



## 2021 Fall Newsletter

Supporting women  
and youth in Kenya

P.O. Box 516  
Menlo Park, CA 94026

November 2021

# Cynthia Wambui – A Success Story

by Cynthia Wambui

I am Cynthia Wambui, born in 1994. My mother was a single parent who did her best taking care of me and my two younger siblings but in 2002 she passed away from HIV. I was in grade 1. Life after that was never easy. We lived with my grandmother who also raised my two cousins. Getting daily meals was an issue, and school fees impossible. My grandmother learned about Mji Wa Neema Children's Home. God worked in His mysterious ways and my siblings and I moved there in 2003. I was selected for admission to a private school and studied there through 8th grade, earning 362 marks (B+) on the KCPE.

In 2011 I joined St Francis Girls in Naivasha, where I participated in many activities, including drama club, scouting, sports, Science Congress, and math contests. I was selected to leadership positions in form 2 and 3. In my final year I focused on studies, finishing with a mean grade of B- on the KCSE .

My result slip got lost just when I wanted to apply for nursing but before I finally got a copy I, I learned of an opportunity at Tata Motors Limited to study servicing of heavy commercial vehicles in India. Out of 50 applicants I was chosen with 2 boys and another girl. The science classes I took high school really helped me. In 2016 we left Kenya for a 9 month training from which I really learned a lot. . I was 3rd in the exams, returning home with a trophy and a certificate.

I worked at Tata Motors as a Customer Care Executive and was able to pay for my computer classes. Later on Fr Kiriti asked if I wanted to go back to school and I said yes. At this point I knew I was not going to study nursing since I



already loved what I was doing and seeing the suffering of sick people really breaks my heart. I was accepted in Mechanical Engineering at the Technical University of Kenya. I resigned my job, although my employers were not happy because I was doing so well. I'm working on my final project. I graduate in December.

Kenya Help, through Empower the World (ETW) has really helped me. Unlike many other students, I was never chased from school because of fees. After high school ETW not only paid my tuition, but also upkeep--food, hostel, transport, personal needs. It wasn't a lot, but I learned to budget and I made it. If it were not for the foundation I would not have come this far. I have no words to express how grateful I am.

May the almighty bless you abundantly.

### Kenya Help/ Empower the World

Kenya Help is a US registered Foundation, established in 2005, receiving tax-exempt status in 2007. **Empower the World (ETW)** is a similar tax-exempt foundation registered in Kenya. It was established to disburse funds raised by Kenya Help, receive applications for scholarships, vet those families and choose the students to be sponsored by Kenya Help funds. They are "sister foundations."

### National Schools/ Government Schools

**National Schools** are the top schools, accepting only the best students of the country. While not free, the fees (tuition and boarding) is \$640 per year. **Government schools** can vary in quality, but many are quite good. Fees are about \$480 per year.

## Please Donate



# Class of 2024 – New Form I Students

by Hilary Agisa – ETW Project Coordinator

New students are chosen on the basis of family need and student potential. Scores indicated here are from the 8th grade exit exam, Kenya Primary Curriculum Exam and are out of a possible 500, We try to choose students with over 300 marks, but sometimes extenuating circumstances are considered. We chose 16 new students, all but 2 of whom will join government schools. One girl will attend a national school, another a Catholic school.



**Peter Maina Njoroge 294 marks**

Peter is the 7th born in a family of 8. No child in his family has attended high school, because the mother (the only breadwinner) cannot afford school fees.



**Joseph Karanja Peter 311 marks**

Joseph is the eldest in a family of 4. Joseph's father died in 2020 after a long battle with cancer. The mother is a casual laborer who weaves fishing nets for sale. They live in a small rented room.



**Miriam Wambui Wanjiru 376 marks**

Miriam, an only child, lives with her grandparents. Her grandfather was the breadwinner until an accident left him in a wheelchair. Miriam's story is a sad one. In a nutshell, her mother was raped while at a rehabilitation center and that is how Miriam was conceived. Sadly, the mother contracted HIV. She is still living with this condition, but her family reject her, chasing her from home.



**Faith Wanjiru Kamau 332 marks**

Faith is the 1st born in a family of 4. Her father died years ago after which the mother and children were chased away from their home. They live in a small rented room and her mother does any menial job that comes her way so that she can feed her children.



**Dennis Kinyanjui Wambui 312 marks**

Dennis is the 3rd born in a family of 6. The children and mother moved to the maternal grandmother, after the father abandoned them. The father is in jail for theft and defiling a minor. Before his arrest he attempted to wipe out his family by setting their hut on fire. Fortunately, no one was inside.

**John Muntaye Paro 298 marks**



John is 2nd born in a family of 8, coming from a pastoralist community. His father died in tribal clashes forcing the family to relocate to a different county. The mother is

hard-working but raising money to take care of 8 children is a big challenge. She doesn't have a job but depend on any menial job that comes her way.



**Rachael Bosibori Nyanchera**  
**332 marks**

Rachael is the 2nd born in a family of 4 girls. Her mother was 'divorced' on grounds that she couldn't give birth to a baby boy. She now lives with her daughters in a rented room. The mother is not educated but values education. She wants the best for her daughters but does not have the means.



