



OUR "GOATS FOR THE HOLIDAYS" CAMPAIGN WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

Due to your generous support we were able to provide goats for EVERY sponsored child and their families.

Leonard had his hands full purchasing 25 goats and herding them to several locations where we had the children and their families gathered to receive them.

But with the help of a few of our older kids he pulled it off! Everyone was overjoyed and truly thankful of our gift as goats are a good source of income for the Maasai.

In these challenging times of COVID it was a true blessing and everyone sends their thanks to all who participated!



Greetings to all our ACF Sponsors and Friends...

I continue to be amazed at the generous nature of our sponsors and donors! Last year we had a record amount of donations - exceeding any year since our conception in 2012. It's humbling and heartwarming that you all continue to support us in our endeavors with Maasai children in Kenya.



Please know...*we are changing lives - not only of our students, but future generations as well.* It's a trickle down effect that will help these Maasai eventually break free of the extreme poverty they exist with now.

Two key factors have come to our attention that we will be focusing on this year:

1. Unfortunately many children seek our assistance but at this point we have to turn them away. Leonard more than has his hands full with 25 students in 12 different schools located all over Kenya.
2. We've been fortunate that Leonard has remained healthy thru the COVID crisis - but it made us aware that should something happen to him, we do not have an individual in place to take over. His niece Anne, a schoolteacher, assists us with the younger kids, but she has 2 young children of her own and it would not be possible for her to take over all of Leonard's responsibilities.

With the above issues in mind, one of our immediate goals in 2022 is to search for a *trustworthy and literate* individual to assist us - hoping it's one that has a heart for giving so that we will not be required to pay a salary.

Yes, I know that's a lot to ask! Leonard, myself and the board members have never taken a salary and we really don't want to add this expense.

I plan to reach out to a few other non-profits in Kenya to see if they can provide any guidance or assistance and Leonard will be doing the same. We will keep you updated!

We are also looking at long term ideas for ACF; because unemployment is so high - it's not always enough to have a college degree. We want to ensure our students are gainfully employed after graduation - which raises many questions. How do we counsel them to find job opportunities; can we create jobs ourselves?

We have tossed around the idea of starting a computer



school - with IT technology and possibly other subjects at some point. A lot of research is needed at this point but we want to be as proactive as possible and welcome any suggestions or ideas!

As we continue to experience issues with the virus, my sincerest wish is that all of you and your loved ones remain healthy and safe. Your support through these challenging times is more than generous and much appreciated.

Shari Young
Co-Director



AMBOSELI
Children's Fund

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION

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

www.AmboseliChildrensFund.org

Donate

Calling All Sponsors: *Letters And
Photo's Needed For Your Student!*

Shown below is a picture of Luyiana after he



Leonard's Report From Kenya

Unataka afya njema friends! (Wishing good health)
It is with great happiness that I report all of our children are well and back in school for 2022. Unfortunately, due to the time lost during COVID their breaks and holidays will be cut short again this year with 4 school terms instead of the usual 3.

Being away at boarding school for months on end - with little to no contact with their families has been hard on them. But our government has promised all will return to normal in 2023, so we have counseled the children to remain strong and steady.

In 2024 we will have 5 students preparing for University. We realize not all will have the high exam scores that are needed to gain admittance to the better Universities. So we are looking at technical and trade schools as an alternative - but even these institutions are highly competitive. Shari has tasked me with finding out more information and reporting back with my recommendations.

Please know, none of our work would be possible without your support and generosity. We are most grateful and wish you a healthy and happy New Year.

