



## Message from Life4Kids CEO Jane

“Happy new year to all our sponsors and partners! The children at Life4Kids are living their best life. Thank you to all our friends all over the world. Because of your incredible generosity, the children at Life4Kids were able to go to Nairobi National Park to have fun and see the animals” .... Jane



## Questions You Have Asked

As we did in earlier Journals, we'll again provide responses to questions asked...

### Do the Boys Celebrate Christmas?

Christmas is a special occasion at the Life4Kids home in Nairobi, Kenya as this photo (below) shows. All the boys and staff send their thanks to all the supporters of Life4Kids and extend best wishes for blessings and for peace and health in 2022.



### Is the Home Licenced?

The Life4Kids home is licenced by the Children's Charities Ministry. The licensing requirements are challenging and only three homes in our area of Nairobi were licenced this year. Life4Kids was one. Thanks, and congratulations are extended to our wonderful CEO Jane and to her hard working and devoted staff.

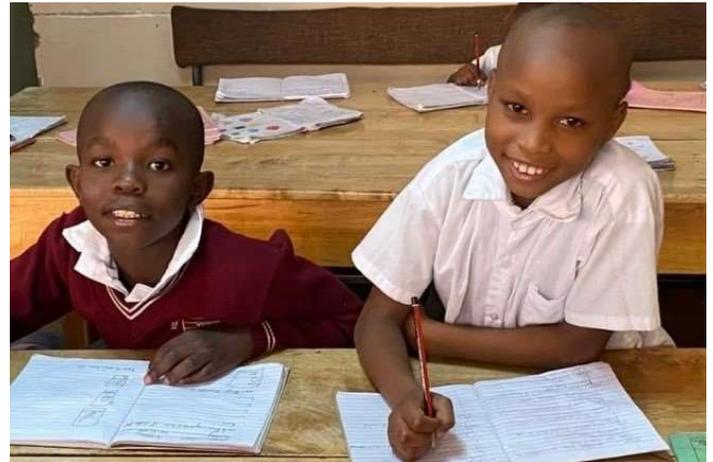


CEO Jane helping one little boy with his homework.

## What Do Visitors Say about the Home?

A schoolteacher attended the home and commented that the home was clean, happy, and well structured. He also noted that the boys were always well behaved and well dressed. He was impressed that the staff walked the boys to and from school.

A Pastor's wife visited and commented that the atmosphere in the home was happy, harmonious, and peaceful.



Two of the boys busy with their homework. The boys do homework as soon as they return from school.

### A Visitor from Norway

Inger is the Life4Kids Norway Chair and a Director of Life4Kids Kenya. She visited at the home for six



weeks in the fall, assisting Jane and helping out with the boys. Inger was very complimentary about how well organized the home is, about how the boys are treated with love and respect, and about feeling the warmth in the home.

Inger bids farewell to the boys after her visit to Nairobi.



## Questions You Have Asked

As we did in earlier Journals, we'll again provide responses to questions asked...

### Where do the Funds come from to Operate the Home?

Some people may think that the Government of Kenya contributes to the cost of operation of the home. In fact, 100% of the funds are donated by supporters of the home in Canada and in Norway. The annual operating budget is almost \$130,000 Canadian. Of that sum, Life4Kids Canada will contribute almost \$84,000 (an increase of 37 percent in the past year).



Without your amazing support, the home could not continue. Thank you!

### Do the Boys Have Families?

Some of the boys have a living grandparent or an aunt. A couple have a disabled mother. Many are orphans. But in every case, family members are unable to care for the boys. And, in every case, if not for Life4Kids, the boys would still be living on the street, begging or scrounging, in constant fear, hunger and deprivation.



## Life After Life4Kids

Life4Kids is committed to supporting the boys to get a good education. So long as the boys apply themselves, work hard and achieve to the best of their ability, their tuition



Big boys (18+) say thanks for education support.

costs, accommodation, meals, and spending money are covered. Once the boys graduate (university, college, trade school or high school depending on their abilities), or drop out, or fail to apply themselves, they must provide for themselves.