**Grace Wanjira Gakunga 381 marks**

Grace is the younger of 2. Her father, the breadwinner was involved in a road accident and badly injured. Her form 2 sister had to drop school because the family couldn't afford the hospital bills and her school fees. They now live a small rented room (dirt floored).



**Celestine Cheptiliot Pтуру 356 marks**

Celestine is the 1st born in a family of 7. She comes from a pastoralist community where tribal clashes are very common and premature marriage is rampant. The father has other wives and does not value education for girls. He would rather have Celestine circumcised and married off.

## **Students Stay Focused on Education During COVID-19**

by Mary Anne Rodgers

Our Kenya Help students and their families face a number of challenges in getting an education, but perhaps most difficult in the past two years was COVID-19. Nonetheless they persevered because of the value they place on graduating from high school. All but 2 of the 43 high school students returned to schools when they reopened in January 2021. One boy did not return because recurring disciplinary issues and is now attending a day school. A girl became pregnant, but will return to school after the birth of her child.

Form 4 students sat for their rigorous high school exit exams (KCSE) in March/April 2020. All 7 sponsored students qualified for college or university. Congratulations to Francis Kamau, Hannah Nyambura, Collins Osita, Lekuta Semeiyan, Elizabeth Njuguna, Lucas Mwangi, and Samuel Kamau.

---

## **Girls Move from St Francis to St Clare's**

by Mary Anne Rodgers – KH Board Member

As Kenya Help supporters know, one of the important needs that Father Kiriti identified on Margo's first visit was to build a girls' school in his parish. St Francis, was built and is still educating girls. It sits on parish property and is under the authority of the parish priest and the bishop. As different parish priests have led the parish, they have had different visions for the school. In recent years, the vision did not align with Empower the World and Kenya Help's vision. Decisions were made that resulted in qualified administrators and teachers leaving. With test scores dropping at St. Francis, Empower the

World, with Kenya Help's support, decided the better option was for girls enrolled at St Francis was to attend nearby St. Clare's, a well-established and well-run school whose students have done well on test scores. We are confident that this move is in the best interest of our girls. We continue to watch the progress at St Francis and hope that conditions may improve there. New students are now placed in a variety of schools selected to meet each student's needs. Our mission has always been to educate students. An excellent education is our priority.



**Supporting women  
and youth in Kenya**

**Kenya Help Board of Directors**

Njeri (Jane) Albrecht, President  
Peter Ojany, Treasurer  
Julie Schatz, Secretary

**Members:**

Anita Dippery  
Tom Gibboney  
Lana Kairos  
Mary Anne Rodgers  
Christoph van Hover

**Kenyon Coordinator:**

Rev. Daniel Kiriti



**Margo McAuliffe,**  
Executive Director

650-322-0821  
margo.kenyahelp@gmail.com



**Meet New Board  
Member Christina  
Robinson**

I came to Kenya Help through a lifelong friendship with Anita Dippery. I traveled with Anita to Kenya in 2010, where I stayed at the orphanage and interacted with students and staff there. That trip made such an enduring impression that I jumped at the chance to join the Board and be part of making the change I experienced in Kenya more than a decade ago.

**TERM ONE 2021  
Continuing Students**

by Hilary Agisa – ETW Project Coordinator

Due to the Covid-19 global pandemic, the academic calendar has been affected here in Kenya. School terms are now shorter than usual and holidays were just 7 days. This year, we have four school terms as opposed to the usual 3. The government is trying to gain the one year that was lost due to the pandemic. We have now officially begun the 2021 academic year that will run until about March of 2022.

Empower the World has chosen 20 new students, almost all to study in government schools. We made that decision because while not free, the government sponsored schools have much lower fees, allowing us to increase

the number of students we could sponsor. Sixteen of these students are supported by Kenya Help, and 4 by a German group. Of the 16, 5 are Kay Williams scholars and 4 are supported by funds raised by Anita Dippery. Of course we continue with our on-going high schoolers as well as 16 students, mostly from Mji Wa Neema childrens home, in post-secondary schooling.

We take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors, Kenya Help, Bildung Zukunft Africa and the ETW board for the unstinting support that has always enabled us to support these learners. Your immense support is highly recognized and appreciated.

**Continuing Students**

by Fr. Daniel Kiriti

The 2021 has been difficult. In March 2020 Kenya government locked down the country for 7 months, following the rising numbers of Covid cases and many deaths. Schools, stores, government offices and factories were closed, sending workers and students home. Parents found themselves indoors with children and no food. Empower the World Foundation determined to provide basic supplies of corn meal, rice, cooking fat, beans, soap etc to families whose kids we sponsor. Fortunately we didn't lose any students, though many of them lost relatives through Covid.

Schools and colleges now have a very compact program. School semesters and holidays have been shortened. Yet school fees had to be paid. This has been a challenge to us but we are grateful that our sponsors have stood with us through and through. We thank God for your commitment and we want to encourage you to continue support our mission of giving education to poor/needly boys and girls in Kenya. We believe it is only through education we can bring our children to be at par with the rest of the world.

**Ways to Donate**

- Send a check to (use envelope):  
Kenya Help  
PO Box 516  
Menlo Park, CA 94026
- Go to website: [www.kenyahelp.us](http://www.kenyahelp.us)
- Use our new QR xcode
- Make a provision for Kenya Help in your will
- Donate stock through our Schwab account

