

ABOUT US

NEED HELP

WAYS TO GIVE



Greetings ACF family & friends,

It's been a busy quarter for Amboseli Children's Fund - with our April gathering of all the students and the preparations for our trip to Kenya in August. **We're so excited about all the workshops and activities planned!** Board member **Rich Fisher** and sponsor **Terri Quinn** will be accompanying me and I'm ever so grateful for their help as we have quite a few students to watch over now.

To give you an idea of our agenda, in short, we are bringing the older students to Nairobi for several career/degree program workshops. They will also be visiting Universities and Tech/Vocational colleges. Keep in mind - these kids have only seen the savannahs and small markets/towns. The sights and noise of Nairobi will be quite an education in itself.

The younger students we will meet in groups at a lodge in Kimana. Some of our current university students will join us in giving classes; plus we have STEM activities planned, medical career workshops, and a tech/computer training seminar. We are also addressing FGM and early marriage issues with separate group presentations to the boys/girls.

Don't worry - we've included some fun time as well - the lodge has a pool plus we have several games scheduled (like egg on a spoon, the potato sack race, the 3-legged race...all to encourage teamwork and sportsmanship) and Rich will be teaching songs on our karaoke machine!

What is our goal with all of this? To ensure our young students learn of the many opportunities that are available through education. To address old taboos within the Maasai community and encourage a new way of life for future generations.

Ofcourse NONE of this would be possible without your continued support. Even though I don't get to connect with everyone as much as I'd like - please know, your support is NEVER taken for granted and our commitment to you is ensuring your funds are used in the most effective way possible.

Most of you know this - but I'll say it again. **100% of your donation goes to your sponsored child.** I cover the cost of all my travel (Rich and Terri will be doing the same) and that of the students. The Scholarship Fund is used for training/workshops. *Sponsor dollars always go directly to the child being sponsored.*

As always, we welcome your comments or suggestions. Thank you for being a part of the ACF family and we wish you a safe and enjoyable summer!

Shari Young
AmboseliChildrensFund.org
949-350-3516



ACF co-founder, Leonard Mpaayo, on the ground in Kenya - collecting students on motorbike. Currently our only form of transportation!



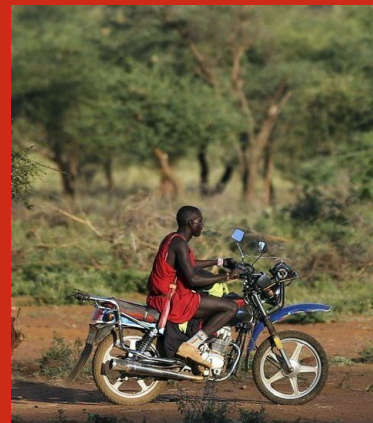
Our student Dory wrapped up in the usual attire needed for the last passenger on the bike

Travel in Rural Kenya

YES, they really do carry this many kids on a motorbike at one time! Everyone's smiling for the pic - but in truth, the roads are extremely rough (if they even exist), dusty and dirty - actual mud pits when it rains.

As Leonard grows older and our program grows larger - he says this mode of transportation is getting much more difficult. He has to cover miles and miles of ground all over Kenya as we have students in 18 different schools!

We want to continue adding more children to the ACF program - but we really must address this issue. Leonard and I came to the agreement that he would personally cover half of the cost of a vehicle, if ACF could come up with the rest. I have already received funds from those few that I have spoken to about this campaign. The generosity of our donors is always amazing; our goal is \$7500 and we are already half way there! *Please consider giving - any amount is appreciated.*

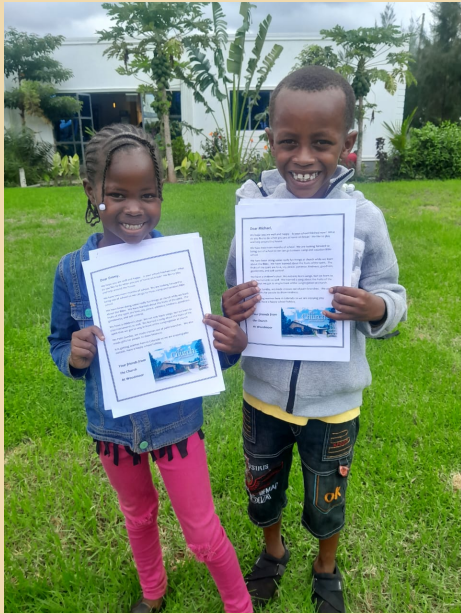


Vehicle For Leonard Campaign



Spread the word - help us help others!

Please share this newsletter with friends & family on your social media

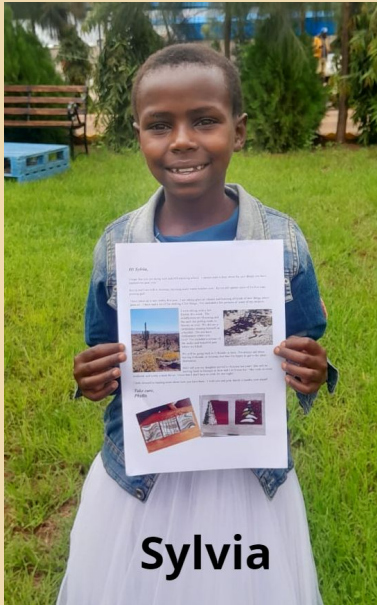


Letter writing 101

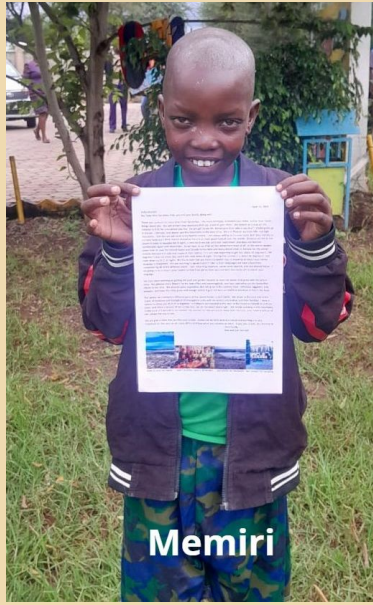
Just think - I can hand deliver your letters this time!! Please - such a small thing but it truly brings so much happiness to your sponsored child. As always, feel free to just type it in an email, attach some pics and send to me - I'll do the rest! The students love having their picture taken with the letter - it definitely makes them feel special.