### Jane Wasike Says Thanks

The CEO of Life4Kids writes: "I am always grateful for your commitment and love that make it possible for Life4Kids to run every day. The young children at Life4Kids understand how special they are to our



sponsors and supporters. Thank you for helping us raise Africa's future leaders."

This is your love in action!

Thank You!

## Report from Nairobi

Life4Kids Executive Director Jane reports that the children and staff are doing well.



*Three of the youngest boys "graduated"*

## The Little Kids

The kids are on a long school break (vacation). This has been a challenging year for them at school. Because of the extensive time missed due to COVID, the schools had a strenuous curriculum to catch up on lost time. On April 25<sup>th</sup>, the boys will all advance to higher grades.



*A party and cake for the graduating little boys*

Two of the boys have completed the Grade 8 national exams and await their results.

## The Big Boys

One of the boys has completed his trades training. Two boys are doing their final secondary school exams.

## Life in Kenya

Costs have risen dramatically, in large part due to the situation in Eastern Europe. Daily commodities and food are becoming increasingly expensive. This is affecting our Life4Kids budget.

## Visitors from Norway

Two members of the Norway Board and the Advisory Board, (Richard and Lena), visited the Life4Kids home in Nairobi in early March. They report that the kids are jovial, smiling, and busy. They advise that the atmosphere at the home is good, that Jane is doing an excellent job, that the staff is high quality and that the staff have a heart for the boys. Their conclusion was that "it works". The kids are healthy, happy and excited, and the results are apparent and positive.

## The Need is Great

Jane reports that on two consecutive days last week, mothers came to the gates of the home asking if they could leave their boys. These mothers simply can't afford to provide for their families.



Jane and her staff went to the dump looking for needy boys who could benefit most from a loving home at Life4Kids.

## Two new Boys

The Life4Kids family is growing. Two new boys were welcomed to the family this week after Jane and her team visited the dump.

This is your love in action!

*Thank You!*

## Special Edition

In our last edition of the Life4Kids Journal, we informed you that Jane Wasike (Executive Director of Life4Kids) and her staff had been in the slums and at the garbage dump seeking little boys that needed to be rescued. The experience was quite traumatic and distressing for Jane. In the end, she brought home three starving, abused, traumatized and desperate little boys.

## Our Challenge

Of course, we completely support and applaud Jane and her team for undertaking additional responsibility and work.

But it does pose a challenge.

## HOW DO WE PAY FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE NEW BOYS?

With the Eastern European crisis, drought, floods, and a raging COVID pandemic in Kenya, we were already stretched to our financial limits.

We hate to sound like “one of these charities,” always asking for money. But, frankly, that’s why we exist ... to raise funds to provide these little boys with a chance in life, to receive the necessities of life, an education, love, and support.

## Introduction to New Boys

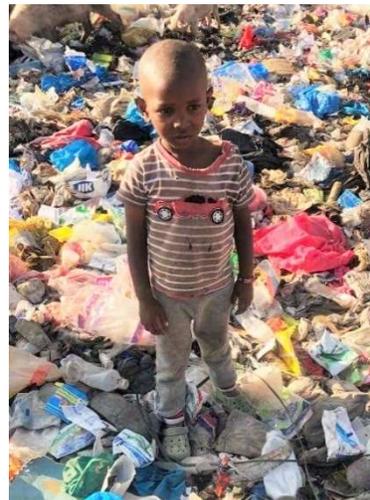
Will you do us this favour? Will you just read what follows? And then you’ll understand why Jane and her staff were compelled to bring in these three little boys, to rescue them from starvation, sodomy, beatings, the elements, and fear. And to give them hope and love.

## Meet Kings

Kings is a three-year-old boy who was born on the streets to a street mother. At his tender age, he has survived against all the odds, living on the streets in rough and vulnerable conditions.

Kings has experienced much in his day-to-day life in the slums: Going without a proper meal every day at his young age has been a huge challenge. He has slept rough on the streets. He has waited day and

night for a miracle to happen so that he can get food to eat from a well-wisher. He has been sodomized by the older boys on the streets. His mother is an alcoholic and a prostitute, She prostitutes herself to feed her five children. She is not sure who their fathers are.

