

FIELD TRIPS
WITH KRA!

JULY 2026

From the Heart of Kenya Relief

A LOOK AT THE AMAZING
THINGS THAT HAPPENED
ON CAMPUS IN MIGORI
THIS MONTH!

SPONSORSHIP:

WE'VE MOVED TO A
NEW GIVING SYSTEM!

Please take a moment to
switch your recurring gift
from REACH to Raiser's
Edge, so your support
continues without
interruption.



IN THIS MONTH'S
NEWSLETTER :

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Physiotherapist

More Ways to Get
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Good News to Celebrate!

Photo Recap from June



Note from Melissa Cook, CEO

Greetings, Kenya Relief family!

I enjoyed just returned from a much-needed week of rest with my family—biking, swimming, watching Fourth of July fireworks, and enjoying time together after three intense weeks in Kenya.

My visit to campus was full and deeply meaningful. Our team worked long days conducting mid-year performance check-ins and hosting a beautiful staff appreciation luncheon. I was joined by Board members Dr. Eddie Cargor and Curtis Coghlan, along with special Kenyan guests who supported leadership trainings, activities with the children, and department follow-ups from my January trip. Staff feedback was positive. Many shared gratitude that I remembered details from our January conversations and came prepared with updates. **A highlight was announcing a small but vital salary increase for our least paid Kenyan staff—the first for many in three years!** Our U.S. team & higher paid Kenyan staff are forgoing increases this year to ensure we deliver urgent relief for our lower-paid Kenyan team. Their excellence is the backbone of our school, clinic, and the care of 160+ vulnerable children.

As America celebrates its 250th birthday this year, Kenya Relief is preparing for its own milestone—our 25th anniversary in 2027. We are laying the groundwork for a strong year ahead.

Next month, **I'll join our Board in Detroit for the Annual Meeting to chart the 2027–2030 Strategic Plan and host a volunteer gathering. One of our goals is to raise \$70,000 to close a funding gap for second- and third-trimester education fees for roughly 110 older students.** In this newsletter, I invite you to read Raymond's story—an orphan who joined Kenya Relief at age six and is now a 22-year-old physiotherapy student who recently traveled outside Kenya for the first time to attend a medical conference. Stories like his are possible because of generous sponsors like you.

Thank you for your dedication, compassion, and faithfulness. July is a month of momentum—and together, we are building a future worthy of the next 25 years!

Highlights From Migori



BRASE CLINIC

Behind the scenes, the Brase Clinic team spent June preparing for a busy medical team season ahead. From coordinating logistics to organizing supplies, their hard work is helping ensure a successful season of specialized care for our neighbors in Migori and beyond!



CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

This month several of our BHOGS participated in a Day of the African Child parade! They planted a tree, performed songs and poems, and gathered with other children in the area. Day of the African Child raises awareness for the importance of education for children in Africa.



KENYA RELIEF ACADEMY

107 students from KRA competed in the regional music festival in Kisii! We are so excited for & proud of these students!



THIS MONTH'S COVER PHOTO STAR

Emmanuel, one of our little guys at BHOG, was so excited to visit Kisumu with his classmates at KRA for the field trip! His favorite part was getting to see the airplanes at the Kisumu airport!

Leadership & Staff Updates



DR. EDDIE CARGOR JOINS THE BOARD!

Dr. Cargor joined the KR board, bringing years of experience in executive leadership, educating, business ownership, organizational support and non-profit service!



CURTIS COUGHLAN JOINS THE BOARD!

After serving as Resident Missionary from 2014 to 2021 alongside his wife, Devry, Curtis has returned to join the board! He brings nearly 40 years of leadership in journalism, ministry, and nonprofit service to KR!



WELCOME PRISCA!

Prisca is joining our on-campus Host team and brings experience in Food & Beverage, event planning, and administration. She will be working with Sonya to coordinate hospitality and ensure every mission team has an exceptional experience on campus!



