

# Mission of the Month for October 2017

## Kijabe Kids - "Needy Children's Fund"



Meet Beatrice, a precious baby girl who was born not only prematurely but also with a blocked intestine, a place where the gut had failed to form. She was transferred to Kijabe where she had emergency surgery, weeks of intravenous feeding, percolating in an incubator, fighting infection, on the verge of survival. At last she was strong enough to be fully corrected surgically and begin to breast feed. Last week she went home with a prognosis for a long and normal life. The odds of her survival in Kenya being born 2 months early would have been 1 in 4 most places. Add to that her surgical emergency, and it probably goes up to 1 in 100. So it was a day of rejoicing when she was ready for discharge. Her family was able to raise about \$350, but her total bill was about \$2,500. Even with a subsidy from the Bethany Kids surgical fund, she was still left with about \$1000 unpaid. This is where the

Kijabe Needy Children's Fund comes in.

The **"Needy Children's Fund"** was established years ago as a way to sponsor care for children whose families would otherwise be unable to afford it, a way to keep Kijabe Hospital running when the excellent care provided would be otherwise uncompensated. We are a church hospital that has to pay the laboratory technicians, the round-the-clock expert nurses, the records clerks and kitchen cooks and maintenance personnel. We have to buy the expensive antibiotics, and generate the oxygen and electricity. Saving a baby like Beatrice costs money. It costs only a small fraction of what it would cost in many countries. About half our physician staff are missionaries, so all our supporters already subsidize this care by subtracting the need to pay us salaries. But paying the Kenyan staff and maintaining the enormous physical plant and providing the equipment and medicine takes funds. Kijabe Hospital's mission is to provide excellent health care to the most vulnerable patients. Money donated to any of the Needy Patients' Funds will go directly towards paying the expenses incurred by our most vulnerable.

Dr. Arianna Shirk, Pastor McLain's daughter, is a missionary pediatrician in Kijabe, Kenya. Arianna cares for little ones in the Pediatric ICU, wards, and NICU and trains the newest generation of Kenyan doctors and physician assistants during their rotations at the hospital. She is working to co-found the first pediatric emergency medicine and critical care fellowship in East Africa. To read more about this ministry, go to Dr. Shirk's blog: [shirkadventure.com](http://shirkadventure.com).

