

# Red Rhino Outreach Program

Two years ago, the Red Rhino children were on their way to school and saw two kids walking to school in the cold without proper clothing. After a few days of passing by the 2 children they asked their Uncle Ben if they could stop and give them a ride so they didn't have to walk the 7km in the cold. It was on this day that The Red Rhino Outreach program was born. While visiting Kenya we had the opportunity to experience the outreach program first hand and see how the lives of the families and the community are being affected.

We started with visiting the Daystar Mulandi Primary School (preschool thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade) where the majority of the children in the program attend. Prior to the start of the outreach program, 198 students were attending this school. Now there are 231 students in attendance in which Red Rhino sponsors 51 students. These children would otherwise not be able to attend school due to their families' inability to afford the costs associated with education. The Red Rhino contribution will vary by the needs of each family but may include all school fees including registration fees, uniforms, and annual fees. The total cost of these fees per child are approximately \$50 per year. The price goes down after the one-time registration fees are paid.





School is something that children in this area look forward to. They make the effort on their own often times to walk to school. It is a place of safety and comfort in addition to one of education. The students at this school were studious, stayed at attention, and were excited to be there.

Part of the outreach program is to not only provide education to students in the community but to also provide them with 2 meals a day while in school. Prior to Red Rhino being able to provide 2 meals to all students, the principal found students were fainting at school due to going several days without food. Since providing the meals to all the students at school, enrollment and retention has gone up. For many students this is the only time they receive a meal. The outreach program not only provides help with education and meals at the school, it also encourages their parents to contribute to the community. They do this by having them cook a meal at the school once a week and if they are unable to do so due to work, they can pay another parent a small fee to cover their shift.





Not only were we given the opportunity to visit the school where the majority of the students attend, we also had a chance to visit the homes and the parents of the children in the outreach program. Each parent expressed to us how much the outreach program means to them. It has given their children an opportunity that they did not have. The parents that we met are considered to be day workers and each day will go out and try to find a job. They are hopeful their children will be able to have a brighter future with an education.



Joseph is the father of the first four children sponsored by the Red Rhino outreach program... He earns his living by repairing electronics like radios and speakers.

Hamid assists in the outreach program by cooking at the school as well. He is a fisherman (showing his gear). He also has gone to Red Rhino and shown the children how to fish in the dam on the property.

