



**AMBOSELI**  
Children's Fund

**"ASANTE - we wish  
you many blessings!"**

## Ambosemi Children's Fund 1st Quarter Newsletter 2025



### **Winter greetings ACF sponsors, donors and friends!**

**WE DID IT!!! Every single student and their family received the gift of light for their home this past Christmas.** I want to extend a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who gave to our holiday solar light campaign. What an amazing group of people you all are!

Other exciting news; **our first two students have graduated and two more are on their way to university in the spring!** That makes a total of seven post secondary students in five different institutions.

Dori (sponsored by Mike & Jan McKinley) hopes to work in the Serena Hotel (a 5 star lodge where Leonard worked years ago) which is close to her home in Ambosemi. Therefore she has decided to go for the Pastry & Baking certification.



### **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.** We feel this higher education is absolutely vital in breaking the cycle of poverty for these youth and bringing about real change. That being said, school fees at this level along with room and board are quite a bit higher than our regular sponsorship covers.

**First, we provide the student with a cell phone** (cost approximately \$200) which allows us to have direct communication with each other for reports, money transfer and so forth. **Secondly, we provide their student housing furniture** (which consists of a bed, desk, hot plate, kitchen utensils and cookware, bedding, towels and school supplies - approx cost \$350).

**We pay their monthly rent which includes wifi, electricity and water.** Cost is typically \$120 per month. (This is the first time in their lives that they will have an actual toilet and running water!)

Parents are responsible for food and personal items - which may not sound like a lot, but for

Charity (sponsored by Basia Christ) has set her sights on a Clinical Medicine & Surgery diploma which is similar to being a physicians assistant. She will be able to work in hospitals or community clinics. *(I'm giving you all the details because I feel like a proud Mum of these kids!!)*

We've also had some excitement at the primary school level. Five of our children were accepted into the prestigious Presentation Academy in Kimana. **Caleb, Collins, Susan, Benson and little Amy.** They had to sit for a personal interview plus an entrance exam. This is a fairly new school - I visited last August and it's impressive even by U.S. standards.

Thankfully most of our students are flourishing but for those that are having some challenges, Anne has arranged for tutoring. It is typically Math and English that they struggle with, but regardless we are committed to ensuring their success.

**Other exciting happenings include possible collaboration with similar non-profits working in Kenya.** These NGO's do not necessarily sponsor education, rather their focus might be on providing clean water or micro-loans or agriculture/livestock as a business...etc.

Our Maasai families and villages are so very remote that most non-profits simply won't consider this area. Yet our families desperately need the services I mentioned above. Education will always be our first priority, but we are in a position now to campaign for even more. How amazing would it be if we can partner with other organizations and bring water and various services and opportunities to the people of this region?

What we envision for the future allows for continued expansion. And as more of our students graduate, Leonard and Anne can have some assistance which will enable us to add greater numbers of sponsored children.

**And don't forget, in 2026 we will be offering a group trip to Kenya. Sponsors will be able to meet their student and everyone will see firsthand the work we are doing with the Maasai in Amboseli. It will truly be a lifechanging experience!** (See box below for more information.)

In conclusion....please let me reiterate - regardless of the challenges we face in

those with so little it can be a challenge. However, we want the student and family to have some "skin in the game" as the saying goes.

**Finally we cover their tuition fee which can range from \$800 to \$2500 annually**- depending on the program and institution.

As you can see, it's quite a bit more than the \$576 annual sponsorship fee that covers primary and secondary schooling. **But when compared to a college education in the U.S. it is incredibly inexpensive.**

Ofcourse, not every sponsor is able to cover these additional costs, so a few years ago we started the **ACF Scholarship Fund.** This benefits our post secondary students, but it also helps pay for the school break gatherings three times a year and miscellaneous costs (such as transport or emergency dental or medical care or children waiting to receive a sponsor).

The Scholarship Fund has proven to be the perfect fit for individuals who may not be ready to sponsor a child and/or organizations that just want to show their support of our mission. That being said - this fund always needs replenishing and even small amounts go a long way. **We're asking your help to spread the word with co-workers, family and friends.**

Please click below if you would like to give today.

