



Olympic runner Stanley Kebenei to appear at Amboseli Fundraiser

WE ARE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE THAT STANLEY HAS AGREED TO SPEAK ON OUR BEHALF AT A FUNDRAISER!



We have been tossing around the idea of having a local fundraiser in Boulder and Colorado Springs for some time now.

Because of the huge variety of outdoor activities in Colorado, we wanted to tie into a sports theme, with the name of the fundraiser "*Get Active with Amboseli*".

But how could we get people to attend as we are such a small organization? Having a well-known athlete or public figure speak in our behalf would go a long way to help our efforts. And in one of life's strange coincidences I discovered that I had an Olympic runner living



AMBOSELI
Children's Fund

At this time when the news is dominated by Coronavirus, I wanted to personally reach out and let you know that the health and safety of our sponsors and their loved ones, as well as the many students in our program are a top concern at ACF. We hope that all of you are staying healthy and safe during this challenging time. Please reach out to us if we can be of any assistance.



Many of you have inquired about the status of COVID-19 in Kenya. The Maasai people are trying to minimize the impact of the disease. But the first rule of "wash your hands" is already proving difficult. What happens when you have no water to do so? What happens if you don't have soap? What happens if the water you do have actually makes you even sicker, unable to recover from an infection?

As we in first world nations have seen the pain and disruption cause by this global pandemic, it has the potential to be even worse in third world countries.

But we have a bit of good news to share! Our amazing kids are playing a vital role in educating their villages about social distancing, the importance of shutting down markets and postponing ceremonies or any group activities. Maasai elders who are typically illiterate and uneducated are actually paying heed to the youth. At this date here are no confirmed COVID-19 positive cases within our Maasai communities. Fortunately they are far away from the hub of Nairobi and their villages are scattered in remote areas.

As we move through these uncertain times, we want to thank you for your continued kindness and generosity. The education you are helping to provide has already proved to be invaluable to the Maasai during this pandemic.

With sincere gratitude and wishes of good health and well-being,

Shari Young
Co-Director

behind a house that I rent out in Wolf Ranch. I asked the current renters if they could give me an introduction and just a week later I was sitting in a coffee shop having a wonderful discussion with Stanley Kebenei.

Stanley is on Team USA and will compete in the 3000 Meter Steeplechase event at the next Olympics. He has won numerous championships as a long distance runner and is sponsored by Nike.

Stanley is also of the Kalenjin tribe in Kenya. This tribe is similar in circumstances to the Maasai and he is very familiar with their struggles. As a child, Stanley received a sponsorship through another non-profit and says his success is due to the education provided.

He told me that education does not only change the life of the child...but also that of siblings, parents, relatives and subsequent generations.

Stanley is one of the most gracious, down-to-earth and well-spoken men you will ever meet. He agreed to give a presentation on our behalf at a fundraiser, hopefully to be held later in the year.

Our chance meeting came about for a reason and I hope you all will join me in welcoming Stanley to the ACF family!



TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION

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

How You Can Help

WATCH THIS GREAT VIDEO

Stanley shared this insightful documentary which shows the challenges Maasai face when going to school. Be sure to check it out!

<http://youtu.be/Rm9ow1RDTAo>



TWALA WOMEN'S CENTER

Twala is a co-op of about 200 Maasai women who pool their money to support each other. They grow aloe plants to sell to a company in England, along with honey that they sell locally. Women also do bead work to sell to tourists. Along with this they have monthly meetings to educate the women about various ways to help themselves and their community.

All of the women there have made a promise to not practice FGM (female genital mutilation) on their daughters and send them to school. They also support each other when someone is going through hardship.

The Twala Women's Center is also for

Left to right: Founder Gina Rodgers, Priscilla (Samburu friend), William Chandler and Rosemary Nenini.

MAASAI EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT TODAY - MEET meet5.org

This non-profit has a program much like ours. However they focus on girls in the Laikipia area, north of Kenya. After speaking with the founder, Gina Rodgers, we agreed to have some of our students meet on my next trip to Kenya. It was great to share our challenges and successes and we hope to do some collaboration in the future.

Gina spoke of The Twala Women's Center (featured to the right) who have been instrumental in helping her organization on the ground. ACF will be arranging a visit by our older girls so that they can see first hand what Maasai women can accomplish.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could establish a center such as this in the Amboseli region?

tourists and small groups. They have 4 cabins that sleep about 6-8 people. The facility has a small kitchen, shower and toilet facilities. It is a very peaceful and lovely location close to a baboon troop.

TWALA WOMEN'S CENTER



Twala Song of Greeting



Twala Women's Center Beekeeping and honey gathering

FEATURED PHOTO'S

These three adorable kids are new to our program this year. Susan, Caleb & Sision - we welcome you and thank your sponsors!