WELCOME DUSTY!

We are welcoming back Dusty as our Mission Team Coordinator! Since her first trip to Kenya in 2008, she has served in multiple roles at KR, and is dedicated to helping every volunteer feel prepared, supported, and excited to serve!

216
TOTAL ONLINE
SPONSORS

— 216



75%

— 162

CALLING ALL SPONSORS!

**102 OF 216 SPONSORS
HAVE SWITCHED**

IF YOU SIGNED UP TO
SPONSOR A CHILD
BEFORE 2026 & HAVEN'T
SWITCHED TO OUR NEW
GIVING PLATFORM YET,
SCAN THE QR CODE
BELOW.

EVERY COMPLETED
SWITCH BRINGS US ONE
STEP CLOSER TO
RETIRING THE OLD
SYSTEM.

THANK YOU!

SPONSORS SWITCHED.

102

**SCAN TO SWITCH YOUR
SPONSORSHIP.
IT ONLY TAKES A
MOMENT!**





Ebola Update: July 22, 2026

As the Ebola outbreak in Central and East Africa continues to evolve, Kenya Relief remains in close communication with healthcare partners, local leadership, and Kenya's Ministry of Health to monitor the situation and ensure we are prepared to respond if needed.

We are grateful to share that there are still no reported Ebola cases in Kenya, and no cases connected to Kenya Relief, Brase Clinic, or our Migori campus. Brase Clinic remains open and fully operational, continuing to provide compassionate care to patients and families throughout the community.

We are also encouraged by the progress in neighboring Uganda. The country's final hospitalized Ebola patient was discharged from care last week, and health officials are beginning a 42-day monitoring period required before the outbreak can be officially declared over.

In light of the continued stability in Kenya and these positive developments in Uganda, we will be transitioning from our weekly Ebola updates to brief monthly updates here in the newsletter. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and will communicate promptly with our teams, supporters, and partners should conditions change.

While there is much to be thankful for, our hearts remain with the communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo that continue to be affected by Ebola. We invite you to join us in praying for the patients and families facing this illness, and for the healthcare workers and public health teams who continue serving with extraordinary courage and compassion as they care for patients, educate communities, trace contacts, and help prevent further spread.

Thank you for continuing to pray for our staff, our patients, and our neighbors across the region. Your encouragement & support allow Brase Clinic to continue providing faithful, compassionate care, no matter what challenges arise.

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM:

KRA STUDENTS EXPLORE KISUMU

In June, students from Kenya Relief Academy had the opportunity to travel to Kisumu for a field trip. The experience allowed students, including four children from Brittney's Home of Grace, to learn beyond the classroom while exploring new places and possibilities. Kisumu is about 3 hours from Migori, and the biggest city in Western Kenya!



The trip included visits to several educational and cultural sites throughout Kisumu, exposing students to new ideas, careers, and experiences that many had only previously encountered through books and lessons. Seeing airplanes land and take off at the Kisumu airport was so much fun!!

We were especially excited that four students from Brittney's Home of Grace (Cynthia, Washington, Emmanuel, & Zhari!) were able to join their classmates on the adventure. They had so much fun, and were excited to tell their friends all about what they learned when they got back to campus.



We are grateful that support for Kenya Relief & Kenya Relief Academy make trips like this possible! Because of your investment in these children, they are able to experience not only quality education, but also the enrichment activities that help shape well-rounded, confident young adults.

PHOTOS FROM THE TRIP!

We wanted to share some of the trip & the kid's experience through their smiles! We're so happy that our social media specialist, Daniel, was able to travel with the students, and captured these moments of curiosity, excitement, and joy as KRA and BHOG students explored Kisumu together and created memories they'll carry long after the bus ride home.