**DONATE NOW**



*We'd like to give special recognition to the great folks of the Church at Woodmoor for their continued support and generosity!*  
**12 of our students are sponsored by**

the U.S. - in comparison to our Maasai friends; we truly do live in paradise. While we enjoy the luxury of modern comforts - think hot showers, cozy beds, and a fridge full of food - our Maasai counterparts often face daily struggles that we can't even comprehend. May it warm your hearts a bit to know your contributions are truly empowering Maasai families for generations to come.

**As we look forward into 2025, we wish everyone good health and happiness,**

***Shari Young***

949-350-3516

**Amboseli Children's Fund.org**

**members of their congregation and their Children's Ministry sponsors Emmy (shown above) and Michael. But that's not all! Their outreach committee also consistently gives to our Scholarship Fund and various campaigns.**

**Words are not enough to convey our appreciation for their amazing support. From Leonard, Anne and all of our students:**

**ASANTE and NAKUPENDA  
(Thank you and we love you!)**



Happy New Year Kirsten! I am really grateful for seeing this year and welcoming it with great and much joy. I have been doing really great and my holiday has also been fun.

I have been helping my mum with house chores and also tutoring my younger siblings. I have been reading and doing my school assignments because schools are almost re-opening.

I am really really grateful for the solar kits and I promise that I will make use of it. My grades will go up and also improve in my class participation. My parents are also happy and they are so grateful to you. We don't have to stay in a house full of smoke or use a lamp. We really really appreciate your support and kindness.

School has been great and I will be going to the upper form coming this opening. Bye and have a blessed year. I pray that God answers and fulfils all our wishes for 2025. Happy New Year.

Yours,  
Laseko

***Sharpen your pencils; we need your letters!***

## **Letterwriting 101**

Okay, so you actually have a few months (the next school break isn't until April) but we are starting early to try and get everyone's participation!!

Please know - your student is VERY excited when he/she receives your letter. Sure, the English language can be a bit of a barrier for them - many

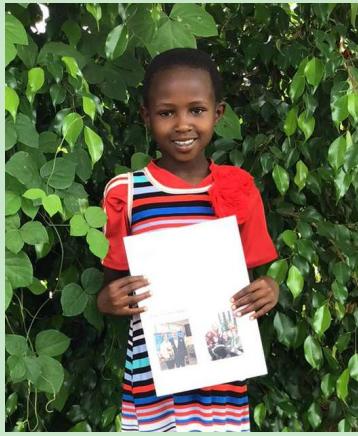
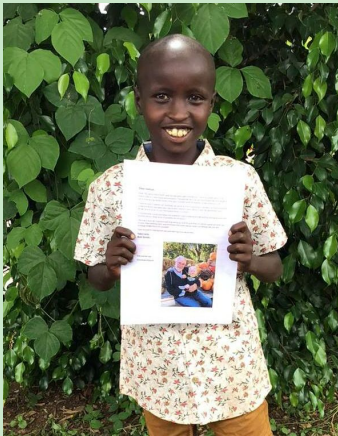


are just learning English as well as Swahili (they speak Ma at home). But even if they don't understand everything, just the fact that they received a letter from their sponsor makes them feel extra special.

**The key is to KEEP IT SIMPLE** a few paragraphs, a question or two for them, plus a few photos - that's all it takes. Just send it to me in an email - pics should be attached separately as JPEGs. If you prefer to hand write an actual letter, feel free to do so (no cursive though - they won't be able to read it). You can take a pic and text it to me at 949-350-3516 - or mail directly to me at:

81766 Camino Los Milagros, Indio, CA 92203.

*I'll do the rest folks! I promise, it is time well spent and just this simple action will brighten the day of a child who has so very little.*



***Amboseli Children's Fund***  
*is committed to bringing about transformative change for Maasai children living with extreme need in the remote area of Amboseli, Kenya. Our mission is to eliminate FGM and early marriage and improve the standard of living by providing access to education, entrepreneurial enterprises, clean water, food and housing.*

**Give Today**

## **Sponsors Needed!**

These two children consistently score at the top of their class, yet many times they are sent home because their parents cannot pay the school fees.

We have taken them into the ACF



## **Business Update From Anne**

*Last year we ran a campaign to help Anne (our*

program having faith that one or two of you reading this will step up to be their sponsor.

**If that is YOU - call or text me at:  
949-350-3516**

## ***Sponsor a child and TRANSFORM a life!***



**Joshua Tinayo** is 11 years old and in grade 4. He is very smart in class and his teachers tell us he has great potential. He is the firstborn in his family and the only one currently attending school.



**Josephine Mbiyio** is in grade 2 and is 8 years old. Her father is a very old man who is unable to work, so her Mum is the provider and struggles to keep her in school. She walks far to get to her primary school but she is a determined learner; always finishing top in her class.

primary school coordinator) start a new business. We gave her \$500 which allowed her to purchase a sewing machine, material, beads, sewing supplies and a few months of electricity. Shown above is her shop which is located in a Maasai market in Namelok - just outside of Amboseli.

**Happy New Year 2025 everyone! I hope this finds you well...**

Shari has asked me to give everyone an update of my business. I am happy to report that all is going quite well and I feel blessed to have been given this opportunity.

My original idea was to have a business that would help preserve our culture while utilizing the tailoring and beading skills that I have.

With the funds raised by ACF I was able to rent a shop in a Maasai market which gets a lot of foot traffic on market days - both local people and tourists.

Each item sold in the shop is handmade, showcasing the intricate beadwork and detailed craftsmanship that the Maasai are known for. The shop is also a celebration of the rich heritage of our people.

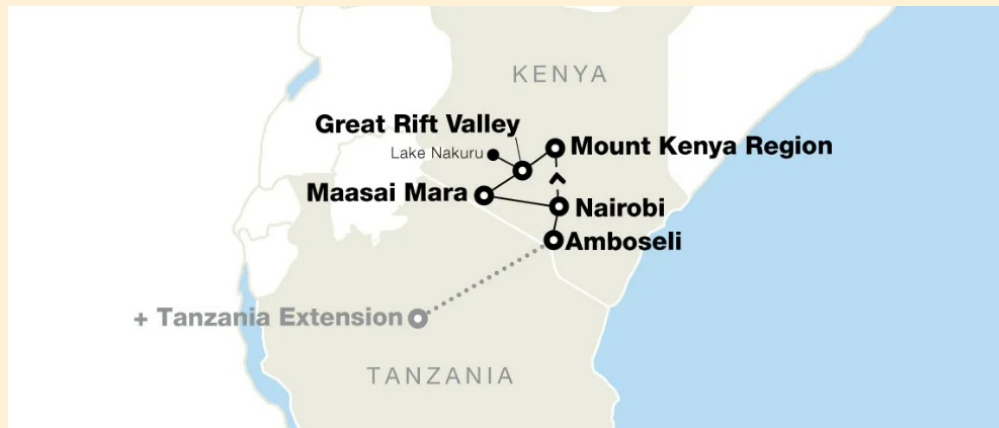
The opening of the shop is not just a business venture but a step towards economic empowerment for the Maasai women. We believe that through our art and craftsmanship, we can create sustainable livelihoods while keeping our traditions alive.

The sewing machine helped me create more fashion and designs with the Maasai shukas (body wrap), bringing a unique blend of traditional craftsmanship and modern styles. Your support made all the difference. THANK YOU and may God bless you!

**Anne Reya**  
ACF Primary Coordinator



## Sample Itinerary for a group trip in August, 2026



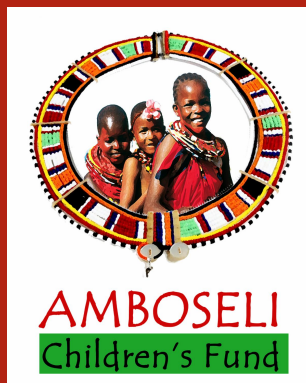
Several of you have asked for information regarding our trip itinerary. Over the next few weeks I will be finalizing the details and submitting it to tour operators to get a few estimates on cost. Rest assured; once everything has been finalized I will reach out with all the details.

This much I can tell you; the length of the trip will be approximately 2 weeks and we will fly in and out of Nairobi - unless you choose to add an extension to Tanzania (which I highly recommend).

My goal is to combine various experiences with our students along with a few safari's where you will get up close with all the fascinating wildlife and possibly even witness the great migration!

I will be selecting mid-level hotels/lodges where everyone should be comfortable and the food we eat will be safely prepared, but the cost won't be as extravagant as the 5 star properties.

The difficult part is coordinating workshops and time with our students as they are located all over Amboseli National Park. But it can be done - and I'll make it happen. We are all so very excited to show off our kids and to have this opportunity for you to see the impact of ACF!



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