



BCC Africa Inc is a registered Australian charity which provides support to the Bethlehem Community Centre (BCC), an organisation that provides a home and education for children orphaned or destitute as a result of poverty, HIV/AIDS or conflict



Maggie

BCC Africa had supported Maggie with a sewing course in 2016. Maggie had done a variety of work experience placements and was struggling to find regular work. She submitted a very impressive business plan and a loan application to start her own business. She also provided a sample of her work. We decided to give Maggie a loan of about \$1000 on the condition that she provided regular updates and undertook to repay the loan from August 2019.

Maggie opened her business, "Blessed Textiles" on April 1 this year. She has made uniforms for the children at Mwea and acquired 15 new customers in her first month. Maggie was able to purchase an overlocker and has the ability to do buttonholes and this has helped in working with other tailors who do not have this equipment.

We are very proud of the work Maggie is doing as an example to others who have called Bethlehem Community Centre their home.

Safari's Graduation Note

Hello Chris,

Thank you so much for making light shine on me. I graduated yesterday with a CREDIT grade and among the top performers. I feel so proud and greater. Words can't satisfy my feelings Chris. Blessed be the people who chipped in to make my education journey a success. I wish to thank the family that has supported my college life too. It's with deep appreciations and love for them that have managed to complete my studies. Chris no one can pay what you have instilled to us, the African family. I know sometimes things seem hard but consistency is the key aspect. My aim is to champion your work here at home and support it to higher levels. Am lacking words to express my joy, Greatfulness and happiness by what you have given to me. Maybe I will be writing to you daily after I get a new word.

Thank you so much and blessed be the BCC FOUNDATION.
cheers SAFARI



Donate

If you would like to make a regular or one-off donation to help support the ongoing work of BCC Africa please contact chris@bccafrika.org or 0408280632.

www.bccafrika.org



Upcoming Events:

12th Oct Open Garden 8 Kandos Dr Old Beach
Entry \$10 includes sumptuous Devonshire Tea

30th Nov Open Garden 144 Hopkins St Moonah
A delightful suburban garden that needs to be seen to be believed : \$5 entry



Instagram
[@bccafrika](https://www.instagram.com/bccafrika)



Friends of BCC Africa



You can help and support the work that BCC Africa Inc does by making a one-off or regular donation. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Simply go to www.BCCAfrica.org to donate through funds transfer to BSB 064 404 Account# 1047 2560 or contact Chris@bccafrica.org or on 0408 280 632.

Kelvin Njoroge

Kelvin Njoroge was just nine years old when came to live at the Mwea home of Bethlehem Community Centre in 2012. Not long after he arrived, Friends of BCC Africa made their second visit to the home and, of course, this was the first time they met Kelvin. Like most of the children of that age Kelvin was shy and a little wary of these visitors from Australia. But also like all these children, English was not their first language and most likely not even their second language. Most kids learn English at school, and Kelvin was just in Grade 2 and just beginning to learn English so he would not have been that confident communicating in this new language in those early days.

It was a bit different when Friends of BCC returned in 2014. By then, Kelvin was a bit more confident and a little less shy. He was very involved in all the activities that Friends of BCC Africa had brought for the children to do, such as colouring in, beadwork and playing ball and card games. The visitors got to know him a bit better; when the visitors started to buy and mend some of the children's clothes we realised that Kelvin had severe burn scars on his legs which were beginning to restrict the way he walked.

When we returned to Australia a generous sponsor came forward to cover the costs of corrective surgery. Surgery took place in Nairobi so Kelvin moved base to the Soweto home so he could be closer to treatment.

To our great delight, when we returned in 2016, we found Kelvin's walking gait had improved dramatically. While not completely natural, Kelvin was now able to move freely and participate in all the outdoor games that normal 13 years olds would play. Like most Kenyan boys of his age, Kelvin loved to play soccer.

In 2018, Kelvin was still living at BCC Soweto and was attending grade 7 of the primary school. He's grown into a tall fine looking young man with a flashing smile. His shyness gone, he warmly greets his Australian visitors and engages quickly in conversation. He still has that quiet calm nature, but beneath that he has a steely resolve to overcome the obstacles he has faced in life. It can't have been easy recovering from multiple bouts of corrective surgery and enduring the pain that that brought. Each time he has bounced back showing great resilience.

Kelvin is now one of the older boys in the home and he sets a great example for the younger children with the respect he shows his carers and the care and support he gives to the younger children who share his home. This year he is in Grade 8. He is still living at BCC Soweto and is receiving occasional medical treatment for his burn injuries.

He is a hard working young man and that will hold him in good stead when he faces his all important final Primary school exams later this year. His favourite subject is science and Kelvin hopes to go on to study engineering. He is very grateful for the support Friends of BCC Africa has given him over the years, and we in turn will continue to watch this young man continue to develop and strive to reach his full potential.