If you have trouble coming up with what to say, [click here](#) for an example of a great letter that was sent by by one of our sponsors.

The rule of thumb is to **KEEP IT SIMPLE**. Tell a little something new about yourself - and ask them a question or two about their life.



Sylvia



Memiri



Hillary

Please send letters any time between now and July 31



Highlights of our April gathering, brought to you by Kevin...

We are thrilled to be working with

Be sure to watch our new video!

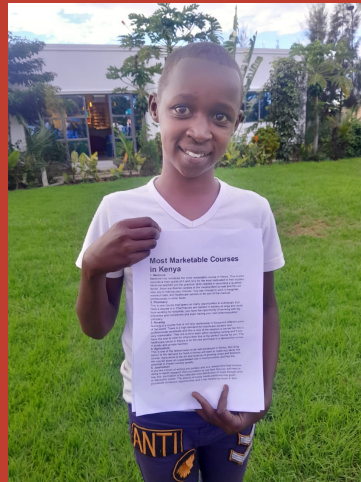
this young man from Kenya! His name is Kevin Kamiri and he is an IT specialist based in Nakuru.

Kevin put together this fun video of our students at "The Villa" - please take a moment to watch and see what makes us stand out from other sponsorship programs.

The villa by the way, is actually an 8 room airbnb / event center that has lots of outdoor space and tents - making it perfect for our needs.

The cost is extremely low - daytime use only and we can bring in our own cook for the meal.

Kudo's to Leonard for finding this great meeting place!



"Is my life only worth a cow?"

Written by a Maasai girl

A cry is heard from the great savannas of the Maasai land. A little girl crying for justice, crying for gender equality, crying for her lost values, and crying for her unseen dreams, unknown future. Am craving for education but my father buried off my dreams for a cow. Is my life worth just a cow?

I have grown up where no hope for the future, every man always fill with sadness whenever it is pronounced a girl has been born. All that my father saw in me was useless baby that will grow to be married. I am longing for bright future but my hopes are shuttered down for a stupid cow.

Every morning I wake up at the midnight to calm a hundreds cattle's of my father and prepare my brothers to go to school. And ask myself will the sun ever rises with the hopes for a bright future. I looking at them going to school and admire their uniform and their bags and ask myself, but why only me staying at moment? For years the question went unanswered. Is my life worth just a cow?

Oooooh little girl you own nothing at your parent home your just being prepared to be a little mother married to a man who is 20 years older than you. The work of my mother was to teach me



A cow? Yes, a cow. Or a couple of cows. That is what a Maasai girl is worth when she is married off at the age of 12 to a much older man. To bear children for him, after being circumcised, just like all his other wives.

A girl who literally disappears into a mud hut, to spend the rest of her life taking care of his children and his cattle, without any form of

home chores and telling me of how I will be a good wife to that old for nothing man. Do mother really know the pain she is causing me but she was forced to do this to me.

Grown up in a community where women have no say, where women cannot make decision, women cannot be listened, no chances to women at all. My work is to milk and help mother to build manyatta and go to graze my father's livestock and coming back home in the evening oooops this has become my lifestyle, really? All that my father saw in me is how he will gain that wealth. Is my life worth only a cow?

Time is moving and years are passing and the little girl is growing very fast. At 12 my father call mother to his separate manyatta. I run and hide behind the manyatta to listen to what father will tell my mother and my father says" my girl has grown up now, I can see the responsibilities she can play at her home, now organize women so that we can circumcised her before I call the man who will marry her".

My heart was teared down and tears roll down my cheeks I could not control myself I went back to the manyatta I cried the whole night questions running all through my mind.

Why is father doing this to me?

Why is mother supporting father?

Where will help came from?

Has father hated her little girl so much that he does not want to see her anymore in his compound?

But I had no one to give me the answer wake up as usual and do my work.

That morning it was a sunny morning I saw a group of women coming towards our home I knew what they're coming to do I went to hide in one of the manyattas. But in a community where it only father who can make decision I had known otherwise. I decided to face my father boldly.

Dear Father

Why are you doing this to me? Is my life worth only a cow?

Give me a chance to go to school and I will prove you that women can also be great people. Give that chance and I will bring development to this home.

Father when you educate me you will enjoy the sweetest fruits of education, you will be the rich man in the village.

My life cannot be compared with cows you will get as a dowry. **Just educate a girl and you will have educated our whole nation.**

appreciation or respect.

That has been the culture of the Maasai. **But times are changing!**

The call for a better life for these girls is getting louder. And education is the way to achieve that better life.

Please donate to Amboseli Children's Fund and transform a life today!



Give today!

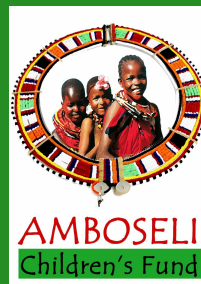
Breaking the cycle and giving hope with opportunities



SPONSORS NEEDED!!

We currently have 3 boys and 3 girls awaiting sponsorship

\$48 per month covers books, tuition, uniforms, room & boarding



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