

Updates from... the ACF Cheetah Express



Spring greetings to our ACF Friends & Family,

I'm bursting with excitement to share some good news and please know; everything that has transpired these past few months is what

you've helped us achieve!

First, I'm proud to announce one of our pioneer students, **Cynthia LaShaine has secured a 1 year paid internship with the University of Nairobi.**

Cynthia graduated over a year ago with a degree in Business & IT and has been searching diligently for employment to no avail (*see article below about the extreme job crisis*).

Finally, after much persistence and a tough round of interviews, she was selected for this position at the top university in Kenya. We are told that these government internships almost always turn into full time jobs. It's a modest salary, but enough to allow Cynthia to have a small apartment in Nairobi and care for herself.

(Here she is in her new office.)



And, drumroll, this is the last year of **Nelly Lasoi's five year program in pharmacy.** In 2027, she will be placed in a 1 year paid internship as an apprentice pharmacist. Quite an accomplishment for both of these young ladies!

In addition, **Samuel Lomunyak** has been accepted to the Amboseli Institute for a certificate in *Tour Guiding*



Maasai are navigating big shifts

Education's opening doors, but land fights, drought, and changing herds are making things a bit tense. For those of you that are not aware, here is a fresh picture as of early 2026.

Yes, education's has been a game-changer. More kids—especially girls—are staying in school longer. Families see it as a real path out of poverty, ditching old norms like FGM and early marriage. It's slow, but enrollment's up—think hundreds more grads this year alone. Unfortunately, classrooms are overcrowded, meals are not nutritious and clean water is difficult to come by.

This is why ACF uses private academies.

On land: boundaries are a hot topic. For years, Maasai have lived on communal "group ranches". Privatization is causing the transition to individual ownership, which is fragmenting grazing spots by breaking up large, shared ecosystems into smaller, fenced, and privately owned parcels. This process restricts livestock mobility, restricts access to crucial water points, and alters land use from nomadic pastoralism to sedentary, often agricultural, practices. And big developments—like the Ritz-Carlton lodge in Mara—sparked lawsuits over blocked wildlife corridors. Some communities are fighting back by forming conservancies where private owners team up to shield migration routes.

Livestock's evolving too. Traditional big herds? Tougher now with dry spells—some switch to goats (easier on land, lower emissions) or improved dairy cows for cash. Regenerative grazing mixes cattle with

and Driving; **Faith Nkoona** will be attending the Nairobi Women's Medical College for a certificate in *Medical Engineering*; and **Joyce Nahilu** will soon be going to Mt. Kenya University for a diploma in *Early Childhood Education*.

This brings our count to 10 students, living in Nairobi and attending university or trade schools. May not sound like that much - but consider this; together, we have given these youth, and their children, a whole new future. **It truly is amazing!**

In January, we bought uniforms, books and personal items for each of the students. Anne, along with Leonard and Stephen, managed to get all the children admitted into their respective schools. **We currently work with 20 different academies throughout Kenya.**

I'm also pleased to announce that we have opened our *first office in Kimana*, complete with a desk, several chairs, a printer and a lap top. It's a start! And made possible by your generous giving.

For the April school break, rather than bring all the children to one location for a "gathering" as usual, Leonard and I are trying something different. As you know, our students live in extremely remote areas, with little exposure to modern conveniences or technology. They are exceptionally naive when it comes to the world at large and possible career/trade choices.

So...we are going to attempt an educational fieldtrip! ACF will be renting a bus and taking 25 of our older children to Nairobi. They will visit [Don Bosco Boys Town](#), which is an excellent trade school for plumbers, electricians, carpentry, tailoring..etc. We will also visit the [Kenya Medical Training College \(KMTC\)](#) the top institution for medical careers and [Utalii College](#), well known for their hospitality and tourism programs.

Our plan is to show students first hand what options are available for them, mentor and counsel them on the difficult job market, and hopefully set them up for success when they transition to post-secondary education.

It's a long trip to Nairobi and will require an overnight in a hotel, with a few meals. This in itself will be an eye-opener for our students. **To see the big city, to ride in an elevator, to sit in a restaurant, to use a shower. All new, all hard for them to imagine!** I will share reports and photos after the outings.

(Note: We welcome donations to the ACF Scholarship Fund to help pay for this excursion. Any amount is appreciated!)

ACF Scholarship Fund

Another project we have finalized is the program for donors to leave **Legacy Gifts for ACF**. Please read below for the details. We are thrilled to be able to offer this for those of you that have requested it.

wildlife, restoring soil while earning from tourism. Agriculture's creeping in—fodder farms, small plots—blending pastoral life with crops to beat climate hits.

Overall? Progress feels mixed for the Maasai: smarter kids, tougher land battles, leaner herds. But they're adapting—conservancies, education, even private deals. Resilience is their thing.

Here are some shots to show it—first, classic herding life...



And kids hitting the books—huge step forward...



