



August 2020

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings from Crossroads Springs Africa! Schools are still closed, at least until the end of the school year December 2020. There is good news to report, despite the shut down and stay-at-home orders. A record number of Form 4 graduates have earned admittance to universities; Administrator Ida Nelson and social workers are visiting families and students with assistance and listening to their needs; agricultural workers are teaching students and families about raising healthy crops, chickens and other things for nutrition and sale; CSA's virtual Sale and Auction is active now; the Covid-19 Relief Fund continues to assist families. Thank you for your strong support for all these ventures!

- Alison Hyde, President CSA

ONLINE



Since we were unable to have our largest fundraiser of the year, our Kentucky Derby Gala, "Off to the Races" in May, we are trying to make up for lost revenue by holding an online "Buy it Now then Auction" on eBay for Charity, which benefits non-profit organizations by letting them use the platform without fees.

To go to the "BUY IT NOW then AUCTION" either go to the CSA home page and click on the link in the Auction article or go to <https://www.charity.ebay.com> and type Crossroads Springs Africa in the Find a Charity field. Then click on our logo.

eBay only allows an "auction" to last ten days. Consequently, August 1-August 28 will be our "Buy it Now" for a fixed price part of the event. After August 28, we will lower the prices of all of the remaining items to starting bid prices and the bidding and auction part of the event will begin. The auction will run through midnight EST on September 7 (Labor Day).

You can see the items without signing up for eBay, but you will need to be an eBay Member to bid on an item. Signing up for an eBay account is quick and easy. To sign up for an eBay account, all you need is an email address. Once your account is set up, you can buy, sell, and enjoy all the benefits of being an eBay member.

You may still donate items for auction until August 28th! Kindly have a look in your closets and around your house for items that you may not need. We would really appreciate it. Call Betsy at (716) 572-3981 to find out how to donate and describe your item or items, or e-mail her at oasisdesign@fastmail.com.



SEVEN CSA STUDENTS RECEIVE DIRECT ENTRY STATUS TO UNIVERSITY

CSA is proud to announce that seven of the CSA-supported high school graduates have received high scores in the national high school exams qualifying them for "Direct Entry" status to attend university. In Kenya, upon completing Form 4, all students must sit for the KCSE Exam. On average, 15% of Kenyan high school students receive scores which qualify them for "Direct Entry", which provides acceptance to university and a government subsidy toward payment for university. Of the CSA-supported students that graduated in 2019, we are pleased to report that over 23% earned "Direct Entry", far exceeding the national average! CSA has committed to assisting "Direct Entry" students to enable them to meet the financial obligations not covered by the government subsidy. Congratulations to each of these high school students!!

HELP US SAVE ON
PRINTING COSTS



We will be publishing some newsletters that will be sent only by email. They will include helpful links to pdfs, web pages and other online documents of interest such as slide shows. In times of COVID-19, this may be a safer solution. Keep following all of our news and sign up to receive our newsletters in your email. Go to our home page to sign up: crossroadsspringsafrica.org. Thank you.



CAN THEY PLANT BEANS, NUTS, AND FINGER MILLET? *And the Situation on the Ground in Kenya*

On July 6th Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta announced a phased reopening of the country from a COVID-19 lockdown, lifting restrictions on travel in and out of the capital of Nairobi and other cities.

As a result of the reopening, people have been moving from cities to villages and vice versa. Consequently, the danger of community spread of the virus has significantly increased. Now villages are flooded with jobless people from the cities returning to their familial communities, making the villagers more vulnerable. We now know that people have become infected close to the students' homes.

The CSA-sponsored students and their families remain at home. CSA and FOK social workers and staff on the ground at the Kakamega Care Centre have been visiting families, counseling them regarding COVID-19 best practices, delivering workbooks, encouraging them to focus on their studies, and tutoring them when needed. The students help their families around the house and in the field.

Pastor Ida, our Administrator in Kakamega, is suggesting that we give the students something additional to do. He has suggested that we engage the families in planting crops like hybrid beans, ground nuts, and finger millet which are highly nutritious and easy to sell. "We normally give the students pocket money," explains the Pastor. "I am just thinking that we should engage the youths in doing things like learning about poultry as they work with their guardians and parents at home. In fact, in my thinking, perhaps we could support the families to begin a project which could help in raising pocket money for the students next year. For example, if families can buy chicks, by December/January they would be ready for market when the market is readily available as it is always a festive season." Plans for this endeavor are underway.



COVID RELIEF FUND APPEAL

Homes are full of children, and many guardians continue to express concerns, explaining that they have no money for food or hygiene items like soap. Please continue to help us give them some relief during this challenging time. Each month since April, CSA has been sending \$38 to each of our 100 families. That amount provides two meals a day for a family of five for a month, as well as other necessities. Thank you to all who have donated! We are now raising funds for August. Please consider a donation. There is a COVID Relief Fund Button on our home page: crossroadsspringsafrica.com.

CSA and FOK Working Together

PHOTOS OF STUDENTS

CSA and Friends of Kakamega have been working together on providing photos of students for our supporters and sponsors. We do not yet have photos of every student but eventually we hope that we will. Letter writing is not possible during this time, however, we are hoping that some photos of students will give sponsors an idea of what has been going on in students' lives lately. FOK has provided us with photos they have taken of several of the students at home. We have used them to create an online slide show. The students are studying at home and they are happy for the donations to the COVID Relief Fund. The link to the "student at home" slide show can be found on our home page: