

ACF Quarterly Newsletter
July, 2020

*Transforming Lives Through
Education*



Summer Greetings!



As our country continues to face some challenging times, we hope that all of you are staying safe and healthy.

We remain thankful that our students are doing well and anxious to resume their education. All have been trying to study at home, using textbooks and borrowed lessons, but many say it's difficult without the guidance of a tutor or teacher. Internet classes are not possible in their remote locations.

Just this week the Kenyan government announced that all schools will remain closed through the end of the year. Unfortunately the COVID numbers in Kenya are still rising with no end in sight; they feel it's better to have students stay safe at home and just repeat their school year in 2021. Four of our students were set to take their National Exams this year. It's a huge disappointment for them, but they understand that their health and well-being must come first.

In this interim period, I asked Leonard to see if he could get some correspondence from the kids that I could share with their sponsors. Over the course of several weeks, Milton our oldest boy, traveled to each village by foot with pencil and paper in hand. With the IPAD we had given him he was able to take some photo's and send them to me from an internet cafe in a small city close to Amboseli.

For those of you that are sponsors, I will be forwarding letters and pics in the following weeks. But for now, I have included a letter below from our oldest girl, Cynthia, where she describes what is happening in Kenya along with recent photo's of the kids which I hope you enjoy. PLEASE - if you haven't done so already - take a moment and write a note to your student. Just email it to me along with a few pictures if possible. I can't emphasize enough how thrilled the kids are when they receive word from their sponsors!

As always, we want to express our gratitude and appreciation for your continued support of Amboseli Children's Fund. Someday we will move past this COVID crisis and our kids will resume their education. They truly have no other assistance than what we provide and YOU are transforming not only their life, but generations to come.

Shari Young
Amboseli Children's Fund



[Laseko & Mum]



[Samuel]



[Sision]

Anna's Story



Anna Reya is our Student Coordinator in Kenya, who happens to be Leonard's niece and a Maasai woman. She is a huge asset for ACF and takes care of many aspects of overseeing the children's education. We truly couldn't exist without her! This is her story...

First they say if you are to handle yourself use your brain but if you are to handle others then use your heart.

I am a Mom, a Maasai lady and a business woman. I was born in the Amboseli plains southern Kenya region. Born at a time when boy child education, F.G.M (female genital mutilation) and early marriages thrived among our community.

At a young age boys already knew pretty well that they were considered more valuable than girls. They were taken to school and girls left at home to look after

cattle and do other domestic chores.

I was fortunate; at the age of a grade four student I began my primary education with the help of a World Vision sponsorship. I started off from grade one because I was bright and didn't need to do preschool classes. My primary school life was tough as my parents knew nothing about books and they never cared much about education. I would go back home to find lots of house chores to do, nothing to eat and little time to study. After getting all the chores done it would be late at night when I could read by the fire so you can imagine the smoke , mosquito's and other distractions.

After completing my primary education I passed and wanted to go on to high school but World Vision dropped their sponsorship. Thankfully I was able to convince my dad to pay for my fees. At that time we were considered old enough for the F.G.M rite. Every girl had to pass through this otherwise the community would despise and chase you away. We were circumcised forcefully and then if not in school, married off to older men as the second and

third wife. The ritual was very painful and a lot of bleeding was experienced. After recovery I joined high school and life became easier as I less domestic work to do and maximum time to read. I passed with flying colors and even qualified to join the Kenya Medical Training Centre but unfortunately got pregnant.

I tried explaining to my Dad but he turned a deaf ear to me and married me off to a man of his choice. I was basically sold off to a new family and place.

Dedicating my time and energy to my in-laws and giving birth to kids was one of my the hardest times in my life. I had to do everything perfectly otherwise the hell I would pass through was unbearable. My education bore no fruits until I decided to transform lives through education and became a teacher. I advised young girls on the effects of F.G.M and early marriages. It was tiring but rewarding at the end of the day.

After Leonard told me about Amboseli Children's Fund and their desire to help Maasai children through education, I didn't hesitate to offer my assistance. I help with all sorts of things; transporting the kids to their various schools, purchasing their personal items, making school payments as needed, speaking with educators, monitoring their progress and reporting their scores.

Seeing girls thrive in their new environment and become valuable in the community has made me more than happy. I believe education for both boys and girls is essential to our community and will positively affect not only this generation but ones to come.