Community talks on protecting land...



ACF University students paving the way...

As we look forward to another promising year at ACF, I personally want to thank YOU - for showing up, for believing in us. We are changing lives, and your giving allows these impoverished youth to have a way out. *You don't just support us - you make the impossible real.*

THANK YOU.

Shari Young

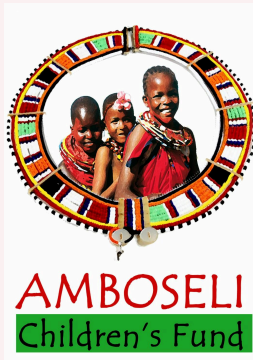
Co-Founder

AmboseliChildrensFund.org



It takes just one...

"As one person I cannot change the world, but I can change the world of one person."
— Paul Shane Spear



Visit our Website



What Is Legacy Giving?

(And Why It Matters More Than You Think)

Ever heard someone say, "I want my money to keep doing good after I'm gone"? **That's legacy giving in a nutshell.**

It's not about being super-rich or famous. It's just... planning ahead. Like leaving behind a little piece of your heart—through cash, stocks, property, or even a simple note in your will—so a nonprofit you love can keep changing lives long after you're not here to see it.

Here's why it's easier than it sounds:

1. You don't have to give anything right now.

Most legacy gifts happen after you pass. No big checks today—just a promise. Your charity gets funded later.

2. It's super flexible. You can:

- Leave a fixed amount (\$10,000 to the children)
- Give a percentage (20% of whatever's left)
- Name *Amboseli Children's Fund* as beneficiary on a life insurance policy or retirement account.
- Donate real stuff—like your house or car.

3. It feels... good.

People sleep better knowing their values—kindness, generosity, philanthropy—keep going. It's like planting a tree you'll never sit under.

How to start? Add one sentence to your will or trust. Done.





That's it—no fanfare, no pressure. Just a quiet, powerful way to say, “I was here—and I cared.”

If you're curious about our program at **Amboseli Children's Fund**, we'll walk you through it, any time - no strings attached.

Just reach out to Sam Bridle at: bridlebus@gmail.com.



Ujasiriamali: Self-Employment and Job Creation for Youth in Kenya

Kenya faces a significant unemployment crisis, particularly among youth. Over 60% of the unemployed fall within the 15-34 age bracket. Even with a college degree, young Kenyans face on average, a five-year search for stable employment. The need to tackle this issue is critical. By 2030, Kenya's population will reach 63.9 million, with 22.3 million aged 15-34, intensifying the youth unemployment challenge.

Enhancing micro and small enterprises offers a promising path forward by creating new opportunities for vulnerable youth. For those not inclined toward entrepreneurship, targeted support such as apprenticeships, job preparation, and placement assistance is essential.

In Kenya, “Ujasiriamali,” or entrepreneurship, plays a key role in these efforts. One inspiring example of this approach is **Liz Kerubo Nyakundi** (shown above) a young entrepreneur whose journey from unemployment to business owner began with the **Kenya Youth Employment and Opportunities Project (KYEOP)** supported by the World Bank in Kenya. Initially unsure about receiving government support, Liz applied for the KYEOP startup grant, driven by her passion for starting a honey-processing business.

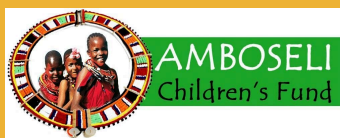
With an initial grant of \$400, accompanied by business training in basic accounting, marketing, and key tips to start a business, Liz established her brand, “Akila,” and embarked on a transformative path in agribusiness. Just six months after receiving her first grant, she expanded her business to include beekeeping and passion fruit farming, creating a sustainable income. After receiving two grants from KYEOP, young Kenyan Liz Kerubo Nyakundi now operates a thriving business producing honey sold to local offices and households.

Nearly 86,000 youths have launched their own businesses and embodied this “Ujasiriamali” spirit with the support of KYEOP. Remarkably, 88% of the beneficiaries who received grants like Liz successfully launched or expanded their ventures. By fostering entrepreneurship as a viable career path, KYEOP equips participants with the necessary skills and instills a sense of agency among young people.

A Transformative Initiative to Tackle Youth Unemployment

Liz's success goes beyond personal achievement: it aligns with the broader objectives of the Government of Kenya to tackle youth unemployment through Kenya's Vision 2030, which aims to transform Kenya into a competitive and prosperous country with a high quality of life. Recognizing the urgent need to provide better opportunities for young people, the World Bank has supported Kenya in capitalizing on youth potential, including via short-term programs like KYEOP. This initiative is a key contributor to the country's goals and helps prioritize human development.

As the country continues to foster the “Ujasiriamali” spirit, and with the World Bank as a vital ally in this mission, Kenya is set to create a brighter future for its next generation, demonstrating that evidence-based interventions can truly make a difference in job creation and economic development across Africa.



Transforming lives, one child at a time.

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