Contributes

You are making it possible for the Life4Kids home to remain open. Life4Kids Canada has been called upon to bear an increasingly large share of the costs of operating the home and educating the boys. Our share of the total budget for May is almost 80%.

Message from Jane



“Your unwavering love and support have enabled all our boys to have their rights as children. In Africa so many children end up dying on the streets, in hospitals or even at home and this is because no one cares

enough to give the gift of love as you all do. All these successful stories of our boys are proof that your love works!! My words cannot thank you enough!!”



Financial Squeeze

We try not to burden you with requests for support. But may we ask you to consider:

- Life in Kenya has become so expensive. Prices for fuel, electricity, food, and daily commodities have risen greatly recently.
- Our Norwegian counterpart (Life4Kids Norway) is unable to bear as large a part of the financial burden for the home as they once did. While Life4Kids Canada used to pay less than 40% of costs, now we are paying upwards of 70% of costs.
- Canada's contribution to Life4Kids in Kenya is 4 times what it was 4 years ago.

Benefits for Boys in Private Schools

You'll recall that a decision was made to enroll the younger boys in a private school (less than 25 kids per class and 2 teachers compared to 150 kids per class with 1 teacher in public schools).



The results are showing. CEO Jane Wasike reports that the younger boys "brought home very good reports. All the

young boys can now read and write. They are also able to express themselves in English after a short time. These are the benefits of being in a private school compared to public schools."

Grant from Rotary

We mentioned last edition that we were grateful to the local Rotary District and Rotary Clubs for their support. We received another grant of almost \$2,000 from Rotary District 7010. Shown here is one of our boys, Jackson, proudly displaying the Rotary symbol in gratitude for support for his education.



New Mattresses

There was a scheduled inspection of the home and Jane appealed for support for new mattresses for the boys. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we were able to provide funds for new mattresses and covers.



Life4Kids at Butter Tart Festival

Please look for our booth at "Ontario's Best Butter Tart Festival". We'll be selling bottled water. Drop by to see two of our directors in traditional African dress. We'll be in front of Simply Country at the corner of King and Elizabeth in Midland. Thanks to Yvonne Hamelin for her generous support.



Message from Jane

"Together, with your love, commitment, and support, Life4Kids can transform and change the lives of so



many boys once forgotten. This can be seen in the success stories of the boys, from the youngest ones to the elders. Thank you for helping in

providing a brighter future for our boys!! Sending my love and appreciation to you all!!"