EDUCATION CHANGES EVERYTHING | A \$70,000 NEED FOR BHOG **FUTURE LEADERS: GEORGE'S STORY.**

When George first came to Brittney's Home of Grace, he was a little boy in need of safety, stability, and the opportunity to simply be a kid. As the youngest of eight children, his home life was at times difficult, and it quickly became clear that he would thrive in an environment surrounded by consistent care, encouragement, and opportunity.

Today, George is doing exactly that.



Creative, outgoing, and a heart for the Lord, George is often the first to the front when worship begins, singing with one hand over his heart and the other raised in gratitude. This year, he reached an exciting milestone when **he was elected Deputy Governor of the Migori County Children's Assembly**, where he will help represent and advocate for children across Migori County. The role gives young leaders the opportunity to learn about civic leadership, children's rights, and how to make a difference in their communities.

George's story is a powerful reminder that education changes far more than report cards. It builds confidence, develops leaders, and opens doors that once seemed impossible.

As our students move into high school and college, the cost of education increases significantly. While child sponsorship provides an incredible foundation, it doesn't always cover the full cost of secondary school and higher education. That's why we're asking for a little extra help to bridge the gap.

Your gift to the Education Fund helps ensure that students like George can continue learning, growing, and pursuing the futures they've worked so hard to earn. Because when we invest in a child's education, we're investing in the future of an entire community.

SOME OF THE COMMON COSTS INCLUDED IN THE \$70,000 NEED:

- A semester of college or university: \$936
- A year of high school education: \$585
- A semester of vocational program: \$390
- School uniforms for 2 children: \$198





THE NEXT CHAPTER: GROWING INTO A CALLING

From BHOG all the way to Amref International University, Raymond's journey reflects the power of education, opportunity, and a growing passion for serving others through healthcare.



When Raymond Ochieng lost both of his parents at a young age, he faced challenges no child should have to navigate. Together with his sister, he was cared for by an aunt who loved them deeply but struggled to provide the resources needed to support their education and future opportunities.

Raymond joined Brittney's Home of Grace in 2010, where he gained access to consistent care, educational support, and a community that believed in his potential! What followed was not a single turning point, but years of determination and hard work.

As he progressed through primary and secondary school, Raymond consistently worked toward his goals, understanding that education could open doors to opportunities beyond what he had imagined for himself as a child.

His efforts paid off when he performed well on his KCSE (high school) national examinations, which eventually led to admission to Amref International University. Today, at 22 years old, Raymond is a third-year student pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy, a field that combines his interest in healthcare with his desire to help others improve their quality of life.





As Raymond has advanced through his studies, he has continued to grow not only academically but also as a young leader. The confidence, resilience, and sense of purpose he has developed over the years are evident in the way he approaches both his education and his future career.

Along the way, Raymond sponsors have played a huge role in helping make his journey possible. Their support helped ensure that school fees, educational needs, and opportunities remained within reach, allowing Raymond to focus on learning, growing, and pursuing his goals. While sponsors could not take the exams, attend the classes, or complete the coursework for him, **their support helped create the foundation on which his hard work could flourish.**

Today, Raymond can clearly see the path ahead. As he continues his university studies, he is preparing for a future where he can use his skills to serve patients, strengthen communities, and make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. With hard work, supportive relationships, and access to education, a young boy with an uncertain future is becoming a healthcare professional with the ability to impact countless lives for years to come.

This June, Raymond had the opportunity to attend the World Physiotherapy Africa Region Conference 2026 in Kigali, Rwanda, joining physiotherapy professionals, educators, and students from across the continent.

For Raymond, one of the most meaningful parts of the experience was seeing how physiotherapy is taught and practiced in different countries and traveling outside Kenya for the first time. The conference broadened his perspective on the profession and reinforced his commitment to learning and growth



Reflecting on his journey, Raymond expressed deep gratitude for the sponsors and supporters who have walked alongside him over the years. Looking back on how far he has come, he recognizes that their encouragement and investment have helped make opportunities like university education and professional development experiences possible.

