



2024 GIFT CATALOG

WWW.KENYAMATTERS.ORG

A LETTER FROM DORCAS

Children's Home Co-founder

Dear Supporters,

We are all doing well and are grateful that God has remained faithful to us. As we continue to navigate life after the pandemic, we face challenges that call for us to be creative in how we meet them.

Since the children have to spend so much time in school and doing homework, we hired a music teacher who trains them in vocals, dance, and piano. Our hope with this is that these activities can help ease the pressure the kids are facing by being in school six days a week.

We hired another teacher to help with extra tutoring, to help kids with any problems they may have with learning. We have also started a new initiative where we get together with other children's homes and play friendly soccer matches. This has helped keep their morale high and is also a great way to exercise. Another new norm includes regular walks in the afternoon when the weather permits.

We have partnered with Eden Thriving, whose mission is to "teach basic environmental science and cultivate better conservation practices at the household level." This has been great for the children because it is teaching them ways to care for the environment. The kids have also started minor projects such as building bird nests around the compound, and some are now proud owners of chickens, doves, and rabbits.

At the end of every year, students in Grade 8 sit for the National Exam that will determine where they will attend secondary school. We ask that you join us in praying that all their hard work will bring them success and find a school that fits for each of them.

We are forever grateful to Kenya Matters for their continued support as we love and take care of these children and the community.

In Christ,



Dorcas Wachira

JOHN KARANJA

A Story 20 Years in the Making

My name is John Karanja Wanjiru. I was born and raised in Nyamath village as the only son of the late Damaris Wanjiru. She passed away when I was only a couple of years old due to the HIV virus. I was left under the care of my late great-grandmother and grandmother.

It was about the year 2002 when my great-grandmother met Elijah & Dorcas Wachira. They had moved into a nearby community and built their own home. She knew they were good people and asked them to take care of me. The request of my great-grandmother gave Elijah and Dorcas a calling — to care for the children who had become orphaned in the area where we lived.



John's grandmother & great-grandmother

At that time, they did not take me to their home, but they began raising money to care for those of us who were without means of eating well and without good parental care. A number of years after the request by my great-grandmother, the children's home came to exist. I was one of the first children to move to the home, what we call the CRCA.



Young John Karanja



Jason with Peter and John

I took my primary education while living there. I then joined secondary school. Having gone through my four years in high school. After graduating, I was privileged to join one of the theological school in Kenya, the AIC Kapsabet Bible College. I graduated in the year 2019.



John's graduation celebration

I am currently serving in one Africa Inland Church Kenya where the late pastor Elijah served as assistant pastor. I am looking forward to furthering my studies with the help of well wishers.



John at school



John preaching at the CRCA

P.S. When supporting people of the children's home visit Kenya, we would usually visit with John's great-grandmother and grandmother. With an interpreter, we would sit in their humble home and listen to stories of their family, John's mother, their struggles as two single women raising their own children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

This past summer, at the age of 97, John's great-grandmother passed. Kenya Matters, in a small way, helped with the funeral expenses. She will be missed by many of us.

Mission & Vision FOR OUR KENYA MATTERS FAMILY!

Kenya Matters seeks to nurture and empower at-risk children and families in collaboration with Kenyan partners, with an active donor community in the United States and around the world.

Kids are in school, getting healthier, and feeling safer, but their future is far from set. They need mentors to guide them into the future, help to create jobs for themselves, tuition for colleges, counseling for trauma, and continued encouragement to hope for tomorrow.

Perhaps our greatest pride at Kenya Matters is to see kids grow up with a desire to “pay it forward”. They pray for resources to help their relatives, neighbors, and sometimes siblings that can not find room in the current program.

They pray for their American and Dutch friends, often by name. They are working hard to lift themselves up, as grateful recipients of God’s help and ours. They are motivated to continue on in life so that they can share more abundantly with others. The love and care they receive, expressed through their lives to others, is the hope we hold.



2023 PROJECTS COMPLETED

Your Donations Make a Difference

Text
"KMKIDS"
to phone number
53555 to donate
over text.



VAN FOR THE FAM

Our goal was reached over the past couple of years for transportation to/from school. We are thankful that our staff no longer needs to be concerned if the children will actually be transported to their schools.



THREE TOILETS REPLACED

Let's just say, the previous latrines were starting to cause a stink that was beyond repair. The new ones were built to allow for easier maintenance in the future and are greatly appreciated by the children and anyone else down wind of them.



NEW MATTRESSES & BEDDING

After many years of use, it was well past time to replace these. This was done while the children were away. So, when they returned, they were surprised with new clean sheets & blankets, and mattresses that smelled new, too.