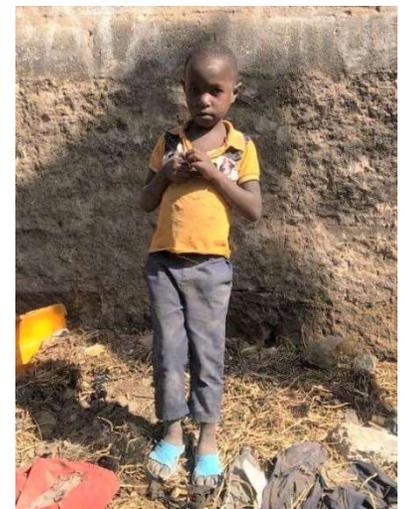


Kings’ mother had been planning to poison Kings because she feels he is a burden. Because he is so young, he is not able to walk around the streets to beg and survive on his own. It is a miracle that he is alive.

Jane has noticed since the arrival of Kings at the Life4Kids home that his stomach is not used to eating proper, regular meals. He has really struggled since he ate his first meal at the home. Kings has never lived in a proper house. He was shocked when he was brought to Life4Kids. His reaction showed that he was not sure of where he was and that he found it all overwhelming. During his first night at Life4Kids, Kings suffered from anxiety and nightmares. All the staff and the other boys have comforted him.

## Meet Isaac

Isaac is a 4-year-old boy. Isaac was born and has lived in the Mathare slums since birth. His father is unknown, and his mother engages in prostitution to survive. He is the fourth child in a family of five. His mother is sick, having contracted HIV. She is a single parent. Because the mother cannot afford to pay rent, she and the children live in a



cardboard-constructed house in the slums. Isaac and his young sister almost died in December after their house caught fire. The neighbours luckily saved them.

The family depends on well-wishers. They all walk from one street to another begging for food for survival. At his tender age, Isaac has seen and experienced horrific things on the tough streets of the slum. He has been sodomized and has seen his mother and sisters raped and beaten by street men on a regular basis.

Isaac has spent a lifetime begging and scavenging. He is not used to having three meals a day. Jane and the staff have seen that he is really struggling to eat a full portion of food. In time he will be able to take more and build up his strength. Our staff will give him the diet he desperately needs.

During his first night at Life4Kids, Isaac could not settle down and sleep. He feared the darkness and his new surroundings. He spent the night having nightmares and screaming.

## Meet Ramadhan

Ramadhan is 5 years old.

When Ramadhan's mother was young, three men raped her while she was returning from a late-night pharmacy. She had gone there to buy medicine for her ailing grandmother in the slums of Mathare. This is the harsh reality of how Ramadhan was born. Following the birth of Ramadhan, his mother ran away from the slums and left him to survive with his grandmother.

Ramadhan has been through horrific experiences. His father is unknown. He has never seen his mother since birth and has never felt the love of his mother. The only reason that he has survived is the care of his ailing grandmother. She cannot take care of him properly. When Ramadhan turned three, he started begging on the streets



for food to eat. He has now been on the streets for more than two years.

Ramadhan is a survivor. He has a large scar and bump on his forehead, and several scars on his body, the result of being savagely beaten by older street boys. He almost died. Luckily, a street woman found him and took him to a local hospital. He was in a coma for a month.

## WILL YOU CONSIDER A SPONSORSHIP?

These little boys deserve a better life. Life4Kids can provide that. But the boys need sponsors.

The cost per month is \$170. That's less than \$40 a week. For that amount, we can provide for all the needs of one of these special boys including:

- three wholesome and nutritional meals a day
- clothing, medication, and toiletries
- counselling and therapy
- education (tuition and supplies)
- a bed in which to sleep, safe and secure.

You could sponsor one of these boys yourself. Or can join with others to sponsor one of these boys. Or you could suggest to us who you believe might be able and prepared to help.

It is no secret that, without the support of our current sponsors, the Life4Kids home could not have remained open. Their support has been literally lifesaving.

As a sponsor, you'll receive regular photos, artwork, and updates on the progress of your sponsored boy. You'll participate in periodic online conferences with Jane.