"To all my sponsors and supporters, thank you very much for having my back throughout this journey," Raymond shared. "I couldn't have gotten this far without your help."

Raymond also hopes his story can encourage younger children currently growing up in the BHOG program. Having faced challenges of his own, he understands that circumstances do not have to define a person's future. His advice is simple but powerful: "You can never change the past, but you can dictate your future. Stay on the right path and have respect for everyone, regardless of their age or position."

For those who have invested in Raymond's journey, the conference was about much more than travel or professional networking. It represented another step forward for a young man who has worked diligently to pursue his goals and expand his understanding of the healthcare field. Raymond is steadily growing into the healthcare professional he hopes to become, carrying forward both the opportunities he has been given and a desire to use them in service of others.

Photos Raymond Wanted To Share!





More Ways to Get Involved!

Help Us Share the Story

One of the most meaningful ways you can support Kenya Relief is by helping others learn about the work happening in Migori! Whether it's a social media post, telling a friend about child sponsorship, inviting someone to join a mission team, or connecting us with your church or community group, your voice helps expand the reach of our programs. If you'd like printable materials about our work, we'd be happy to send them your way!

Email us Lauren@KenyaRelief.org to tell us if you would like to help!

CRNA's Needed

We are in need of a few CRNA's to join Team 21 this October 14-25th!

If you or someone you know are available or interested in this or other opportunities, please let us know!!

Email us at Missions@KenyaRelief.org for more information!



THANK YOU JUNE TEAMS!

FROM STRATEGIC PLANNING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT TO LIFE-CHANGING MEDICAL CARE, OUR JUNE TEAMS INVESTED IN THE PEOPLE & PROGRAMS THAT MAKE KENYA RELIEF'S MINISTRY POSSIBLE.



June was an exciting month on campus as **Team 11** traveled to Kenya with **Melissa Cook**. The team spent a lot of time invested in strategic planning, staff development, and strengthening the future of Kenya Relief, while also devoting time to building relationships across campus through children's activities, classroom visits, and time shared with the BHOG family. Every conversation, game, and moment of encouragement reflected the heart of partnership that continues to strengthen our ministry year after year.

Later in the month, Todd Lange and Team 13 partnered with the staff at Brase Clinic to provide specialized medical and surgical care for patients for our neighbors in Migori & Migori County! Together, the team cared for more than 230 patients and performed 53 life-changing procedures and surgeries, bringing relief from pain, restoring mobility, and renewed hope to individuals and families. We are especially grateful to Todd for stepping in as a first-time team leader this year and for faithfully leading such an impactful week of service!!

To everyone who served with us in June, thank you for sharing your time, talents, and hearts with our community!

MORE GOOD NEWS

We Are Celebrating Together



CONGRATULATIONS NOREEN!

Congrats Noreen!! Our Head of HR received her MBA this month!

BHOG IN SPORTS

We are so excited for several of our JSS students! Our middle school boarder boys (Kevin, Enosh, Elvis, Tom, Mike Sydney, Brighton Onyango, and John Alex!) make up the entire basketball team at Fr. Scheffer's!

Our girls at Rapogi Girls Junior High are active on the school's football team! (Emmaculate, Joy, Velma Akinyi, and Tyline!)

STAFF BIRTHDAYS

Wishing Happy Birthdays to:

June

Beth Okech
Becky
Dusty

July

Lauren

KRA PROGRAMS

- Teachers from KRA attended an induction on communications skills and integration of ICT with other learning areas, facilitated by Dr. Penina Kamina!
- Grade 9 Students went on trips to Kisumu, Kakamega, and Eldoret in June!
- 107 Students represented KRA at regional music festival after competing in local levels last month!

IN THE NEWS

Dr. Danny Benjamin's reflection on his trip as a member of Sara Jipson's Team in March was featured in the Detroit Jewish News!

Scan Here
To Read!



Photos From June