2024 GOALS



ELECTRICITY USE STUDY & CONSIDERATION OF SOLAR PROJECT

Our Kenyan staff and our two boards are working to determine how to best address the high cost of electricity for the children's home. **Electricity costs have skyrocketed since the beginning of the pandemic.** While we would love to announce the beginning of a fundraising campaign so the home could be less reliant on the electric grid, we want to be certain that it is a good use of your donations. Thus, we are still in the process of doing our good diligence. **Stay tuned as we move into 2024.**



INCREASE MONTHLY SUPPORTERS

We are hoping you will consider becoming a monthly donor. With the cost of inflation, increased education costs, and more of the children attending high school, we are hoping to add monthly supporters.



Our goal for 2024 is to add 20 new monthly donors. Will you be one of them? (See pg. 7)

DAILY NEEDS

Kenya Matters makes a significant impact in the lives of the children and families with whom we are involved. As a volunteer-led organization located in the U.S., with supporters around the globe, we provide at-risk children with support that continues beyond high school.

Because the children's home becomes the primary family for many of the children, we follow the example of many healthy families by continuing to support them as necessary and staying connected after graduating.

HELP SUPPORT KIDS OR GRADUATES' MONTHLY EXPENSES!

\$100	Living Expenses 1 student, 1 month
\$12	Mosquito Net
\$25	Bed Sheet and Blanket
\$120	Eye Dr. Appointment includes transportation




Sign up to become a monthly supporter (any amount) and receive 2 free Kenya Matters t-shirts shipped to your home!


YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT KIDS OR GRADUATES' MONTHLY EXPENSES!

Our children cannot rely on parents or relatives for any portion of their daily living expenses. Thus, Kenya Matters works to provide the full amount of their care, averaging \$100 monthly per child.



John Njuguna 



Petro Ngemya 

BECOME A *Rock Star*

Our monthly donors are the rock stars of Kenya Matters! Giving as a monthly donor is a disciplined commitment that is the lifeblood of the program. Monthly donations provide consistent funding for the basic needs of the children. Basic needs are understated.

Think of your own family unit. What if you struggled to purchase groceries, pay for electricity, or pay for gas for your vehicles? Sometimes we take those things for granted. Yet, if we struggle on a daily basis with those things, think of the increased stress. Most of us behave differently under stress and react to those closest to us in undesirable ways. Our monthly donors help alleviate those stresses from the program.

The children receive the emotional support they need from the paid staff members. They receive the nutrition they need to perform at their best at school. They have running water from the pump well. And, they are transported safely to and from school. We all function at our best emotionally, spiritually, and intellectually when our basic needs are met. Become a monthly donor and be part of the lifeblood of the program!





SHEEP PROGRAM

The simple gift of five sheep can help raise an entire family out of abject poverty. These animals provide income in the form of milk, meat, and lambs. The recipients of these sheep are relatives of the children living at the safehouse.

The first and second born lambs born from the five donated sheep are returned back to the program so that others can benefit. Thus, the cycle of generosity continues. In its own unique way, this gift keeps giving.

This is our longest running program, beginning even before the children started to arrive at the safehouse in 2008. This is yet another way your gift strengthens the larger community surrounding the CRCA.

HOW YOU CAN HELP CREATE SUSTAINABILITY

\$300	5 Sheep
\$60	1 Sheep

WELL AND WATER PROJECT

Celebrating 12 years of clean water!

In rural Kenya, many people live without a nearby water source. Twelve years ago, October of 2011, after a number of previous drilling attempts, a hired well drilling company hit an abundance of water 850 feet below ground.

Our children and staff have been able to access clean water for drinking, bathing, cleaning, and growing vegetables in the garden since the water discovery. Our local community, which includes nearby farms, a school, and affordable rental units, has been able to purchase water for their daily needs, most often transported by donkey carts and blue plastic water barrels.

The constant supply of clean water from the CRCA well has transformed the lives of our children and those of the surrounding community. A neighboring orchard and vegetable farmer had a pipeline installed as backup for the times when the rains fail to arrive.