And, most significantly, you'll know that you are providing life, hope and love for a little boy who has been so neglected until now.

**For more information** (and without obligation), contact Fred Hacker, Chair and President of Life4Kids Canada at [info@life4kids.ca](mailto:info@life4kids.ca) or by calling 705.528.8787

This is your love in action!

Thank You!

## Sponsors Needed

In early April, we sent out a plea for sponsors for the three new boys who just joined the Life4Kids family.



We still need sponsors! Life4Kids will provide a new life for them. But we need the resources to raise and educate them. Please contact us to assist. Please help us to make all their dreams come true.

The new boys are doing well.

## Back to School

The boys have been on a school vacation but started back to school last Monday. Picture for a moment what it's like to keep 2 or 3 little kids amused. Now try to think about amusing 27 little boys. Lots of games and structured play. We suspect the staff heaved a sigh of relief when schools reopened.



Little boys play board game with staffer Sam.



Seven boys play a game.

## A Gift of a Video

Chirin Ismail is a young Kurdish woman living in Midland. She is currently studying Broadcasting Performance and Digital Media and will be graduating this May. As a project, she has created a video about Life4Kids. You can see it [here](#). Thanks, Chirin.

## A Gift-Bearing Visitor

A Norwegian supporter of Life4Kids, Mr. Rune, visited the home in Nairobi and purchased a new fridge for the home.



Staff member Harriet and boys with new fridge



The visitor, Mr. Rune, also went with boys and staff to National Park.

## Look Familiar?



Here's a quiz for you: Something is missing in this picture. Can you guess what it is? Here's a clue: the boys is pointing at it. He seems proud of his loss!



## Time to Celebrate

The Life4Kids home in Nairobi, Kenya is a supportive, loving family home. The boys are “brothers”. The staff are “surrogate parents”. Those of us who support the home are like “out-of-town relatives”. And, when the boys achieve success, each boy, his “brothers”, his “surrogate parents” and the “out-of-town relatives” can all celebrate. So, for this edition of the Journal, we’re going to celebrate some of the successes of some of the boys.

## Starting School



Our three youngest boys, 3-year-old Kings, 4-year-old Isaac, and 5-year-old Ramadhan, all started school. Here they are on their first day of school.

## Starting High School

Ezra has started high school. Ezra was so excited about the next step in his education journey. Life4Kids Executive Director Jane commented that “it is the love and support of our donors and sponsors that makes it possible for us to send the boys to school.”



Dominic has also started high school. He is excited for his next four years. He has dreams for his future, but he needs an education to achieve them. Your support makes an impact on lives in Africa. Boys who had no hope now can dream.

Brian is not only wearing his school uniform; he is also wearing a smile. Brian knows that with education, his future is secure. Your support has made a lasting difference in the life of Brian and the many other boys at Life4Kids. The boys say “THANKS”.



Kennedy and Jackson are also doing well in school. Education is the gateway to success. Without an education, prospects are grim in Nairobi.

## Life at the Home

For this month's edition of the Life4Kids Journal, we take you inside the home in Nairobi to see the daily routine in the home.

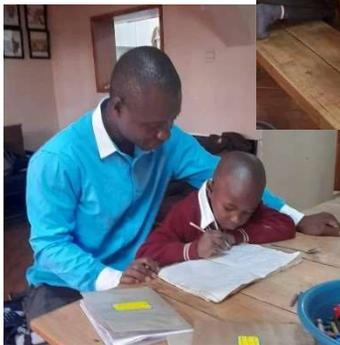
## Walk to School



Caregiver Meshack is shown here preparing to walk the youngest boys to school. Life4Kids receives compliments from schools for the care shown in getting boys to school.

## Homework After School

Immediately after school, and before getting into play clothes, the boys do homework.



Caregiver Caleb is shown helping Isaac with his homework.

## Play and TV Time After Homework

Once the boys finish their homework, they are allowed to watch a little television. They ALL seem to love cartoons (although each has his favourite show).



The staff play with the boys. Here, Ann and Samuel are giving horseback rides to the little boys. Ouch!

