

*Exciting news from...*

## the ACF Cheetah Express

### *Mark your calendars...*

Our co-founder Leonard Mpaayo is coming back to the U.S. in the fall!

We will be giving a presentation to our friends with the *Church at Woodmoor* on **Oct. 19**. We also plan to visit CA sponsors the first week in October, CO sponsors from the 15 - 21, and AZ sponsors the first of November. A bit of a whirlwind but I hope that everyone will have an opportunity to meet this unique individual who does so much for the young people of Amboseli.

*On another note, it's that time again; our primary and secondary students will be on school break in August. So if you'd like to send a letter - please get it to me by the 4th. Just email it, with photos attached as JPEG's and I'll take care of the rest!*

I'm thrilled with the programs we are discussing for the gatherings during their break. We have been given the use of the "town hall" building at the Lenkai school (see below) which has wi-fi, electricity and plenty of space.

Yes, we will be collecting grades, taking photos and so forth. But this is also an opportunity to teach and connect with each child to ensure they are reaching their full potential. So we plan to have career talks, STEM workshops, a culinary class and maybe a bit of competition on the soccer field. ***This is all part of your generous support in action!***

Of our university students, only Nelly, Rose and Milton will be on break. Therefore we have asked them to take charge of the gathering - utilizing their first hand knowledge and experience with higher education.

Recently I had a video call with another non-profit (much larger than we are) and they actually knew of our work in Amboseli and commended ACF for the impact we are having with the Maasai community.

Did that do my ego a bit of good? Of course!



### *Culinary tars in he aking!*



During our next school break in August we are very excited to collaborate with our new friends at the **Lenkai Schools**.

Several of our students will roll up their sleeves and take a dive into the world of agriculture and nutrition! Guided by the amazing teachers Joseph and Carol, they will learn the art of stewing, deep frying and shallow frying. We are told the results will be absolutely mouth-watering!

From prepping ingredients to mastering the flow, these young chefs will learn about nutrition and teamwork. The lesson isn't just about food it will be about nurturing life skills that blend knowledge with delicious fun.



Transforming lives sounds a bit dramatic, but in truth that is exactly what we are doing. **YOU - our ACF family - make this happen!** Without you, we would be full of the best intentions yet unable to truly act on them.

But each of you have seen how important our mission is, and to each of you, we say **THANK YOU**. In a world that's a bit chaotic now - you are shining a light for those that have so little.

**Shari Young**

Co-Founder

[AmboseliChildrensFund.org](https://AmboseliChildrensFund.org)



**We are delighted to add Lenkai Christian School as one of our preferred boarding academies in Kimana.**

*In August we will transfer 15 of our primary students here and future gatherings will be held at in large "town hall" pictured above. This multi-purpose building will be so helpful when conducting our workshops and career counseling.*

**Our thanks goes to [Just One Africa](#) and John and Dorcus Parit for their generosity and willingness to work with us!**



***If you're wondering about the 2026 ACF Group Tour - it's a go!***

**We have only a few spots left so if you want to join us - be sure to reserve your space soon!**





## Maasai - Elephant Conflict: What is it and why is it such a problem in Amboseli?

A few weeks ago Leonard shared with me a recent issue he had been struggling with regarding his herd of cows. Apparently since the rains have been plentiful this year, they now have access to a generously sized watering hole.

Unfortunately a herd of elephants discovered this hole and had decided to move in. I chuckled when Leonard first told me this story as I just imagined baby elephants frolicking in the water. Well - it turns out this is somewhat true, and their antics - and bodily functions - result in very dirty water. Not suitable for the cows. Elephants can consume about 50 gallons of water a day which also reduces the volume of a watering hole quickly.

**It turns out that the Maasai frequently find themselves competing with wildlife for land, food, water, and other natural resources.** Their nomadic lifestyle has become all but sedentary as land use rules changed. They have always coexisted with wild animals, and communities shared vast open space. But now, these communities are giving each individual their share. Fences, small plots, and other barriers are springing up, obstructing wildlife migration routes.

Thankfully many organizations are working to reestablish boundaries. Electric fencing is being constructed around most of the region's major farming areas, significantly reducing crop-raiding incidents. These fences encompass crucial wildlife corridors, such as the corridor connecting Amboseli National Park with the Kimana Sanctuary.

**In Leonard's case, he had to sell several of his cows to obtain the funds needed to erect a fence. A solar powered electric fence.** These fences serve as both a physical and psychological barrier. When an elephant touches the electrified wires with its sensitive trunk, it receives a mild shock that deters it from approaching again. Typically, these fences are around 6' high, with multiple strands of wire to prevent the elephants from pushing through. After a few tough weeks of getting it installed with the help of his workers, Leonard says the elephants have moved on. He is very thankful that his efforts have proved successful.

These stories bring home to me how little we understand the daily challenges of our Maasai friends. As some of the world's most marginalized people, they deal with issues we can barely comprehend. **Fortunately, there are many charitable folks - such as YOURSELF - that are lending a hand to assist. And it is truly making a difference...one child, one family, one village at a time.**



**Supa, my child!** How are the children, and how are the cattle? It is good to see you. Now, listen, and an elder will share wisdom.

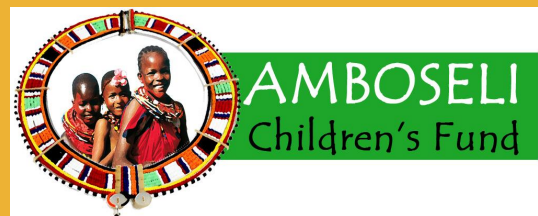
In the old days, nights were dark like the insides of a hut after the fire sleeps. Children, eager to learn, struggled to see their books when the sun went down. The smoke from the kerosene lamps would sting eyes and fill homes, making people cough and leaving them with tired lungs.

**But then, a new thing came, brought by the good people of Amboseli Children's Fund. Called solar light kits, they produce power for charging and light in small tubes. When darkness falls, these tubes shine brightly. No more smoke, no more burning oil!**

Children, with this new light, can now stay with their books long after the cattle have been brought in. Their minds grow strong, like young warriors ready for the hunt. And mothers, who once struggled in the smoky darkness, can now cook and care for their families in comfort and safety. The money once spent on the stinking kerosene now stays, perhaps for a new shuka or for another goat to add to the herd.

*This light is not just for homes, my child. It is like a protective blanket around manyattas, keeping the wild animals at bay and making pathways safer in the darkness. It also gives strength and purpose to our people, allowing them to be leaders in bringing this new light to other villages.*

**We are so blessed by this generous gift from our friends at ACF and pray they receive many blessings in return.**



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