



AMBOSELI
Children's Fund

March Update, 2022

Exciting News We Had to Share



It's finally happening! After two years of delays due to the pandemic, we are headed back to Kenya to see our students for 3 weeks in April. I can barely contain my excitement and wanted to reach out to all our generous sponsors and donors to share the news. Long time supporter and board member, Basia Christ, will be joining me on this journey and I am grateful to have her photography/video skills and her company.

Why is this trip and the timing so important? There are several reasons, but the most compelling is the 11 children in secondary school; Rose, Isaac, Charity, Katoo, Elvis, Faith, Dorey, Laseko, Samuel, Nancy and Joseph. Over the next few years they will all be taking their final exams which will determine their options for University.

Unlike the U.S., students in Kenya receive no counseling or guidance when determining their future educational needs and career path. They have in essence lived a very sheltered life consisting only of their villages and boarding schools. Their parents are illiterate and cannot advise; there is no access to technology or any point of reference.

We realize that not all of our students will score high enough to gain admittance to a major university. But there are alternate paths (vocational and technical schools, starting their own business...etc.) and **ACF feels it's vital to provide some clarity and overall mentorship for these kids if they are to succeed. Our objective is not to simply get everyone through school; rather we want to ensure they are able to**

pursue a chosen career, obtain a job or start a viable business. For this they need direction and exposure to what lies ahead.

During this trip we will present a series of workshops for all of our students in both Nairobi and Amboseli - with guest speakers (who are successful, educated Maasai) that will talk about their journey with education, career, business and entrepreneurship. The children will have an open forum to ask questions, discuss issues and challenges and make plans for their future.

In addition, we will be taking the older ones to the three different Universities that Milton, Cynthia and Nelly are currently in - to see first hand what's in store for them!

Looking even further down the road, ACF would like to explore the possibility of starting a Maasai Cultural Center in the Amboseli region. To be run and managed by some of our students possibly with the intent of providing jobs and income to other Maasai in this area.

Such operations of this type already exist in Northern Kenya and as part of our trip we will be traveling there to investigate. [Twala's Tenebo Cultural Center](#) and [Umoja Waso Women's Group](#), both started by women who we will be meeting with to discuss their operation and learn their story.

Much of this would not be possible without the help of Gina Rodgers, with [MEET5.org](#), a non-profit similar to ours. Her associate, Liz, in Kenya has been assisting us with the workshops and the trip to Twala's where we will also meet several of MEET5.org secondary school students. This collaboration has been wonderful and we are very appreciative of their assistance!

Finally, Basia and I hope to gain a lot more interpersonal knowledge about your sponsored child and look forward to sharing the information and lots of photos and videos upon our return. **One favor we have to ask the sponsors: please take a few minutes and send us a short note and some photos to take with us and share with your student.** This small gesture is so very appreciated by the kids and truly makes them feel special.

If anyone has any questions, suggestions or would like to know more about our trip, feel free to call me at **949-350-3516** or email: young.shari2005@gmail.com. I am available anytime and would love to speak with you.

Again, **THANK YOU for your generous support of our efforts. We absolutely could not do any of this without our sponsors and donors. Together, we are breaking the cycle of poverty and giving hope and opportunities to these children, their families and generations to come!**

Shari Young
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949-350-3516

Trip Itinerary



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