## Helping Around the Home

The boys have chores around the home. Each boy has a favourite task. Some like to help with meals. Shown here is Solomon making chapati, a favourite food for many of the boys (unleavened flatbread like roti, made from wheat flour and water).



## Bedtime Story



Caleb is reading a bedtime story to the boys. When you have more than two dozen little boys living in one house, the boys gather for their story in a group.

## Closing Thoughts from our CEO

Jane says: "Thank you for helping us to create a bright future for each of our boys."



## Understanding Life4Kids

For this month's edition of the Life4Kids Journal, we take you inside the home in Nairobi to see the daily routine in the home.

### The Organization: Life4Kids in Kenya



Life4Kids Kenya is incorporated and a registered charity in Kenya. It is operated by Jane Wasike, the CEO (shown in picture). It is overseen by a Kenyan Board of Directors. The Kenyan Board is advised by an international Advisory Board of whom two members are from Life4Kids Canada. The annual operating budget is \$130,000.

### The Organization: Life4Kids in Canada

Life4Kids Canada is incorporated and a registered charity in Canada. It is run by a Board of seven volunteer directors, all of whom live in the Midland-Penetanguishene area. Canada contributes 70 to 75 % of the costs of operation of Life4Kids in Kenya. Life4Kids Canada has no overhead costs except for insurance, accountants' fees, and bank fees.

### Finding the Boys

We're often asked how the boys end up in the home. Our staff is notified by children's agencies, the police, and tribal chiefs when there are boys in need, living in a dump or on the streets. We always have a waiting list. This spring Jane was called out to find a boy. She came home with three (ages 3, 4 and 5). She couldn't leave two behind. The eldest (aged 5) had suffered serious injuries. Now he prospers.



## Success Stories

We get asked about "outcomes". So, we'd like to share with you the successes of a few of our boys. You, our sponsors, and contributors, can take pride in how well these boys are doing.

### Meet Alvin

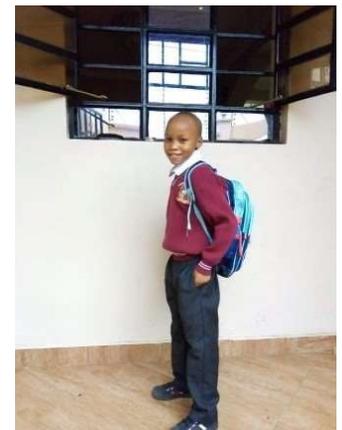
Alvin lived in the slums from his birth nine years ago, until he was discovered by Life4Kids 18 months ago. His mother died while giving birth to him. Alvin was cared for by his grandmother. They lived in poverty in



the harsh environment of the slum area. Home was a rough hut located in the middle of a rubbish dump. As Alvin grew older, his grandmother became ill, and Alvin had to go out and search in the garbage or beg on the streets for food. Although his grandmother had done everything she could, Alvin had never had

the opportunity to attend school or live in a proper house or eat a proper meal until he was rescued by Life4Kids.

When Alvin came to the Life4Kids home, he met his new family: the devoted staff and his new brothers and friends. Although he was 8 when he started school, Alvin has progressed in leaps and bounds. He is very bright. He is in Grade 4 after 18 months in school. He is the class leader. His teachers admire his spirit and determination to learn. Alvin wants to be a pilot. We think he has the ability to achieve his dream! Alvin's grandmother died but she would be proud of him. Thank you for helping us create a bright future for Alvin and all his brothers in Life4Kids.



## What Would You Think?

What would you think if we told you that the youngest boys in Life4Kids (Grade 4 and below) are enrolled in private schools?

Would it affect your thinking if we told you:

- Public schools have 150 students per class with one teacher. Often two or three children have to share one desk.
- Private schools have 25 children per class with two teachers.
- Students who do well in elementary school go to the better “high schools” with a higher standard of education which leads to opportunities for admission to university.



The cost of private school is \$165 CAD per term, compared to \$66 CAD per term in public school.

