

Dala Development October 2021

Dear Friends,

We've had a blessed few months here in Kisumu as we've been catching up on lost time after so many lockdowns and restrictions kept us from carrying out our normal outreaches and activities. The highlights, which we will expand upon below, include:

- Donor-funded clinical team makes huge strides
- Starting a new school year and a new schedule
- A long time supporter came for a visit

Health

As soon as the most recent COVID restrictions were lifted, our health team jumped in with both feet and hit the ground running! We now have a beautifully comprehensive health team which includes a Clinical Officer (equivalent to a Nurse Practitioner), an Oncology Nurse, and a Public Health Manager. After a few outreaches with this team, it is confirmed that this is a winning formula! We can educate, screen, treat, make appropriate referrals, and share the love of God. Our ability to hire this team all started two years ago, funded by your generous donations. Frustratingly, our ability to use this medical team was halted by COVID months after its launch, but now, three months into our restart, God has proven that he can restore abundantly.

The team has recently trained 340 community health workers and 22 nurses at 5 hospitals who subsequently screened 600 people. Out of these, 10 women with pre-cancerous lesions were treated and 5 men with prostate issues were cared for. Our healthcare workers have impacted 15 lives in very personal ways and given them hope over life-threatening challenges.



Education

Soi School students continue to enjoy learning and are performing well. The Kenyan school year used to be January through October but after COVID setbacks and necessary adjustments to the school calendar, the current academic year started in August. Kenya is on a four year catch-up schedule which is keeping both our teachers and our students on their toes. School terms are long and breaks are short but they are all committed to making the most out of the situation.

Visiting the school is always a joy, seeing the children in their classes or playing at recess always warms my heart. The simplicity of life in the village and attendance at a school they can be proud to be a part of produces a contentment that is unique and delightful! I hope you can imagine what an impact your support has not only on these children but also in the greater community.



A Visitor

After two and a half years, we hosted our first visitor. Not only was it sweet because she has been a supporter of our ministry since its inception, but also because she's been a significant part of my (Emily's) life since birth. Any guesses? My mom! This what she had say about her trip:

It was so good to visit the school, each classroom full of smiling students. The kids and teachers warmly welcomed me like a visiting celebrity, and cheered when they saw the soccer balls we brought. You should have seen the kids all chase after them like a herd of strong young ponies! The classes have increased over the past few years from just preschool to now through 8th grade, now preparing for exams to enter secondary (high) school. God has been so good! All of this has happened because of the faithful support and ongoing encouragement of friends who believe in this ministry. God is moving in Kenya to bring hope and healing. Dan and Emily appreciate everyone who is helping to make it happen! Thank you.

New Ways to Support Dala

As the leaves are changing in the US and "spending season" approaches, don't forget that if you shop Amazon Smile, your purchases can support Dala! Visit smile.amazon.com and choose Dala Development in Maryville, IL as your charity. Nothing about your shopping experience will change, not even the prices, but Amazon will contribute to Dala from qualifying purchases. It's a win-win.

Also, if you live in the UK, we are now able to receive tax deductible donations through Stewardship America. Please contact me if you would like more information about this.

Prayer Items

Our health initiatives are reaching more and more but there are only two urologists in Kisumu, both of whom are in private practice and are not affordable to the population we serve. Please pray that the Lord would provide a means to assist our male patients.

One of our health staff is currently undergoing chemotherapy and is handling it like a champ! She is an amazing woman, a widowed mother of four (two who are grown), and our prayer for her is that all of her treatments would be effective and she would continue to be emotionally and physically strong throughout this journey. Please pray with us for her, her name is Beatrice.

Thank you, as always, for being a part of Dala Development Programs through your prayers, financial support, and encouragement.

With Love and Appreciation,
The Okalls and the Dala Team