



Caroline (Caro) Maitha is the 37-year-old widow of Patrick, the young man who had been managing and leading all aspects of our Lighthouse student sponsorship program. Patrick and Caro were married for six years and have two young children: Ariana, who just turned five, and Bill, who is two and a half. Patrick passed away from cardiac arrest in March 2025—just two weeks after the initial rooms at Lighthouse were completed and the students moved in, and only two weeks shy of his 37th birthday.

Being a widow in Kenya is not only about losing a husband who was the primary provider—it also comes with many cultural complexities involving the husband's family, land, and house ownership. Before Patrick's passing, Caro had been taking classes to become a seamstress so she could work from home, and she is still on track to complete that course in December.

Caro has long been a familiar, trusted friend to our student sponsorship program and to Lighthouse. Once she had a chance to settle into her new normal, we invited her to join our team as Financial Administrator. She took time to think and pray about it, and when she was ready, she accepted with such enthusiasm. Today, we are excited that Caro serves as our Administrator of Operations, bringing her heart and dedication to everything she does.

Eager to keep learning and growing, Caro takes computer classes each morning at a location conveniently across the road from Lighthouse. She shared that working at Lighthouse has been a true gift, giving her meaningful ways to stay busy while her children are at school. She loves spending time with the students, the house mom, and the afternoon kitchen helper—it feels like home and family to her. Each day, when Ariana and Bill finish school, they join her at Lighthouse, play with other children and work on their school assignments together, which has given Caro immense strength and encouragement on her journey.

Before marrying Patrick, Caro worked as a hotel receptionist, but it had been several years since she had been in an office setting. At first, she worried her skills might be too rusty, but now she is regaining confidence and realizing she still has so much to offer. (And we agree!) Day by day, she says she feels more empowered.





Salma

Salma is one of our very first students to finish high school, and she is now pursuing a diploma in Community Health Development at North Coast Medical Training College. She is entering her third year and is on track to graduate in November 2026. Salma is burdened for the many women and infants who lose their lives in childbirth, as well as young children under the age of five whose health suffer unnecessarily. After she finishes her diploma she hopes to find a path to becoming a doula or midwife—guiding and supporting expectant mothers, teaching them important life skills, and helping

them care for their own health and the health of their children.

We see Salma as one of the next-generation of leaders at Lighthouse. Even with her busy school schedule and hospital internship, she travels three hours each way to Lighthouse every month to mentor and counsel the younger students.



Amani

Amani is in his final year of high school. He values how Lighthouse has helped him grow and develop skills to manage himself—skills not commonly emphasized in Kenyan culture. In January of 2025, Amani needed emergency surgery while at school. Thanks to the care he receives at Lighthouse, he was able to get the life-saving surgery, continue tutoring, and stay on track to finish high school in December 2026. He views Lighthouse as a safe place to grow into a responsible adult.