**For \$100 four times a year, you could pay to send a boy to private school for a year.**

**Would you consider that?**

## Elections in Kenya

August saw elections held in Kenya. Election campaigns are often times of violence in Kenya. So, the Life4Kids children were kept home from school for the first seventeen days of August. Because of security issues in the community where the Life4Kids home is situated, the children and staff on duty stayed inside the home for the entire seventeen days. All are safe and well! The big boys who are away at school were all safe in their respective residences.



## Success Stories

We get asked about “outcomes.” So, we’d like to share with you the successes of our boys. You, our sponsors, and contributors, can take pride in how these boys are doing.

### Meet Brian

**Background:** Brian’s mother abandoned him when he was two years old. His alcoholic father could not care for him. He was a street boy for three years. A caring woman tried to provide for him. But when she moved, Brian was back on the street.



**Current:** For ten years, Brian has been cared for by Life4Kids. He is in his second last year of high school at one of the best national schools in Kenya. **He is on an education scholarship** funded by the Equity Bank of Kenya.

Life4Kids CEO, Jane Wasike, reports that “Brian is an intelligent boy. He performs so well in his academic subjects.

His teachers admire him so much. He is always leading in his class.”

**Interests:** Brian plays football and loves watching it in his free time. He supports the English football team Manchester United.

**The Future:** For Brian, being able to go to school is especially important because it means that he can have a future full of hope and great opportunities. He dreams of becoming a civil engineer.

**Role Model:** In the words of Jane, “Brian is a distinguished role model for younger boys.”



### Closing Thoughts:

Jane writes: “Thank you for helping us raise the next generation of Kenyan leaders! Thank you for your love.”

## The Situation in Kenya

The election in Kenya has ended and the country has a new President and Parliament. While normally that might be a time for optimism, life in Kenya is very challenging. People are starving. There have never been more kids homeless, abandoned and dying in the streets of Nairobi. Children have been forced to leave school because their families cannot afford school fees. Life is very expensive due to droughts, high costs of petroleum products, scarcity of grains (due to the war in Ukraine) and supply chain issues.

### So, how does this affect Life4Kids?

1) Everything is more expensive. Food, education, electricity, transportation, clothing, medical supplies, and all supplies are less available and more expensive.



2) There is considerable pressure on Life4Kids to take in more children. Mothers bring their children to the gate of the home begging for them to be taken and cared for.

3) Security is impacted. Because people are starving, they are roaming the streets

and stealing whatever they can find. Life4Kids now has a full-time daytime guard (9 AM to 8 PM) and locks the gates at 8 PM.

## Congratulations to David

Congratulations to one of our older boys, David, who has started his post-secondary education at a college, Kisii National Polytechnic. David is shown here with the Chairman of the college outside the entrance to the school.



## Success Stories – Part 3

In a Special Edition of our Journal, in April, we introduced you to three little boys. They are the most recent boys to join our home.

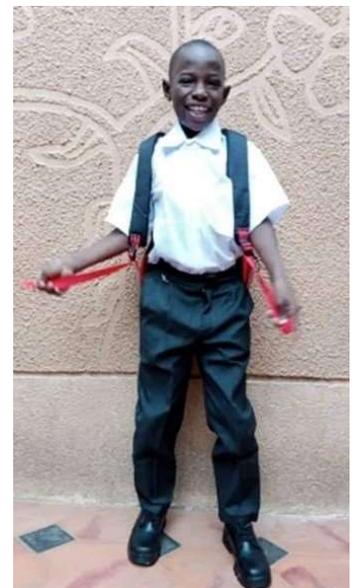
**Background:** You may recall that the eldest of the boys was **Ramadhan**. He's 5-years old. When his mother was young, three men raped her. Following the birth of Ramadhan, his mother ran away from the slums and left him. His old grandmother tried to care for him. But when Ramadhan turned three,



he had to start begging on the streets for food to eat and was there for more than two years. Ramadhan is a survivor. He has a large scar and bump on his forehead, and several scars on his body, the result of being savagely beaten by older street boys. He almost died. He was in a coma for a month.

**Today:** Ramadhan is truly excelling at Life4Kids. His teachers believe that he is a genius. After a short time in school, he learned how to read and write and do math. He is fitting in very well in the home. After all he has been through, his story is more than a "success story"; it's a miracle.

