



## AMBOSELI Children's Fund

### Winter greetings ACF friends & family,



We did it! With the help of many generous folks we hit our \$10,000 goal and have received the same amount in matching funds. Much appreciation goes to the couple that initiated this campaign - and everyone that contributed thereafter. These dollars will go such a long way in supporting our work in Kenya - we are ever so grateful.

Other good news - Milton has completed his 2nd year at Strathmore University; Nelly and Cynthia have both completed their 1st years at Nairobi and Kenyatta Universities. Rose is sitting for her secondary exam which will determine where she will be able to attend University in 2023. (Next year we will have 4 students in post-secondary school; that's quite an achievement even if I say so myself!)

All the ACF children have been doing well in their studies and even a few of the little ones got to participate in a "graduation" ceremony. (See pics below). They will be home for the month of December on Holiday break and we look forward to new photos and letters for their sponsors which I will pass along!

On another note, Leonard reports that as the drought continues many Maasai have lost livestock and cannot feed their families adequately. This is so sad for me to hear especially after the abundance of food we had over Thanksgiving.

To provide some relief Anne is purchasing basic needs (beans, rice, flour, maize, vegetables) for our families and we have committed to doing the "Goats for the Holiday" program again - which was a huge success last year.

"The goats are more sustainable than cattle", Leonard says, providing milk and meat in this time of crisis. After working his magic he was able to contract a price of just \$30 per goat (another large non-profit is offering them to sponsors at \$85!) and we are hoping to raise the funds to provide one goat for each student and their family. If you do not sponsor a specific child, your donation will be used to purchase a goat for those families with the greatest need. For more info, [click here](#).

It's always difficult for me to adequately convey the dramatic effect ACF has on these youth.

## Sponsor Highlight John & Kathy Smead

*Special thanks goes to this wonderful couple who have been ACF supporters for many years. From assisting us with a group presentation, to sharing our mission with friends and family; we appreciate your time, efforts and generosity!*



### *How long have you been a sponsor and why did you get involved with ACF?*

We have sponsored children and adults at various organizations since 2005. We became associated with Shari through her company that took care of our dogs and boarded them. All of our sponsorships have been predicated on supporting organizations that really benefit the recipients not the administration of the company. ACF really fit that criteria.

It is easy to write a check to the Red Cross etc, but we like to really know where our money goes and how it helps the person. We were attracted to ACF because the focus is on the children. We had been to Africa on safari 5 years ago and were able to learn some things about the Maasai culture. When we learned more about what Shari was doing and met Leonard, it was a no brainer for us to sponsor Isaac.

We have seen the improvements in the program, we have enjoyed watching Isaac mature and it is just awesome to see how the program can change lives. It is not just the life of the child but his/her family and the tribe.

We are committed to Isaac. We told him that we would take him as far as he was able to go. I hope that for those of you that choose to sponsor you will also offer your child that option. Once they get a taste of what can be, they just want to go for it all.

Many years ago we sponsored two children in India. One wanted to be a pharmacist and the other a teacher. Both needed to go through the University system to achieve their goals. We were so proud when

Imagine living in simple mud huts with no electricity, no running water and no assistance from your government. If you are a boy, you are sent out with the cattle soon after you learn to walk; if you are a girl you are married off at the tender age of 11 or 12.

Instead, your support has allowed our students to attend private academies (primary) or the competitive state run schools (secondary and post-secondary). Education truly does allow them to escape the horrific cycle of poverty and bring about real change to their entire community. **YOU ARE TRANSFORMING LIVES!!**

In this day and age of inflation, market volatility, housing declines...etc., your continued support means more than ever. Please believe me when I say, each and every one of our students have tremendous appreciation for the opportunity they've been given and will always strive to do their best.

From Leonard, Anne, myself and all the kids of ACF....**THANK YOU!! We wish you many blessings and a happy holiday season.**

*Shari Young*  
949-350-3516

[www.AmboseliChildrensFund.org](http://www.AmboseliChildrensFund.org)



**Michael - Graduation Day**

they both completed their programs. Our sponsored child that became the teacher, went on to marry above his caste due to the parents of the girl being impressed with his achievements.

