



Welcome New Sponsors!

THE CHURCH AT WOODMOOR PRESENTATION

Sunday, March 21 was a very special day for ACF. **The Church At Woodmoor**, in Monument, CO prepared a scrumptious lunch (with Maasai dishes) for attendees to enjoy, followed by the presentation. Shari introduced several sponsors and board members that attended to lend their support and spoke in depth about the ACF program.

Earlier that morning, during service, the youth group was brought up to the front and introduced to Shari. She taught them that "jambo" means "hello" in Swahili and extended greetings from their sponsored students Emmy and Michael.

Next videos were shown which featured messages from both Leonard and Anne - ACF co-founder and coordinator in Kenya.

The Church At Woodmoor went above and beyond to help us share our message and mission with their congregation. *And we are thrilled to announce that we received many generous donations to the Scholarship Fund and 6 new sponsors as well!*

Special thanks go to all the helpers at the church, Charlie Ann Hayes, Melissa Billiard, Basia Christ, Rich Fisher, Paula & Steve Simon, Shelley & Dana Pruett, Anne Campbell & Keith Walsler for your support on behalf of Amboseli Children's Fund.





In an unprecedented first quarter, we have added...

**11 new students &
11 new sponsors!**

**Please join us in
welcoming these new folks
to the ACF family!**

Charlie Ann & Bob Hayes
Student: Wilson Loonkumok

Ann Cook
Student: Lucy Somoina

Sarah & Tom Del Porto
Kellie O'Regan
Student: Hillary Resiato

Bob & Sue Fenton
Student: Rachel Sein

Linda & Randy Vernon
Student - Beatrice Keripa

Lisa Simms
Students: Godson Lewangan
& Tamara Timanoi

Terri & Bob Quinn
Student: Elizabeth Kosianga

Phyllis Tatmun
Student: Sylvia Simayo

A word from Leonard...

Many times I'm asked how we select the children for our program.

The criteria we use is first knowing their financial need. Those that come from a very poor background are given the highest priority. We consider orphans and those raised by single parents a priority.

We also do some investigation about their family, to know whether they have any highly educated siblings amongst them, if there is, we consider other kids who have none.

Parents must shed away from the negative culture that is FGM and arranged marriage which they know is not allowed. We also make them aware that a child must perform well to stay in the program - so they must allow and encourage the child to study.

- We try to choose the most needy kids from different villages in the Amboseli area. The more villages involved the larger our impact.
- We choose the best performing kids which is confirmed by the teachers and from the school performances.
- We meet their families to know more about the child in terms of discipline. Do they understand the value of education? We make them know that in case their child is chosen then he/she has to attend school and in case he/she needs some help education wise then they should contact us.
- Have one on one talk with the child and try to create an initial bond and explain how the program will change their lives.

Jean Meltesen
Student: Melissa Yiaminto

Kathy & Bill Budney
Student: Duadi Peneti

Have you paid your sponsorship fees for 2023?



For sponsors that pay on an annual basis - please know we don't send out any kind of billing or notice. But the earlier you can send in your payment, the better as the kids school terms are on a calendar year!

Sponsorship remains the same as in previous years - \$48 monthly or \$576 annually.

Checks can be sent to:

14220 W. Poinsettia Dr.

Surprise, AZ 85379.

And of course, your continued support is much appreciated!

WE NEED YOUR LETTERS AND PICS

YOUR SPONSORED CHILD WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We all enjoy receiving photos and letters from our students; but do you realize it's important that they get them in turn?

Yes, it can seem daunting as we don't always know what to write. In reality, a few paragraphs are all you need, because a great letter isn't necessarily a long one!

If it's been a while - I urge you to take a moment and reconnect with your child. Just send me an email (doesn't need to be an actual letter) with some recent pics attached.

Below are some tips to get you started:

Ask Questions

What is your favorite color? What games do you like to play? Who is your best friend? Even if you don't receive answers to these questions, it will mean so much to your child that you think they're worth knowing and asking about. Simple questions can make them feel important and valuable! And if they ask you questions, be sure to answer those!

I love to celebrate...

"Easter, which we just had this month. My grandkids hunt for easter eggs which are filled with candy", Kids love to compare your holidays and celebrations with theirs, and share about their own traditions.

I love games and sports too!