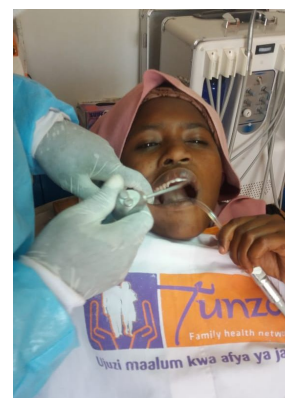
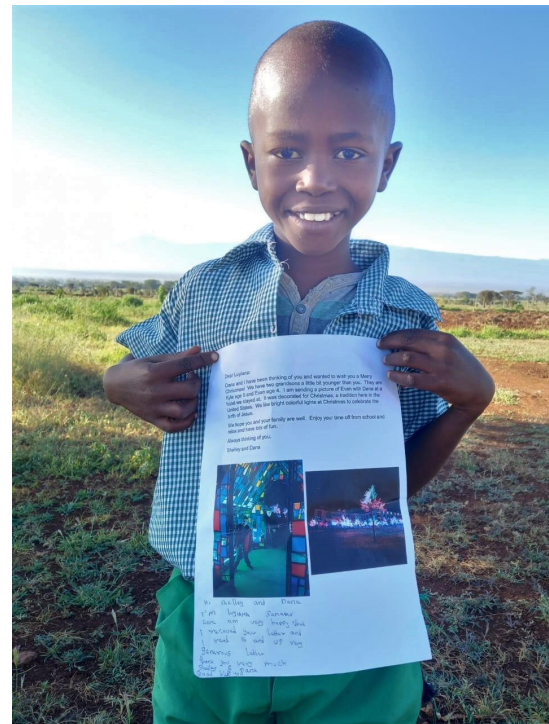
Leonard

received a letter from his sponsors, Shelley & Dana Pruett. As you can tell, he is delighted to receive word from them and learn about their life in America.

If you haven't reached out to your student lately PLEASE email me a letter and some pics. I would love nothing more than to send each child a letter from their sponsor!

It's hard to explain how much excitement and pride these generate. Having sponsors makes these kids feel "special" and they cherish your words and photo's. I promise to send back pics like below so you can share in the moment!

Shari



Charity Goes to The Dentist

Our lovely Charity developed a severe toothache, so Leonard arranged for her care at a dentist in town close to the school she attends. She was quite happy to have the pain

gone after receiving 2 fillings!

Part of your sponsorship goes towards "personal effects" and tooth brushes and toothpaste fall into this category. But when at home the Maasai don't have access to these so they do what they can.

**"Don't judge each day
by the harvest you reap,
but by the seeds you plant."**

—ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON



There's a particular kind of tree from which they slice off a green twig with their razor-sharp machete, then they simply chew on it. They also kind of rub it around on the front surface of their teeth. Remarkably, many Maasai have beautiful teeth, probably due in part to the lack of sugar in their diet.



Kenya Students protest by burning down over 30 schools; acts of violence or a cry for help?

The torching of schools by students has become a regular occurrence in Kenya over the past decade. Last November two of our students were sent home a week early when their school closed due to fear of the fires being set across the country.

Fortunately none of our students have been hurt - or participated in these extreme actions, but

many feel the oppression of the current system.

A government-run study was conducted to determine the possible causes and strategies to address the problem. Issues found were exam-related anxiety (students future admittance into higher learning institutions is dependent on their scores which must be quite high) schoolwork load (many schools have classes for 10-12 hours per day, with few breaks and crowded classrooms) and lack of guidance and counseling. There are also deplorable conditions in many public schools, where teachers are free to discipline the students using the "cane method" - yes, it's exactly as it sounds.

And to top it all off, in 2021 and this year as well, the government has added a 4th term (to make up for the school time lost during the COVID shutdown) which means the kids rarely get to go home and their parents must pay for an extra term which is a huge burden for most. (ACF has a donor that picked up the tab for this 4th term last year - we thank this generous individual who has asked to remain anonymous.)

Some Kenyan students have learned that arson is effective as a tactic in protest politics and see it as the only means to negotiate their need for change. Unfortunately, Kenya is already experiencing a severe shortage in the amount of schools available for students - the fires just make this situation worse as it takes time and money to rebuild them.

Although suggestions have been made to abolish boarding schools, the problems plaguing the educational process as a whole need to be addressed. Boarding schools in themselves are not a problem - what happens in the schools are the problem and these can be changed by allowing students a means of representation. Some political leaders are now pushing for open forums in schools, where teachers and students can discuss their issues, before students feel the need to take drastic and destructive measures.

Leonard and I remain hopeful that our kids will be a part of this process; a united voice to represent all of our children who have worked so hard to better their life through education.



Luyiana, Caleb & Colin



Top row from left: Faith, Charity, Dorey, Samuel, Joseph, Seremon, Isaac, Katoo
Bottom row from left: Nancy, Seleina, Caleb, Sission, Peninah, Luyiana



Peninah & Session in school uniforms



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