It is so amazing how much can be accomplished for so little money. When we think of where we want to spend our discretionary funds, it is quite easy to get more bang for our bucks with ACF.



**Read on for the "whole" picture of this interesting couple:**

John graduated from UCLA in 1972. After founding and operating a business in Hawaii (Lahaina Divers) from 1978-1982 he returned to California and earned his MBA at Santa Clara University. After retiring from the Aerospace manufacturing business after 24 years, he decided to return to school in 2009. He earned his Doctorate in Psychology in 2014 and was licensed in 2016. He is still doing some work in the field though now it is mostly assessments for state disability claims. He is also the UBER driver for various grandkids when their mom or dad can't transport them.

Kathleen attended USC for 2 years then went into the work force. She worked at various jobs until 1982 when their third child was born and she became a full time mom and homemaker. Kathleen now devotes most of her time to taking care of various grandkids who number 13 and range from age 2-21. She is a committed gardener and spends hours perfecting the yard.

John and Kathleen have 4 children and 13 grandchildren. Their children are all employed in various jobs such as nursing, pool cleaning services, photography and graduate education. All of the kids follow in mom and dad's footsteps and have dogs.

Dogs are a big part of the Smead family. One of the dogs was actually certified as a therapy dog and visited sick kids at Children's Hospital in Orange, California. Currently they have 1 dog, a Bernadoodle named Mollie.

John is a hockey enthusiast. He no longer has his season tickets but started with the Anaheim Ducks in 1993 and continued until 2020. Kathleen prefers to garden and if she is not in the back yard she is likely at a nursery getting something for the yard. She also makes a point to spend time with the little grandkids



and drive them to school and pick them up.



Sission - Graduation Day



## For just \$30

*you can ensure your student gets a goat for their family this Holiday Season!*

The Maasai people depend on goats and cows for a living. To a Maasai, having a goat is like having money or a bank account for an American.

A goat is an asset as well as an operating budget. This is the wisest economic incentive a Maasai family can ever receive, as goats and cows hold the greatest value, more than anything else in the Maasai pastoral society.

**Just \$30** will help ensure that your sponsored child receives this special gift by Christmas. If you do not sponsor a specific child, your donation will be used to purchase a goat for those families with the greatest need.

Help us spread the joy of the Holiday Season; give a goat today!

[GIVE NOW](#)





## SPONSORS NEEDED!!

*These 3 adorable children were at risk for being pulled out of public school due to lack of funds. ACF stepped in and were able to place them in private academies with a fresh start. All were considered exceptional students by their previous teachers - and we need your help to find them sponsors. Please share this with your social network!!*



**Emmie Simaton**  
6 yrs old - 1st grade

Emmie Simaton was is the second born in a family of three. She has two brothers. Her family is extremely poor, with her mother selling charcoal and the father picking up temporary jobs as best he can. They make lless than \$5 per week. They did their best to keep Emmie in public school where she excelled and was one of the top students in her class.

Emmie has a beautiful smile which she is quick to show as her nature is happy and outgoing. She enjoys learning and going to her new school; making new friends easily.



**Michael Muntet**  
6 yrs old - 1st grade

Michael Muntet is the youngest in a family of four boys and one girl, who is already married with children of her own.

Michael has been in and out of school due to his parents not being able to pay the school fees. They have had a rough time this year as their only cow died due to the long drought in Kenya.

His teachers report that even still he is one of the top students because he enjoys learning, especially reading.

Michael is a bit shy, but very happy to be in our program and hopes to get a sponsor soon!



**Melissa Yiaminto**  
9 yrs old - 3rd grade

Melissa Yiaminto is the second born in a family of four children; two boys and two girls.