**Future:** Ramadhan wants to be a doctor.





## Update from Kenya

Our CEO, Jane Wasike, writes:

**Academics:** *In Kenya, the children are all doing well. They are in their last academic term of the year - Next*



*year each will be in a new level. Our young boys in private school are really doing very well in their classes. Four boys will graduate to grade one. Four of our boys in public school will be*

*doing their final exams in primary level to enable them to join high school in February 2023. All the boys are doing their best, both in school and at home. They all treat each other as brothers, both at home and in school. Three of our big boys will be graduating, one as a teacher, one as a social worker, and one as an artisan in electrical wiring.*



## Music Trivia Returns

We're delighted to announce that Life4Kids' major fundraising event returns November 25<sup>th</sup>, bigger and better than ever. Music by Dylan Lock - appetizers - silent auction – prizes - cocktails (cash bar). Doors open at 6 PM at the MCC. Get your team together for three rounds of music trivia! Tickets can be purchased at Revel Realty Inc., 520 Cedar Point Rd, Tiny and The Pebble Tree, 248 King Street, Midland or call Danielle at 705-528-3133.



## Success Story

This is the third in a series of “success stories”.

### Meet Job

**Background:** Job was a street boy for eight years. His father died when he was two, and his mother was too ill to care for Job and his five siblings. Job survived by begging on the streets. His mother could not afford food or school fees. At the age of five Job ran away to fend for himself. He was found and rescued by Life4kids He was one of the “pioneers” at Life4Kids. [He is on left in picture above. Life4Kids Founder Amelie Sorensen is shown at back].



**Current:** For 12 years. Job has been well cared for by Life4Kids. Job is in his third year at Mount Kenya University, one of the best private Kenyan universities. Job is an intelligent young man who performs well in his academic subjects. Being able to get a good education has been especially important for Job because it assures him of a future with hope and opportunities. Job is a role model for the younger boys.



**The Future:** Job will graduate next year and become a High School teacher. He will be an excellent teacher and mentor.

### Closing Message from Jane

Thank you for supporting and allowing these precious boys to have a brighter tomorrow. I am grateful for each one of you for the love and support that makes the work we all do possible!!.



## Update from Kenya

### Our CEO, Jane Wasike, writes:

Dear Sponsors & Partners,

As we end the year 2022, our hearts are filled with gratitude. We have made it through the last 12 months because of our dear sponsors and partners like you who have made it possible for us to continue supporting the most vulnerable children in our society, by ensuring our children have access to three meals every day, quality education in private and public schools, Universities and colleges, health care and above all in a clean and safe environment which we call home.



At the present time we have 36 boys in our care who receive sponsorship ranging from the youngest at 3 years and the oldest at 24 years old. The boys over the years have been rescued from the streets of the various Nairobi slum areas around the city. Their stories are harsh, but we turn their lives around in our big family home. We have over the years brought the boys up in a home situated in a middle-class estate creating a secure and friendly environment for them. This has been an important factor for our success and the boys have learnt what it is like in

a normal home situation. Many of the boys spent years begging on the streets or scavenging for food. A large percentage of the boys were abandoned to fend for themselves, and some were as young as 2-3 years old. However, we have all very healthy boys in Life4Kids, and they are all attending school and working hard to learn.

- Life4Kids has 13 young boys in a private primary school, 11 boys in a public primary school,
- Seven of our boys are in public high schools (two are under education scholarship Brian and Lawrence)
- Four of our boys are in universities and colleges, training in various courses to equip themselves with skills and expertise to enable them to be independent.
- Peter one of our big boys is now full trained and a qualified machine operator.
- These are the results of your faithful generosity, selfless love of our sponsors and partners.
- Thank you for helping us change their sad stories to successful stories.
- Thank you for loving and believing in the future for the most vulnerable boys in Kenya, for seeing them grow up and have their dreams come true
- Because of you our dear partners and sponsors, the boys at Life4Kids have a future full of love, hope and possibilities

You are surely helping us lift so many generations in Kenya out of poverty!!

Yours faithfully

Jane Wasike.

CEO Life4Kids Children's Home Kenya

