



# **Daylight Center and School**

## **2020 Annual Report**

Daylight Center and School  
P.O. Box 40533  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
[info@daylightcenter.org](mailto:info@daylightcenter.org)

## Socially Distanced, Together in Purpose

*“Kenya and Daylight School feel so much closer now.”*

The quote above is from a long time Daylight School enthusiast in the USA. The comment captures how the shared experience of a pandemic in 2020 made for closer ties between the Daylight School community and its supporters in the USA. Hardship and worry have been our common bond. But so is a closer relationship forged by the ways we have been required, in our respective homelands, to care for loved ones and to keep children engaged while away from school. Throughout 2020 Daylight students, staff and leaders in Kenya have drawn upon their tireless spirit to continue Daylight’s mission. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, the effort to provide high quality education, a safe and engaging campus, nutritious meals, and a breadth of experiences continued. The goal of empowering students to imagine and create a more peaceful and prosperous future for the people of West Pokot was not lost to the pandemic. Our Daylight Family – in Kenya and in the USA continued its work.



*Taking precautions with COVID-19*

### Campus and Community Life During the Pandemic

While schools in Kenya closed in March, a third of Daylight students who live far from school or have no family remained on campus. Through the tireless efforts of a small but caring staff, students living in the dormitory were kept healthy, safe, well-fed, and engaged. The same COVID-19 precautions undertaken in the USA were instituted on campus. Handwashing stations, masks, temperature checks, and social distancing became part of campus life. Though classes were cancelled, students living on campus were physically, emotionally, and mentally active through various clubs organized by staff. The clubs included Choir, Futbol, Track and Debate. The Sewing Club made masks and The Farming Club grew and helped harvest produce for on-campus meals. In every aspect of ongoing campus activity, the crucial element of tender loving care was present. We are grateful for the love Daylight staff demonstrated -- guided by Daylight Matron, “Momma Kimpur”.



*Angela Kimpur, Daylight Matron*



*Daylight Co-Founder, Michael Kimpur*

The positive impact of Daylight School during the pandemic was not limited to those remaining on campus. The students living off campus, their families as well as staff members and their loved ones were provided support from the Daylight community. People “off campus” in the community received support in the provision of food, household goods and funds for COVID tests (each test cost \$50.00). People with no affiliation with

the school also received support from Daylight leaders and resources. Throughout the year, Daylight’s Co-Founder, Michael Kimpur came to the aid of people in the West Pokot region through his dedicated work as Director of Disaster Relief for West Pokot County. Clearly, the influence of Daylight School did not stop at the front gate of the campus.

Funding to protect Daylight students, staff, and volunteers was provided by a Special **COVID-19 Health Appeal** made in April and May of 2020. These funds, in combination with funds raised during our Fall Gala, helped protect against COVID-19. The good news is that no students or staff tested positive in 2020! Thanks to everyone who contributed funds to meet the health challenges brought forth by the pandemic. In November and December, a **Special Tent Appeal** was made to procure funds needed to purchase three tents. These tents would be needed when the school welcomed all students back to campus. The tents were purchased at the close of 2020. Again, thank you to all who contributed to this important project.



*All the students make sure to wash their hands to stay healthy!*

## Educational Mission

*“Daylight’s mission is to shelter, feed and educate nomadic children from rivaling tribes in Western Kenya, empowering them to imagine a better future together and end the bloody conflicts tearing their communities apart.”*



While disrupted by COVID-19, Daylight’s mission of providing high quality academics did not lose to the pandemic. COVID-19 was, after all, up against the trademark perseverance of Daylight students, staff, and leadership. The educational mission continued. After a period of complete suspension of classes the 8<sup>th</sup> graders were able to resume their studies. These students and their teachers prepared for

standardized testing. The national standardized test is crucial in determining eligibility for high school scholarships and placement in a high school where students have a high probability of qualifying for a university education. We are so proud of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders! In 2020 our students placed 4<sup>th</sup> highest out of 600 schools in Pokot County! We were pleased that in addition to the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, our 4<sup>th</sup> graders were also able to return to the classroom! While test preparation is especially important this time of year, we also value the overall educational experience at Daylight which exposes students to a wide variety of learning experiences in the classroom and beyond.



*Daylight’s 2021 8th Grade Class*

Because of the unwavering support of our donors, and sound management by the Kenya leadership team, the school was able to provide salaries for teachers throughout the year, despite the suspension of most classes. This was a significant accomplishment in terms of supporting teachers during a crisis. Maintaining salaries will also serve as one way to ensure the retention of our gifted teachers.



