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We hope you will find it in your heart to help financially. Donations can be mailed to: Kiwanis Foundation, PO Box 592, Loudon, TN 37774

*Please indicate on Memo Line of check: "For Lions Academy"*

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# ***The Lions Academy Isiolo County, Kenya***



(October 2022)

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Founded in 1998 the Lions Academy is a private school. Located in Isiolo County, Kenya. Northern Kenya has semi-arid conditions, with infertile soils not suitable for growing crops. It is hot and dry. The yearly rains are unreliable. The region is unfavorable for economic development. Many people earn a small salary well below the poverty line. Life is challenging, HIV Aids is epidemic, touching and ruining a majority of the families. The region lives in a state of constant tribal unrest.

Harriet Nkatha, the proprietor, pressed the need for a boarding facility for the disadvantaged and orphaned children in the area. The County Government donated a 5-acre piece of land.



Lions Academy has grown tremendously over the years and now include high school. Enrollment fluctuates and ranges from 130-150 children. 25 of the

children are orphans and the remainder are day students. The children range in ages from 5 to 18. There is a staff of thirteen teachers, a cook, two night guards and the Head Mistress, Harriet Nkatha, who takes care of the boarders.

The Lions Academy moved from a small, leased facility in 2007, when a new school was built. The school was funded by Paul and Ruth Thornton of Tellico Village. They, along with the Community Church and Kiwanis Club of Tellico Village, have been strong supporters of the school. The Lions Academy has been faced with many obstacles over the years. They have endured floods, drought,



building collapses and theft. Three new buildings were completed in 2019; which were approved by Government officials. They have, again, requested several new buildings be erected; including the only Laboratory in northern Kenya.

Lions Academy has been a happy Christian environment and the school follows the national syllabus. The students are also taught basic life skills such as knitting, sewing and farming. A number of Lions Academy students have gone on

to join good high schools and public universities in Kenya.



Each year the school has ranked very high academically. It ranked ninth in the country in the national drama competition. The children are very well disciplined. They take their education seriously, realizing that doing well in school is their only way out of poverty.

The children are fed three meals a day, one of which is porridge. Food prices rise each year, stressing the budget. The school has a Management Committee which oversees the curriculum, financial concerns and management. The student tuition fees collected, unfortunately, do not cover all expenses.

Local and national funding for the school is non-existent. They must rely on gifts from friends and tourists. The school's strength and vitality come from Head Mistress, Harriet Nkatha. She has dedicated her life to helping the unfortunate children of Kenya. She also comes from a very humble beginning. Harriet strives to provide a better life for the children who have come from the streets or are orphaned. With the help of God and the prayers and assistance of others, it is important for this school to survive.



The children have great dreams. They work hard to achieve their goals.