

2022 Fall Newsletter

Supporting women and youth in Kenya

P.O. Box 516
Menlo Park, CA 94026

November 2022

Margo Retires – Kenya Help Continues



It was during the time of Covid that I began to realize Kenya Help needed new energy, young ideas and a change in leadership. I had begun the program in 2005 and led it since, but as my 85th

birthday approached I said “now is the time.” I announced to the board that I would retire in one year, March 13, 2022 – my 86th birthday.

It was with sadness that I made that decision, but my energy was waning and I wanted to write a book about my experiences in Kenya. I had learned so much – about Kenya and about myself. I couldn’t lead Kenya Help and write the book at the same time.

My heart and spirit are still in Kenya. I will always love that country and the people. I will always care about educating young people, but in every organization, the time comes to pass the baton. It came to me. I miss my daily involvement, but am enjoying reliving my life in Kenya through revisiting my blog posts. I’m so glad I did that!

While I have passed on the leadership, I continue to be part of Kenya Help.

I am eternally grateful to all who have served on the board, have advised and encouraged me and, most of all, been our generous donors. Thank you.

Margo McAuliffe

Graduating Class of 2021

We are pleased to share with you the accomplishments of the class of 2021. Thanks to you, these young men and women completed high school and are looking to further their education or find employment. This report is from Hillary Agisa, social worker at Empower the World, who assists in the selection of students for Kenya Help scholarships and mentors them through their four years of high school.

VERONICA WAMBAIRE KARUMA



Veronica hails from Nakuru County. During the post-election violence of 2007-2008, Veronica and her family

fled to their maternal homeland. The mother is the sole bread winner but has no stable income to pay school fees. Veronica schooled at Ithagani Primary School and got admission into one of the best schools in the country, Njonjo Girl’s High School. Veronica graduated high school with a mean grade of B+ and the government has placed her at the University of Nairobi where she will pursue a Bachelor of Science.

ANN NGINA KIPKURUI



Ann hails from Baringo County. When her mother married, Ann was left behind with the grandmother. When we met Ann, she was in form

2 at Kapropita Girl’s High School. The grandmother had got stuck because she had borrowed money for school fees, but was unable to repay. Ann completed high school class with a C+ and got admission to the University of Nairobi. She looks forward to joining the university although the initial school cost is quite huge for her grandmother.

FRANCIS EDOOT LOTIONO



Francis hails from a family of 6. He is the 3rd born. Both his parents work in a flower farm as casual laborers. Their

income is not sufficient to cater the education of their kids and family upkeep. Francis was one of the best performers in his primary school class and graduated from Archbishop Ndingi with a mean grade of C. He is yet to get a placement in college.

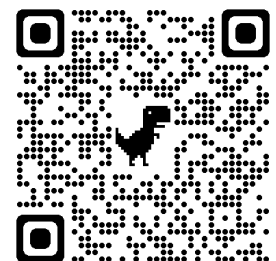
SAMUEL GACHERU MUGO



Samuel hails from a single parent family in the Kabati area of Naivasha. According to

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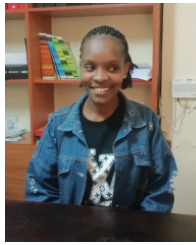


Graduating Class of 2021 (cont'd)

his mother, the father disappeared and she has been struggling to put bread on the table for her kids. She does casual work, but it's not enough to feed them, pay school fees for Samuel, and pay rent for their single room.

Samuel joined Archbishop Ndingi and graduated with a mean grade of C+. He has been placed to study at Maasai Mara University to pursue a Bachelor of Arts.

JOSPINE MUKUHI



Josphine is 2nd born from a family of 5 sisters. The mother is a fish vender. Josphine's father is not responsible for his family. Josphine

joined Naivasha Girl's Secondary School, a top government school. She graduated with a mean grade of C+. The government has placed her at Moi University to study Tourism and Hospitality Management.

KELVIN THAIRU MUNGAI



Kelvin hails from Naivasha. He is the 6th born in a family of 9. His older brothers did not attend secondary

school due to financial issues. After his mother passed on, his father remarried which worsened their well-being as the attention of the father shifted to the new family. The father is a vendor of onions, with little income.