Kids love to play games and every country has its favorite sport. Your favorite might even be the same as your sponsored child's (especially if it's soccer...ie football). But

Hi Dory,

We really enjoyed your letter and hearing how things were going. We're happy you had a nice Christmas celebration. Thank you for telling us more about goats. Americans don't eat much goat meat, but we would like to try it sometime.

That's great that you like your school and are doing so well! Our son Eric likes math too. He is a math teacher at one of the high schools in Colorado Springs.

Nursing is a wonderful career, and a very important one. They are always looking for more nurses here in the United States. One of Maureen's sisters is a nurse and has always enjoyed it. She especially loves working with the babies and children.

It is still winter here, but we are looking forward to spring and warmer days. The days are getting longer - we like it when there are hours of daylight! Saturday Maureen is going to visit her mother in Michigan for 10 days. Michigan is 1300 miles away (about half way across the United States). It takes 3 hours to get there by plane, and 20 hours by car. It is a long trip but very nice to visit family.

Keep up your great work in school!

Mike and Maureen Morgan

Pictures:
Maureen hiking in Colorado Springs.
Maureen helping build beds for children
Mike and Maureen with a college student (Air Force Academy) who is from St. Croix, Virgin Islands



even if it's not – sharing your favorite past-time helps your student get to know you.

I'd love to hear about your dreams for the future

Poverty often tells kids that there's no point in hoping for the future. But sponsored kids are encouraged and supported to dream big and make plans for a productive and successful future, because you are helping them break free from poverty, for good. Talking about what they are working toward is inspirational – for both of you!

I believe you can achieve whatever you put your mind to.

When the community around you has always struggled – few jobs, drought-stunted crops, constant sickness, closed schools – it can be incredibly hard to imagine that things could ever be different. Planting seeds of hope and self-belief can be just as life-changing as the education your sponsorship provides.



Many of you have asked me to plan a trip to Kenya that would allow sponsors to meet their students, visit schools and attend an ACF workshop.

This is definitely doable - but we have to take in several considerations.

Most of our Maasai children are in boarding schools spread out all over the country. They receive three 2-week breaks each year; April, August and November. At this time they return to their villages in Amboseli, so a visit could be arranged by bringing them to a central location.

However - I imagine most everyone will want to add on to their trip with sightseeing and photo safari's through out the area (and I highly recommend this - Masai Mara in Kenya and the Serengeti in Tanzania for sure).

During the April break one would see more newly born offspring - but risk warmer and wetter weather (fortunately the drought has finally ended).



Talia Santo

7 years old, grade 3

Talia Santo was born on July 2, 2015. She is the second born in a family of two girls from a single mother.

She's in grade 3 and always top in her class. Her mother struggles to keep her in school and hopes ACF will find a sponsor soon!

If we go in August, the temps are lower and there would be a good chance of seeing the wildebeest migration over Kenya's Masai Mara.

In November, I feel too many people would have holiday commitments - so either April or August would be my choice.

AND...because we have so many sponsors that plan well in advance, I'm thinking this would happen in 2025. **But I need your feedback! Please send me your thoughts and preferences.** This will not only help us in determining the date - but also how many people would actually like to go.

Traveling through Kenya should be on everyone's bucket list - to watch the animals in their natural habitats is nothing short of spectacular. Meeting our lovely Maasai children is the icing on the cake. You will never think of Africa in the same way again!

Shari Young

Amboseli Children's Fund
949-350-3516



Memiri Letoluo

**11 years old,
grade 4**

Memiri has three siblings in his family, but he is the only one in school.

His father is a security worker getting less than five dollars a week to make ends meet. His mother is a homemaker.

Memiri always finishes top in his class. He is a cheerful, intelligent, hard working young boy who hopes to get a sponsor!



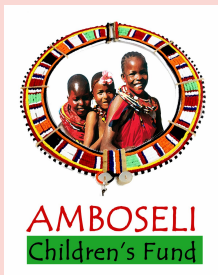
ACF Scholarship Fund

One of the key elements that sets ACF apart from many other child sponsoring charities, is that we provide funds for universities or vocational and technical schools.

Because post-secondary education costs are higher, we need your support to ensure none of our kids get left behind.

100% of your donation goes to breaking the cycle of poverty and bringing about real change for our students!

Give Now



Thank You

FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Amboseli Childrens Fund | 14220 West Poinsettia Drive, Surprise, AZ 85379

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