*A visit in February from Dr. Rachel and Dr. Maria from New York who are working at the Kapenguria Hospital.*

Along with its teachers, Daylight's academic strength continues to be advanced through the leadership of Headmaster Paul Okiga. Paul has experience teaching at the high school level. He is highly knowledgeable about new trends and policies emerging in Kenya, including a new Competency Based Curriculum.

The year over year academic excellence provided by Daylight School is in large part due to the generosity of our sustaining donors. Many sustaining donors do so through the **Daylight Classroom Fund**. A commitment of \$30.00/ month helps cover a significant portion of one class members education. Those dollars will provide a student with educational supplies, books, school uniform, breakfast, and lunch. Con-



tributors to the Daylight Classroom Fund have the option of connecting with a classroom by writing to a class and receiving letters back several times during the year. We are grateful to all our Classroom Fund supporters. Thank you, sustaining donors, for your crucial support!

## Special Projects and Programs

### *Improvements and Maintenance enhanced the quality of campus life*



*Our Daylight leaders taking care of the paperwork and record keeping that are so important for the school.*

*From left to right: Reuben Losharipo, School Manager, Mercy Chemutai Kogo, School Secretary, and Angelina Kimpur, Co-Founder and School Matron*

During 2020, staff painted many of the school buildings, some for the first time, making the classrooms bright and welcoming. Reconfiguration of the boy's dormitory enhances safety, and newly installed raised sinks allow for improved hygiene. In addition, staff feel relief to have a new, more reliable office printer.



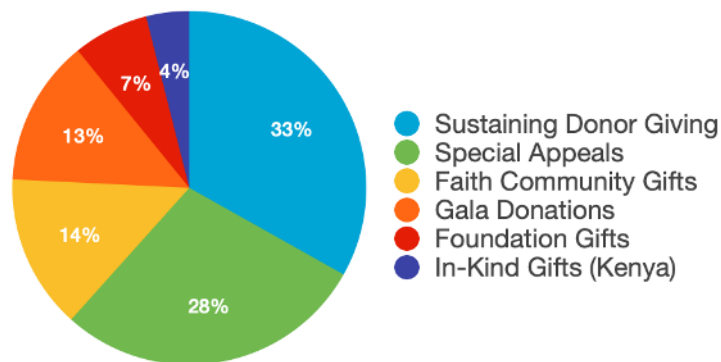
The biggest improvement in 2020 was in the kitchen. The building was completed and three new stoves have been installed. Built by local businesses, the wood burning stoves are more efficient and environmentally sound. The kitchen is now properly vented which improves the working environment for our cooks who, when the school is fully open, prepare 1,000 meals a day! The improved stoves, coupled with additional funding for more nutritious foods, are enabling the kitchen staff to provide a wider variety of healthy foods.



## The Generosity of Daylight Supporters

### *Financial and In-Kind Contributions*

We are grateful for the 2020 support of Daylight's mission – especially amidst the pandemic.



Sustaining Donors: \$42,096 – These donors provide their support over the course of the year. Sustaining donations go a long way in making possible the distribution of funds to the school to meet regular expenses such as salaries, classroom and office supplies, uniforms, food, vehicle repair, and utilities.

Special Appeals \$36,173—Funds from this category go to a wide variety of needs that might arise every year. In 2020 Special Appeals were made for COVID supplies, emergency funds for families, stoves, and tents.

Faith Community Gifts: \$17,946 - In 2020 six Minnesota congregations contributed to Daylight; Edina Morningside Community UCC, First Presbyterian Stillwater, House of Mercy, Lake Sarah Baptist Church, Linden Hills UCC, United Faith Community (Buffalo)

Gala: \$17,000 - In September the Daylight community in Kenya and the USA joined to create the school's first Gala. Over 200 people either "attended" the event on September 27th or viewed the event in the days following. Once again, the dedication and generosity of Daylight students, staff, leaders and supporters was evident. Thanks to all who hosted and attended the Gala as well as offered financial support to the school.

Foundations: \$8,778 - Matching programs

In-Kind Giving (Kenya): \$5,000 – These contributions come from Kenyan supporters of Daylight and are a significant source of support. In-Kind contributions include bricks, other building supplies, livestock, produce, volunteer hours. The Daylight Kenya farm grows a third of the total food served at Daylight School (1,000 meals/day)