HOW YOU CAN HELP SUPPLY CLEAN WATER TO KARAI

\$30/ Month	Water Filters Keeps the water clean
\$75/ Month	Electricity Keeps the pump running





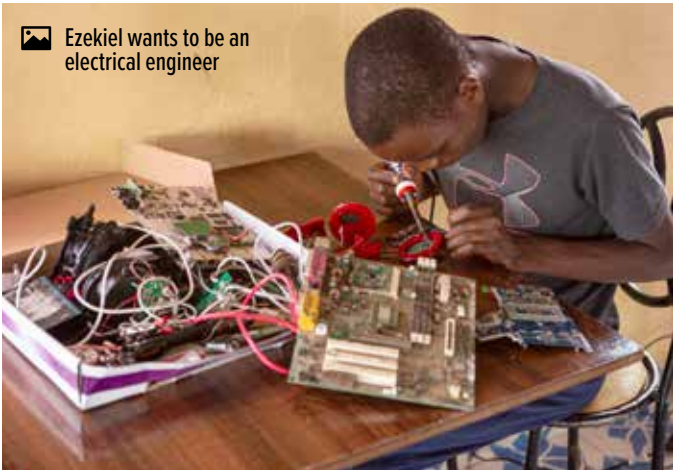
Text
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Empower Change THROUGH EDUCATION

Our children, your children, deserve the best we can provide, and they are inspired to tackle their studies with enthusiasm and discipline. Your generous donation to our Education Fund is a strategic investment in the lives of future leaders.

Education provides the tools for success. The benefits begin with one individual child and then ripple out into the community. Kenya Matters is dedicated to helping our children thrive!

For our high school graduates, we've committed to supporting a range of options, from university fees to loans to buy tools or to start small businesses.



 Ezekiel wants to be an electrical engineer



HOW YOUR SUPPORT CAN HELP EDUCATE	
\$65/Trimester	Elementary School 1 student, 3 trimesters
\$94/Trimester	Day School 1 student, 3 trimesters
\$35	Uniforms Mandatory to attend school
\$21	Shoes Mandatory to attend school
\$15	Backpack

MEET THE CHILDREN

These are the children who are currently living at the CRCA safehouse. This is where they live, are loved, learn about life, and are taught about the goodness of Jesus.

In addition to our primary and secondary age children, we have a handful of high school graduates who are attending colleges (two year programs) and universities (four year programs). With COVID restrictions easing during the past year, the CRCA has been able to again accept new children when several of the older children graduated high school and moved onward.

Please take time to look at the pictures of these amazing young people. They love sharing their pictures with those who are helping make their hopes and dreams become reality!

73 Children have lived at the CRCA safehouse since Jan, 2008

Snapshot of the Children

**Primary
School**

15 children

**Secondary
School**

13 Students

**College &
University**

4 Young Adults



Samuel Mwangi
Preschool — Eli Prep School



Blessing Wanjiru
Grade 1 — Eli Prep School



Caroline Wanjiru
Grade 1 — Eli Prep School



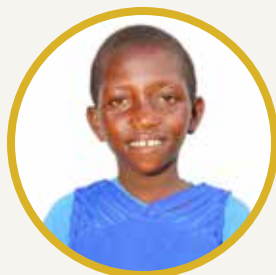
Mercy Nyokabi
Grade 1 — Eli Prep School



John Njuguna
Grade 1 — Eli Prep School



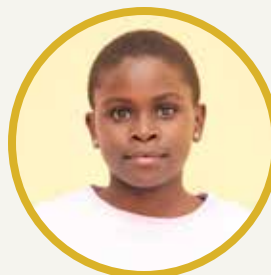
Miriam Wangari
Grade 5 — Naivaroyals School



Mary Wambui
Grade 5 — Naivaroyals School



Erick Kuria
Grade 6 — Milimani Primary



Mary Nyakio
Grade 6 — Milimani Primary



Patrick Mwangi
Grade 7 — Milimani Primary



Joseph Njenga
Grade 7 — Milimani Primary



Maxwell Kiprono
Grade 7 — Milimani Primary



Faith Cherono
Grade 7 — Milimani Primary



Rose Waceke
Grade 7 — Milimani Primary



Pauline Wanyua
Grade 8 — Milimani Primary



Ann Wangui
Form 1 — Awaiting Enrollment



Brian Juma
Form 1 — Awaiting Enrollment



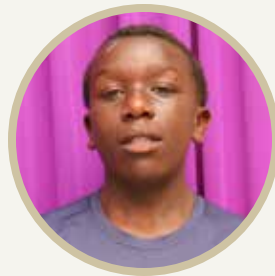
Michelle Wanjiku
Form 1 — Awaiting Enrollment



