

Happy Holidays



AMBOSELI
Children's Fund

*Warm holiday greetings
ACF friends & family!*



As this year comes to a close, all of us at ACF are truly celebrating. Our first ever graduation ceremony and *the first Maasai girl in the Amboseli community to receive a degree!*

Leonard took a small group of family and students to Nairobi to witness the event. Cynthia stood proudly by her mom in her gown and cap - her smile speaks volumes (see pic to the lower right). She gave a short speech and thanked her sponsor and everyone in the ACF program for helping her along the way. It was certainly a day that will be remembered and cherished!

I'm also happy to report that Milton Saitah will soon graduate and plans to complete his CPA program by June of next year. See the box below for some of his future plans.

And if that's not enough - **we have 3 more girls headed to University; Charity, Faith, and Dori.** This makes a total of 8 university students for ACF next year, plus 2 who have graduated - quite an achievement if I so say myself; and only possible because of our generous donors!

For those of you that sponsor the younger kids - they are all doing well, completing exams and heading home soon for the holiday break.

One goal that Anne and I have for next year is to do a one-on-one assessment with each of the primary students - to better help us decide which academy and programs are the best for them. It's a large undertaking as these kids live hundreds of miles apart, but we are determined to make it happen.

On another note, I'm pleased to report that we are **ALMOST AT OUR SOLAR KIT CAMPAIGN GOAL - WE JUST NEED 4 MORE KITS!** (If you would like to help see box below.)

Having faith that we will reach this goal - we've begun preparing the festivities for a gathering of all the students plus one of their parents at the AA lodge just outside Amboseli (they have graciously allowed us to use their facilities for a minimal charge).

We plan to have a Christmas program, complete with songs and dancing, followed by a sumptuous Maasai feast. The younger children will be making Christmas cards and the older ones will write their sponsors. **The grand finale will be a presentation of the solar kit "gift of light" to each family. We'll be lighting up their world for years to come my friends!!**

This means lots of new photos and letters to send everyone after the New Year. Bare with me though folks -

Our first ACF Graduate!!

Cynthia Lashaine

*Jomo Kenyatta University - Business & IT
Technology*



Cynthia's letter to her sponsor:

Dear Bernie,

I hope this message finds you well. As I reflect on my journey, I am filled with immense gratitude for your unwavering support throughout my education. From my early days in primary school to my university graduation, your generosity and belief in me have been the foundation of my success.

You gave me the chance to dream and achieve what once seemed impossible. Your investment in my future has not only changed my life but also inspired me to work hard and make a difference in the world.

Graduating is not just my accomplishment; it is ours. I carry your faith and encouragement with me, and I am committed to paying it forward by striving to help others as you have helped me.

Thank you for believing in me and for being such a significant part of my journey. I will forever be grateful for your kindness and support.

Cynthia Lashaine

it takes a bit of time to sort thru everything, but I will get it to you, no doubt!

In conclusion, please know, each and every one of our children have tremendous appreciation for their gifts and the opportunity they've been given and will always strive to do their best.

Education is not merely a ticket to a better future for them; it is a powerful catalyst for change that uplifts their entire communities. By investing in their education, you are not just transforming individual lives; you are creating a ripple effect that will empower many generations.

From Leonard, Anne, myself and all the kids of ACF...**THANK YOU!!** We hope this year's holiday season brings you many blessings and the company of those that mean the most to you.

Shari Young
949-350-3516

www.AmboseliChildrensFund.org



Every month we ask the university students a varying set of questions. This helps us gain a better understanding of their needs and challenges. Here and continued below are some of their replies:

Do you aspire to support ACF post-graduation?

As the first student of the Amboseli Children Fund (ACF) project, I am deeply committed to supporting the organization after graduation. Starting in January, I plan to take on a mentorship role, acting as an elder brother to guide and inspire younger students. In the future, I aspire to contribute as a donor, supporting ACF financially to ensure its continued success and impact on the community.

Do you have any interest in giving back to society after graduating?

Giving back to the community is a value instilled in me from an early age. Once I secure a stable job, I plan to contribute to society by addressing critical needs. One way I envision giving back is by building a school to reduce the distance children have to travel for education. Alternatively, I could initiate a water project to provide easier access to clean water, as water scarcity remains a significant challenge in my rural home area.

Milton Saitah, Strathmore University



Cynthia does her internship at Super Eagles Academy - our new friends in Kiserian:

Last August, when we traveled to Kenya to work with the students we participated in a grand opening of a community center put on by Super Eagles Academy and GSSA. Forging a relationship with these folks has already proven to be beneficial for both of us.

The community center has a large, well equipped computer room for the students at Super Eagles. However, students and teachers had no idea how to use them.

Cynthia needed to do an internship to receive her degree in Business & IT Technology. So William and I worked out an arrangement and Cynthia became his instructor.

I can't begin to tell you how exciting it is for us to share these photos of her teaching classes! William reports that they were quite happy with her performance and would love to have her back next year.





Give the gift of light this holiday season!

A solar kit consists of a large panel, a battery and four lights. With this gift a family will be able to move their fire outside for cooking and still have light in the evenings along with a station for charging. **THIS IS LIFE CHANGING!**

Each kit is \$230 and our goal is to have enough for each of our families.
WE ONLY NEED FOUR MORE KITS!

Any amount is appreciated. Lets give to those who have so little and shine a light on a brighter future together!

Solar Kit
Campaign



Leonard, alongside ACF, is thrilled to announce the acquisition of this handsome 2018 Toyota Land Cruiser Prado.

Rather than picking up kids on the motorbike, he can now collect several of them in a manner that is much more safe and efficient. In addition, when travelling to the various secondary schools or to Nairobi for work with our

University Students, he now has a much better option than the local shuttle buses.

A special nod goes to the Church at Woodmoor for their significant contribution. Leonard says "my back and bum sincerely thank you!" to **everyone** who made this milestone possible.





Do you aspire to support ACF Post-Graduation?

Yes, I am really determined to support ACF after graduation. My aspiration is quite strong, and I would be interested in conducting workshops or mentoring students to help them navigate their career paths, just as I have benefited from support during my studies. Contributing funds is also my wish. I really pray that I will be able to return more than I gained from the ACF.

Do you have any interest in giving back to society after graduating?

I do feel the need to give back to society after graduating. I would be interested in mentoring students on the importance of education or participating in some type of community service.

I try talking to our neighbours and also some of my villagers as we interact on the importance of education.

I would also love that one day I will participate in building a school in our village.

Rose Nampaso, Mt Kenya University

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THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



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