Kelvin attended one of the local primary schools, walking about 3 miles from his home each way. He was awarded a scholarship to study at Archbishop Ndingi Secondary school. Kelvin graduated from Ndingi as the best student with a

mean grade of B+. He will study accounting finance with IT at Masene University.

EMMANUEL KIRIBA WAMBUI



Emmanuel is the 2nd born in a family of 4. He has been raised by his mother, who literally has no source of income.

She depends solely on the farm produce from a very small piece of land. Emmanuel stays with his Aunt due to the small space in the house with 4 kids, the mother and the old granny. Emmanuel studied at North Karati Primary school. He later joined Archbishop Ndingi and graduated with a mean grade of C+. He has been placed to pursue Bachelor of Arts at Maasai Mara University.

IRENE WAMBUI



Irene is the 1st born in her family. Her parents separated a few years ago. As is the norm in Kenyan tradition, the mother was left with the 3

kids. They had nowhere to go, so they moved to her ancestral land. She did not have a paying job and depended on her brother who took care of their needs. She began to do casual jobs like washing clothes for families who could pay her a little income. Things went from bad to worse when her brother passed on, leaving her all alone with her kids.

Irene joined Bahati Girl's School where she graduated with a mean grade of B-. She has been placed by the government at Chuka University to pursue Tourism and Hospitality Management. She is not able to take the offer now because of financial challenges.

Njeri Albrecht, Kenya Help Board President

At the height of COVID 19, I became Kenya Help board president. I had served as treasurer for two years prior and as a board member since December 2015. I love volunteering with Kenya Help because all board members are volunteers and most of the donated money goes directly towards our mission, "education."

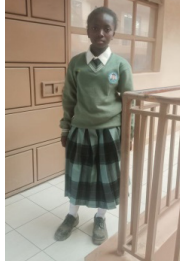
More than 600 young people have benefited from high school sponsorship through Empower the World, our sister foundation which handles selection and placing of students. More than 60 of them have been educated through to universities and other colleges. We currently support 72 high school students and 8 students are in universities. Most of the Mji wa Neema kids have completed their schooling apart, from 2, Lucas who is at Catholic University doing computer science and Joseph in 2nd year of high school. Those who have benefited from our university support include nurses, doctors, engineers, teachers, IT gurus, public health officers, entrepreneurs, social workers, and accountants. With your donations we have continued to increase the number of recipients.

I would like to reassure all our donors that Kenya Help will continue with what Margo started "empowering the youth through education." We are updating our website in order to better communicate and have a social media presence.

2022 Intake, Class of 2025

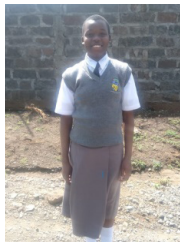
There are 13 new students in our class of 2025, 9 girls and 4 boys, many of whom are raised by single parents. Due to limited space, only a few of the new students are profiled here.

Angela Makena Karanja (356 marks)



Angela is the 1st born in a family of 2. The father abandoned them 3 years ago. Her mother was laid off from a flower farm due to the effects of covid-19. She has joined Maai Mahiu Girl's High School.

Belvin Naswa Mwibanda (387 marks)



Belvin is the 1st born in a family of 3. Both her parents do not have any form of employment. The mother does menial jobs like cleaning people's houses and laundry. They live in 2 rented rooms, with no furniture. She has joined Njonjo High School.

Jane Njoki Mungai (250 marks)



Jane is the 1st born in a family of 3. She lives with her parents in their 2-room rural home, made of mud. Her father suffered a

back injury 2 years ago, while loading a lorry. Jane's mother provides for the family by selling groceries. She has joined Kinungi Secondary School.

Mishell Nyambura Njoroge (317 marks)



Mishell is the 1st born in a family of 2. Her mother is the only breadwinner. No record of a father. They live in a rented room in Naivasha. The mother is a casual laborer who does people's laundry and houses. She has joined Oleguruone Secondary School.