Anna Reya
Kenya Student Coordinator
Amboseli Children's Fund



[Charity]



[Isaac]

Dear Bernice,

How are you? How is your family doing during this covid-19 pandemic? It's my greatest hope and desire that you, your children and grandchildren are safe and sound. How is the situation there with covid-19? My family and I are doing well and praying that this pandemic will soon end.

Here in Kenya the situation is getting out of hand with new cases arising each day. Schools, markets, churches and other forms of gatherings are ^{closed} prohibited down. Many people have lost their sources of income and jobs lost. We can't get enough of everything here. In our villages people are ignoring the changes brought in by the pandemic and life is as normal. We are trying to educate them on this and most especially the one-metre distancing and sanitization. The ignorance is brought about by lack of food. Parents and children are crying of hunger and this has increased the crime rate here. Early marriages and pregnancies are surprises each day. Most of the youths are idle and as we all know an idle mind is the devil's workshop.

The government announced that there is a probability that schools will be opened on early September. Studying at home is kind of difficult coz there is no teacher to teach and all the learning has to be done by the student. ^{Kids} Rich kids from rich families study online but because I can't afford that I have to use the textbooks. The iPad has helped me store my notes safely and access them easily. I miss school and a lot and I hope that they will be opened.

There are a lot of domestic chores to do and I have to create time for my studies. I am grateful for all the support you have been giving me and let's continue praying for our countries during this pandemic. I love you and it's my wish that one day I will get to see you. Pass my greetings to your family and know that you are always in my thoughts.
Yours dearest Cynthia Lushine.

On the Road Again!

Some of you already know, but for those that don't I wanted to share that I am in the process of moving.

My children in CA have not succumbed to my efforts to get them to move to CO, so I am going in their direction! As much as I love this beautiful state, I truly miss being close to them. Next week I head to AZ for temporary residence

Keep in Touch

Many of you have asked for guidelines when writing to your sponsored child.

Below is a letter written by Sam Bridle to Caleb, who is just 5 years old. This is a great example and will hopefully be helpful.

The rule of thumb is to keep it simple - remember they don't have

at a rental house (address is listed at the bottom of this email), with an eventual goal of finding a home in Palm Desert or Orange County.

However I will be coming back to CO frequently as once our lives return to some normalcy Stanley (the Olympic runner) and I have a fundraiser to plan! For all of my dear CO friends and sponsors, please know I am just a phone call away.

a good comprehension of our modern world. But they are anxious to learn about you, your family and what it's like to live in the U.S.

If you haven't done so already, please take a few moments and reach out to your student. You can send your letter (photos are great too!) to me at:

young.shari2005@gmail.com

A Letter to Caleb

Dear Caleb,

I am very happy to be contributing to your school expenses through the Amboseli Children's Fund. I want to get to know you and to learn more about your life in Kenya. How old are you, Caleb? How many brothers and sisters do you have? Which school grade are you in? What are your favorite things to do in your spare time?



I would like to tell you a few things about myself so you can get to know me better. My name is Sam Bridle. I am 63 years old and a grandfather living in Colorado Springs, Colorado. I have a son (Nick, 31 years old) and a daughter (Leah, 29 yrs old) living in California. My grandson, Landon, is nearly 18 months old and lives with his dad (Nick) and mom (Mallory) in California. Attached is a photo of Nick, Landon and me.

I have never traveled to Kenya but did visit Tanzania in 2017 to climb Mt Kilimanjaro. It was my first trip to Africa and I enjoyed it very much! Attached are a few photos from Kilimanjaro.

Unfortunately, I can only speak and write English so perhaps you can teach me some basic words in Swahili like "hello" and "goodbye".

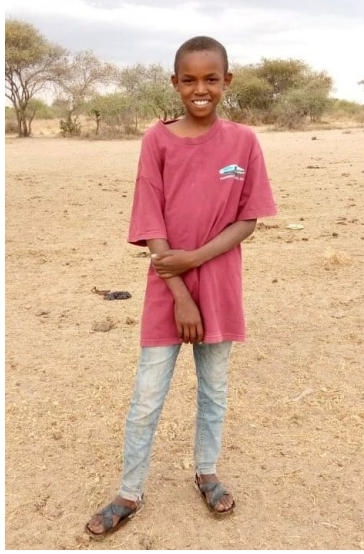
Please take care of yourself, Caleb, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Sam Bridle



[Nancy]



[Joseph]



[Nelly]

Amboseli Children's Fund

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