



Lawren Jackson 2018 HOPE RECIPIENT

When Lauren Jackson (12) visited Kenya five years ago, she was inspired to help the children of Kumpa by providing them with a better future.

Kumpa is a remote village in Kenya and one of the areas affected by a food shortage; it is estimated that approximately 10 million Kenyans do not have reliable access to food.

Lauren and two local Kenyans founded The Children of Maasai Educational Programme (CMEP) in 2015 with the purpose of reducing poverty, improving health services and food security.

"With children still dying of preventable illnesses and starvation in Kenya, we work to reduce the underlying causes of poverty and to provide a brighter future," Lauren said.

In 2018, Lauren received funding from the OGA's HOPE program, which was used by the charity to run an outreach medical clinic in a remote area.

According to Lauren, the funding was life-saving for the people in the region, which is two hours by car to the nearest medical facility.

"Word-of-mouth spread and throughout the day we helped a few hundred people, some of whom were acutely sick and would likely not have survived if they had not been treated immediately," she said.

Through the funding, the outreach clinic was able to hire three doctors and a triage nurse as well as purchase pharmaceutical drugs for a variety of health issues ranging from family planning, common analgesics and lifesaving antibiotics.

Remaining funds were used to purchase equipment, such as Middle Upper Arm Circumference tape (MUAC) and scales, and pharmaceuticals for the local, privately run health clinic.

Since inception in 2009, the HOPE program has provided financial support for a variety of charities in Australia and across the world. Funding is available for former students to support their philanthropic work in making the world a better place.

For more information on The Children of Maasai Educational Programme or to help, visit www.childrenofmaasai.org

Ms Ruth Walker :: School Community Co-ordinator