Gabriel Gichimu Nyiha (298 marks)



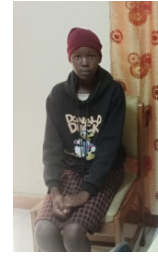
Gabriel is the 2nd born in a family of 5. He will be the first child to join high school from this family. His mother is the breadwinner. At the time I visited the home, the mother was unwell with spine injury. The community built a house for them. Gabriel has joined Archbishop Ndingi Secondary School.

Millicent Atieno Okoth (335 marks)



Millicent is the 2nd born in a family of 4. Her father passed on few years ago. The mother is a fish vendor. Millicent has a sibling at Milimani School, which makes it hard for the mother to provide for their school fees and upkeep. She has joined St. Barnabas Girl's Secondary School.

Talia Awuor Ondiek (306 marks).



Talia is the 5th born in a family of 7. She will be the first in her family to study beyond primary school. Talia's father died long ago leaving them under the care of a jobless mother. They live in a rented room, with no furniture. She has joined Enaiposha Girl's High School.

Ian Omondi Otieno (368 marks)



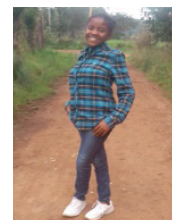
Ian is the last born in a family of 6. He lives with his parents in 2-room rented house in Naivasha. The parents are both casual laborers. Ian attends Magereza Academy.

Stephen Gachie Gitatu (311 marks)



Stephen is the 4th born. His mother passed on 8 years ago. Stephen's elder brother, Kelvin Thairu, just completed form 4 (see Class of 2022 article). The family lives in a rural area in a small mud house with no electricity or water. He has joined Archbishop Ndingi Secondary School.

Mary Wambui Karuma (366 marks)



Mary is the 3rd born in a family of 4. She lives with her mother who is a casual laborer. Her first born daughter has special needs. They live in a rented room. She has joined Naivasha Girl's Secondary School.



**Supporting women
and youth in Kenya**

Kenya Help Board of Directors

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Christina Robinson
Mary Anne Rodgers

Kenyan Coordinator:

Rev. Daniel Kiriti

**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. **Government schools** can vary in quality, but many are quite good.

It costs \$800-\$1000/school year to support a student. Support includes tuition, boarding, uniforms, and other fees and miscellaneous items. Sadly, our young female students need basics such as sanitary pads.

Fr Daniel Kiriti

Covid 19 and its effects are still with us. As we struggle, climate change has had its share of our pain. It is no longer a talk in the conference halls in London or Nairobi but a reality. For 4 years, parts of Kenya have had no rain. Naivasha and its environment have not had a harvest for the last 2 seasons. Many families depend on crops from their small farms and some bring them into the city for sale. That way food is available.

In spite of the economic hardship, we have not lacked money to pay fees nor food to give needy families. It’s for this reason I want to thank all our donors for their continued support. Families we support are ever grateful for the sacrifice you make. A message from a mother of one student would speak for all of them. “Hi Fr. Kiriti. I hope you are well. I would like to thank you for the lives of many children that you have changed through ETW. Judy Wambui, my daughter was among them. Asante sana. I would like to express my gratitude to their sponsors. God bless you abundantly.” said Jane Wangari.

**Exams and schools
in Kenya.**

Kenya Curriculum Primary Exam (KCPE) is taken at the end of the 8th grade. Out of a possible 500 points, a score above 300 is considered quite good.

Kenya Curriculum Secondary Exam (KCSE) is taken at the end high school. It is scored on an A, B, C basis, with an

A score being very difficult to achieve. B+ is outstanding.

Kenyan high schools are not free, but fees vary. While day schools are cheaper, boarding schools are believed to provide better preparation for the all-important KCSE.

Ways to Donate

- Send a check:
Kenya Help
PO Box 516
Menlo Park, CA 94026
- Go to website: www.kenyahelp.us
- Use our new QR xcode
- Make a provision for Kenya Help in your will
- Donate appreciated stock or mutual funds.
- And if you are over 70 1/2, one of the best (most tax-efficient) ways to donate is to do so directly from your Rollover IR
Please contact us if you have any questions.

