# AHADI FAMILY KENYA
*A CHRISTIAN CHARITY FOR SCHOOL-AGED BOYS AT RISK*





## HISTORY AND MISSION

In 1999 Jon and Phyllis Masso, missionaries in Kenya, working at a Christian university, became aware of the need of vulnerable school-aged boys who were living on the streets of Nairobi. A church elder introduced them to a young man who worked with these street children, and he encouraged the Massos to get them off the streets and into schools. A Board was established, and they registered as a Trust named SCREAM—Kenya. In December 2000, a home in Nairobi was rented for them, with the young man who first got them interested, as the caregiver for the boys.

In December 2006, they officially registered with the children's department with the name Ahadi Family Kenya, with a new board of directors, and hired a social worker, house parents, etc. **"Ahadi" (pronounced A-ha'-dee) is the Swahili word for "Promise."** We believed these boys had promise--that is God-given potential; and we promised to do our best to help them recognize and develop that potential in a Christian family-style atmosphere.

In November 2012, God blessed us with a permanent home in a rural area, about 30 miles East of Nairobi, yet accessible from a nearby major highway. In 2017, thanks to generous donors, we built a second house for some staff and for a place where high school boys who were boarding, could stay during school breaks, if they had not yet been reintegrated with relatives. It has always been part of our mission to try to locate relatives of the boys in our care, so that they could feel connected to their biological family whenever possible. During school breaks, the boys were taken to visit a relative.

## REUNIFICATION TO FAMILIES

In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Children's Services mandated that all children's homes in Kenya close, and that those children be reunited permanently with biological families or other safe people. Ahadi Family's social worker re-evaluated the families where the boys had visited and told them of the government mandate. He asked them, if we continued to pay for school fees and assisted in other ways, would they be able to keep their children permanently. In many cases that was possible. In other cases, it was not, due to old age, health, etc., so he searched for relatives or friends who were able to care for them.

As of July 2021, we were able to place each Ahadi boy with a relative or trusted family friend. This meant, in many cases, finding new schools for them, and in some cases buying beds, bedding, renting a room for them nearby if they were old enough, etc. We continue to monitor each situation, adjusting as needed, and in some cases, finding a different relative. Each case is handled in the Best Interest of the Child.

In most cases, it became necessary to put the boys in inexpensive boarding schools during the school year, arranging for the boys to stay with the relatives only during school breaks, as before.

**All these boys are vulnerable and in need of care and protection** due to many factors such as parental death, neglect, abuse, abandonment, mental illness, incarceration, etc. Most of the boys are orphans, so the relatives might be cousins, aunts and uncles, grandparents, or a school teacher (in one case), etc.

## GOVERNANCE



A Board of Trustees is comprised of the Founder, Phyllis Masso, and three Kenyans: an Executive Director, Christine Karimi; a former Board member and Ahadi alumni, Ramadhan Kitsao; and a long-time friend of Ahadi, Eunice Fedha. They make major decisions in consultation with the Social Worker/Manager. Property is owned by Ahadi Family Kenya Trust which was registered in Kenya in 2017. The founder, Phyllis Masso, now lives in the US and is the major fund-raiser for Ahadi. One of the decisions facing the Trustees now, is how to repurpose the 2-acre property since no children are currently staying there. A caretaker, security guard, and manager/social worker are present so as not to leave the property vacant while we look for other options for the property. To see photos and further information, check out our website, https://ahadifamilykenya.org or write to our founder: phyllismasso@gmail.com .

## FUNDING AND DONATIONS

Though the boys no longer live on the Ahadi property, we still pay their school fees through high school and assist with food, clothing, transportation, and health issues of the boys who were in our care, because otherwise their relatives would have been unable to add them to their households. Those who qualify, we will sponsor through college, Lord willing. We are not adding any new children but are committed to the ones who were part of us before the family reunification.

**We are thankful that God uses individual well-wishers as channels of His blessing, to make this Christian ministry possible**. Many of our supporters live in the US. Some have visited, and they spread the word to their friends. Some donors have become sponsors of the boys who qualify for college or university, but most contribute to the personal and educational needs of the boys.

**More than forty boys have completed a college education from a variety of colleges and universities thanks to individual sponsors and now a College and University Fund. A half-dozen went on to get master's degrees, and one has nearly completed a PhD! One will this year become a Senior Medical Officer. The boys who came to us in the early years are now in their 30's and early 40's. Several have families of their own. The boys and alumni thank God and the sponsors for making this possible.**

## To join these well-wishers with one-time or recurring gifts:

## IN THE US:

**Make checks payable to  SCREAM USA Inc. and mail to   31 Benson Rd., Northbridge, MA 01534**

## OR

**To give directly to our bank account using ACH**, follow this link to register (esp. for recurring gifts):
https://ahadifamilykenya.org/donate
*All donations are 501(c) (3) tax-exempt. Receipts are provided by SCREAM USA at year end.*

## OR

*To donate using a debit card, follow this link:* https://orphansjoy.revtrak.net
Select "Donate to Ahadi Family Kenya"