Kelly Githuka
Form 1 — Awaiting Enrollment



Brian Kimani
Form 1 — Awaiting Enrollment



Geoffrey Mbugua
Form 2 — Karai Secondary



Eric Kokolan
Form 2 — Mai-Mahiu Boys



Mary Nduta
Form 2 — Mai-Mahiu Girls



Ezekiel Macharia
Form 3 — Karai High school



Petro Ngemya
Form 3 — Njiiri School



Dorcas Aleman
Form 3 — Kijabe Girls



Lewis Kiarie
Form 4 — Molo Academy



Joseph Lomar
Form 4 — Mai-Mahiu Boys



Joyce Wangui
Graduate — Karai High School



David Ngige
Graduate — Mai-Mahiu Boys



Isaac Kimani
2nd Year — University of Nairobi



Esther Wanjiru
4th Year — Grets University



Elizabeth Wanjiku
4th Year — St. Paul's University

Form 1 = Freshman
Form 2 = Sophomore
Form 3 = Junior
Form 4 = Senior

MEET OUR BOARD & KENYAN STAFF

Kenya Matters partners with the CRCA (Community Recovery Centre Africa) to meet the needs of Kenyan children and families in the Karai community. Our board members bring career expertise and a passion for helping children and families thrive. Some have lived or currently live in Kenya, and others bring the experience of having served on other non-profit boards.

Our Kenyan staff works tirelessly to meet the needs of our children in

order to grow them into thriving Kenyan citizens. The CRCA staff is empowered to make all decisions regarding the children's diet, education, spiritual needs, and health care. Additionally, our Kenyan co-founder, Dorcas, and our Children's director, Milka, determine the appropriate staffing needs to meet the needs of the children.

Our board and the CRCA staff intersect to determine priorities for the funds raised, including general expenses, educational opportunities, and facility projects. The primary focus of the Kenya Matters board and our staff is to provide a safe, loving, and thriving environment for the children at the safehouse and to encourage them after they have graduated from high school and have made their lives into the larger world.

KENYA MATTERS BOARD



Randal Buist
Board President



Moses Githaibi
Board Secretary



Jerry VandenBosch
Board Treasurer



Levi Molenje
Board Co-Chair



Heidi Swieringa
Board Co-Chair



Brian Workman
Board Member



Stephan Lutz
Board Member



Anna Buist
Board Member



This Could be You
Board Member



This Could be You
Board Member

CRCA STAFF



Dorcas Wachira
Co-founder



Milka Gitau Mugogo
Children's Director



Pr. George Njenga
Dorm Parent



Maria Njenga
Caregiver



Monicah Wanjiku
Caregiver



Naomi Wanjiku
Caregiver



Judy Wambui
Cook



Joseph Muchiri
Grounds Keeper



John Kiiru
Security Guard



Joseph Katap
Security Guard



Kenya Matters Board

Randy Buist has served as the board president for the past thirteen years. With his first visit to Kenya in December of 2008, he was drawn into the work of Kenya Matters. He tries to make at least annual visits to the children's home in Kenya. Over the past 13 years, he's made more than 20 African visits. After graduating from seminary in 1993, he worked on a church staff as the youth and education pastor. Following this experience, he focused his attention on raising three young children while serving on several boards and working with his family's horticulture business.

Heidi Swieringa has served on the board for the past decade, bringing her experience with nonprofits to our board. As the co-chair of Kenya Matters, she keeps the board and volunteers focused on the many tasks that need to be accomplished. She lives in Adrian, Michigan with her husband and daughter. She works with disabled adults through her work as guardian/conservator/trustee. She spends free time participating in social justice issues, gardening, reading, home projects, and family time.

Levi Molenje serves as the co-chair of Kenya Matters. He focuses on the education aspect of the children, along with how the project is enabling the young people to become healthy people after graduating from the children's home. He and his spouse have lived in the U.S. for the past twenty-three years after moving from Kenya to attend university. He is the father of three young adult children, all who are currently working on degrees post-high school. In his free time, he is a professor of mathematics at Waldorf University, in Iowa. He holds a Ph.D. from Syracuse University.

Jerry Vanden Bosch serves as the treasurer of Kenya Matters. For much of his professional career, he led his CPA firm in Zeeland, Michigan. After retiring a number of years ago, he was convinced to bring his expertise in finance to our board of directors. He now spends life between Arizona and Michigan, enjoying time wherever the snow is not falling. His preferred summer days include time with his spouse, adult children and grandchildren.

Anna Buist is currently teaching English to middle schoolers in Honduras. Her parents first took her to Kenya at the age of ten. Since 2009, she has visited the children's home nearly a dozen times (she has lost track). Her early years spent traveling nurtured a passion for being an educator among marginalized children. She is planning on entering a Master of Education program in Washington, D.C. in the fall of next year. She loves traveling and exploring cultures and new places.