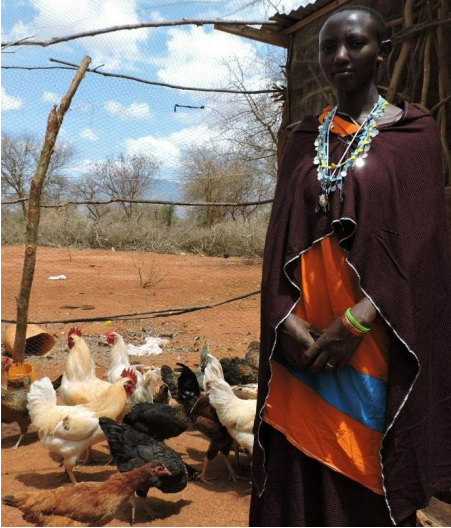
Her father is a "casual (temporary) worker" getting less than half a dollar each day to make ends meet. Because of this, her parents have struggled to keep her in school.

We are told Melissa is quiet and soft spoken; she is also a young girl who finishes in the top of her class. She loves reading and science and dreams of being a nurse someday.

She has promised ACF that she will work hard and make her sponsor proud.

**TRANSFORMING  
LIVES THROUGH**





## Are chickens a profitable business in Kenya? We're going to find out!

Our primary school Coordinator, Anne, recently approached us about a business opportunity that would support local Maasai and ACF at the same time.

She tells us the chicken business is one that continues to grow in popularity and profitability in Kenya. She has negotiated a price of just \$1 per chick from a Nairobi market, and the local Amboseli lodges are willing to buy them for the meat once they have grown to adults.

A sponsor has already stepped forward to provide the start up costs, with the stipulation that at year end the business must pay for one year of fees for an ACF student.

As of this writing, six women (mothers of our students) will be involved - forming what they call a "merry-go-round", which to us is defined as a co-op.

Each woman will take turns caring for the chicks and ensuring their well-being. We are excited to have a program that will benefit families and their villages as well as giving to ACF and will keep you updated on their progress as months progress.

## EDUCATION

Giving hope and a world of possibilities to Maasai children in extreme need.

Click here to sponsor a child or give to our Scholarship Fund today

[AmboseliChildrensFund.com](http://AmboseliChildrensFund.com)



**AMBOSELI**  
Children's Fund

Please help us spread the word...

*Post and share this newsletter with your friends and family!*



## Hundreds of elephants, wildebeests and zebras dead in Kenya amid prolonged drought

By Idris Mukhtar, CNN

Published 7:45 AM EDT, Sat November 5, 2022

Hundreds of elephants, wildebeests, and zebras have died across Kenya amid the nation's longest drought in decades.

"The Kenya Wildlife Service Rangers, Community Scouts, and Research Teams counted the deaths of 205 elephants, 512 wildebeests, 381 common zebras, 51 buffalos, 49 Grevy's zebras, and 12 giraffes in the past nine months," a report released Friday by the country's Ministry of Tourism said.

"The drought has negatively impacted on the herbivore populations and particularly wildebeest and zebra."

Prolonged drought across the Horn of Africa over the past four consecutive rainy seasons has left some 18 million people affected by food shortages in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, according to reports from the World Food Programme.

The UN's World Meteorological Organization said the drought is the region's longest in four decades. In Kenya, back-to-back seasons of below average rainfall have caused riverbeds to dry up and destroyed grasslands in game reserves, according to the tourism ministry.

"The worst-affected ecosystems are home to some of Kenya's most-visited national parks, reserves and conservancies, **including the Amboseli**, Tsavo and Laikipia-Samburu areas," its report said.

At the launch of the report, Kenya's Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage Peninah Malonza said steps were being taken to save the lives of animals – including digging boreholes and transporting water to dried-up water pans and dams.

"The drought has caused mortality of wildlife, mostly herbivore species," Malonza said.

"The mortalities have arisen because of depletion of food resources as well as water shortages," she added.

According to the ministry, Kenya had just 36,000 elephants left last year.

In an interview with the BBC in July, Kenya's former cabinet secretary for wildlife and tourism Najib Balala said that climate change now kills 20 times as many elephants as poaching.



Shown 4th from the left, front row - Nelly Lasoi, our pharmacy student at Nairobi University.

**STUDENTS SEND WISHES FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!**



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