

Mission of the Month for APRIL 2016

Kijabe Kids - "Needy Children's Fund"

Arianna Shirk is Pastor McLain's daughter. AIC Hospital in Kijabe is a Christian hospital. Patients from all over Kenya will journey here for medical needs. Many come as non-Christians and leave knowing their Savior.

In traditional African culture money and wealth are shared among families and communities. So if you have a job and your brother doesn't, you would share your money with him. When a family or church member has a large need, the community will call a harambee, a formal meeting at which people give to meet the need.



Unfortunately there are some people who are separated from family and community for various reasons. One common story is that when a woman gives birth to a special needs child, this is grounds for the husband to divorce her. Others in her community may also shun her for fear that she is cursed. For people like this - who have children with medical needs and don't have personal or community connections for harambee - we have a "Needy Children's Fund" to help with their bills. The Needy Fund is an excellent opportunity to share God's hope and unconditional love with those who most desperately need it.

Medical costs are much less here in Kijabe than in America, so usually we are helping patients in amounts of \$200-\$500. A small amount of money can make a huge impact in the life of a patient.

*Dr. Arianna McLain Shirk grew up in North Carolina and is now a missionary pediatrician in Kijabe, Kenya. To read more about this ministry, go to Dr. Shirk's blog: shirkadventure.com.



News from Community Concerns

Thank you all so much for your generous donations to IAM during February. **You donated over 150 pounds of food that month which included about 70 cans of soup for Souper Bowl Sunday!**

Updates to the church's website include write-ups for the Prayer Shawl Ministry, the Quilters Group and the Ladies Guild/LWML. Thanks to those who wrote up information to be included.

Pastor McLain is the source for the April Mission of the Month. Read more about it in this newsletter and at the Community Concerns bulletin board in the church hallway. If there is a mission you would like to have featured as a Mission of the Month, please see Community Concerns Chair, Kathy Kirchoefer.