Moses Githaibi works with financial contract management, employed with Kyndryl in New York.. He is of Kenyan origin, living in the States for the last eight years with his spouse and two children, a 14 year old son, and a 10 year old daughter. In his free time, he loves spending time with his family, watching movies, hiking, and playing board games. Moses and his wife love to support their family and friends in Kenya through mentoring and financial support.

Stephan Lutz has spent more than two decades calling Nairobi, Kenya his home. He works for a significantly large non-profit as their Senior Program Consultant in East Africa. His passions within his field include agroecology, sustainable food security, and climate change adaptation. His spouse is a high school teacher in Nairobi at an international school. They have two sons, one currently studying in The Netherlands and the other finishing his senior year of high school.

Brian Workman was first introduced to Kenya Matters more than fifteen years ago. Through a series of relationships and events, he helped raise significant funds to purchase a vehicle in Kenya. Years later he joined the board, and he was able to travel to Kenya and visit the children's home in 2018. He is employed with Wolverine Worldwide as their Front End Development Manager. His growing family includes his high school son, two daughters studying at universities. His spouse works in the Grand Rapids Public Schools as a speech pathologist.

Travel to Africa with Us!

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024!

Those of us who have traveled to Kenya have been so inspired by the generosity and commitment of the local staff, board, and village neighbors. We have been challenged to rethink our own versions of “community” and expressions of generosity, and we have thus been transformed by the Kenya culture.



In this spirit of learning and growing for transformation, we are inviting you to travel with us to Kenya in 2024. We anticipate this trip to last approximately two weeks, with three of these days designated for air travel.

During your time in Kenya, you will spend time with the children, staff, and community that you support via Kenya Matters. Activities will include playing games, taking walks, and going on a field trip with the children.

You will stay near the children’s home, with arrangements that include tasty food & colorful culture, fully immersing yourself in the daily life of Kenya.

If you are inspired, please contact us at hello@kenyamatters.org

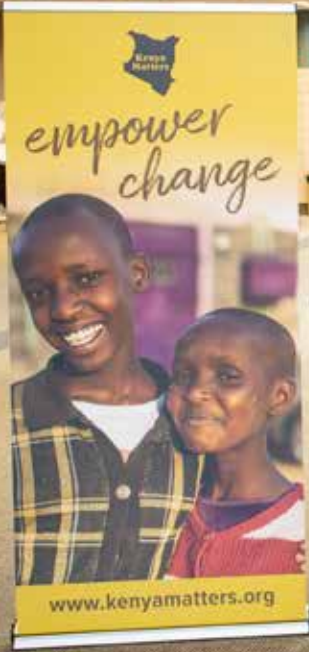
ESTIMATED COSTS:

- Airfare to & from Nairobi, Kenya, cost determined by airfare at the time of reservations. (Approx. \$1200-1500 round trip)
- Lodging, food, & transportation are estimated at \$90/day.
- Safari to the Masai Mara, three days & two nights, including lodging & food, approx. \$600.

Text
“KMKIDS”
to phone number
53555 to donate
over text.

join the joy

SATURDAY, FEB 24 @ 5 PM.



REGISTER HERE



Givebutter



MAC & MEATBALL 2024

We present the one, the only Monster Mac and Meatball Cook-off. You heard that right. Bring your friends, bring your appetites, bring your crockpots, and be prepared to be blown away with tasty food—and fabulous news.

WHAT'S HAPPENING? Participants in the cook-off bring a crock pot of Mac & Cheese or Meatballs or both, and guests vote on the best entries in this fiercely fun chef extravaganza.

Hang on to your Mac Attack because the Grand Prize Winners will be crowned our Super-Chefs.

WHERE IS THIS HAPPENING? Spring Valley Church, Allendale, MI

HOW DO I GET IN ON THE FUN? Register today with the QR code or by following this link: <https://givebutter.com/c/mac2024>

To enter the cooking competition, register to enter when you reserve your tickets to attend. Simple as Mac and Meatballs.

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING? We are having a silent auction, too. The funds raised help provide for daily expenses & education costs of the children you help support. If you have something to donate for the silent auction, please use the Registration Link or send us an email to hello@kenyamatters.org



WWW.KENYAMATTERS.ORG

*Elijah stretching out his arms
to bless the land that was
purchased for the children's
home while Dorcas celebrates
with him.*

PIC TAKEN CIRCA 2006, KARAI, KENYA



hello@kenyamatters.org
P.O. Box 23, Hudsonville, MI 49426