



Introducing.... the ACF Cheetah Express

Fall Greetings to our ACF family!

Oh my goodness, where do I start? We have so many wonderful events and activities scheduled for the next few months that I don't know where to begin.

First and foremost I guess, is Leonard's visit to the U.S. He arrives on Monday and will be here until mid-November. We have lots of meetings and presentations in CA, AZ and CO; hoping to spread the word about our work in Amboseli and gain new sponsors and donors to help us grow. Check out the matching gift program below that was made possible by a generous donor. It's a huge opportunity for us and any gift is appreciated!



Secondly, we invite you to attend a presentation at **The Church At Woodmoor (TCAW) in Monument, CO** on Sunday, October 19th. Leonard will be sharing his amazing life story, and we'll be available after the service to meet everyone and share in a yummy potluck! **TCAW support has been critical to our success and we truly appreciate all their effort in our behalf.**

Another new and exciting development I'm happy to announce is that ACF has been awarded a grant for the Google Ad Grants program. **This grant provides up to \$10,000 per month in free advertising to promote our organization on Google Search.** Obviously, advertising for ACF has really not been in our budget. So this grant is truly amazing and will help us raise awareness and attract new donors. It's been a year long project getting approved and we are thrilled to begin this program.

Finally, our ACF group tour is a go for 2026 with 15 people including Leonard and myself. We can no longer accept reservations as pricing has been locked in. **Participants, keep your eye out for a detailed itinerary in the next few weeks.** Our first meeting will be on Oct. 20 with available travelers via Google Meets. This is just to go over basic details and answer questions. Link to follow!

Last but not ever least, our children continue to thrive and we are so pleased with their progress. Charity was just admitted into Mt. Kenya University for their dental program. Faith will be taking her final exam this year and hopes to get into nursing. Over this past year the need for skilled educators to engage, encourage and mentor our youth has become crucial and we thrilled to report that Lenkai Christian School has agreed to allow their headmaster to plan and organize our future workshops. So many wondrous things are happening. I hope it does everyone's heart good to know that our small group is transforming lives. **THANK YOU; Your gifts really do make a difference!**

Shari Young

Co-Founder

AmboseliChildrensFund.org



August Gathering was a huge success!

Many thanks goes out to Lenkai Christian School, their headmaster and teachers and our very own Miss Nelly for organizing this outstanding event.

Over the course of three days, we brought in several groups of the children (divided by age) from their various villages around Amboseli.

ACF Scholarship Fund Campaign

Thanks to a generous donor, every dollar you give will be **matched until the end of this year!** Your support is the heart of our mission, and we are so excited for what we can accomplish this fall. Please give today - any amount helps.



ACF Scholarship Fund provides a new beginning for a young Maasai girl

They spent the day learning, laughing and sharing. We believe these gatherings encourage self confidence and foster a sense of belonging. Being a part of the ACF Family promotes their personal growth through learning and new perspectives.

Notice the red, green and white shirts? Again, another nice touch we can add due to the scholarship fund. The slogans on the back were:

***Choose Kindness,
I Am Brilliant,
Stay Positive.***

Every sponsor should have received photos, grades and updates on their student (via email) - but if for some reason you didn't receive this, please let us know!

Students reported that the cooking was their favorite activity and Leonard made sure that we provided fresh, healthy food from the market.



[Sponsor A Child](#)

Many times a child is brought to us who is facing difficult challenges at home. Parents are struggling to make ends meet and have little left over to pay school fees. This results in the child getting sent home from school.

Sometimes, early marriages come into play that would end a young girls chance at a future of her own.

The ACF Scholarship Fund enables us to address these situations; to be able to step in and put a child into our program before a sponsor is located.

It also helps pay many additional costs including workshops, educational field trips and student gatherings where we mentor each child in a one-on-one setting.

Currently we have about a dozen children waiting for sponsors. By investing in this fund you are ensuring that no child gets left behind in their educational journey.

Take action now; your gift will be doubled for twice the impact!

[ACF SCHOLARSHIP FUND](#)





AMBOSeli
Children's Fund

Sponsor Fall Challenge

Most of our sponsors and supporters at ACF have come to us by word-of-mouth. People are definitely more motivated to give and get involved based on positive feedback of someone they know.

For small nonprofits like ours, word-of-mouth is truly the most effective form of promotion. Unlike traditional advertising, which is often met with skepticism, a personal recommendation from a friend or family member carries so much more weight.

This coming fall season, Leonard and I will be doing our utmost to spread the word and bring others into the ACF family.

We ask each and every one of you reading this to join us in this effort. If every sponsor brought in another - think how many children's lives we can transform!

Or perhaps a gift to the Scholarship Fund which will be matched - doubling the impact.

Please speak to a family member, a neighbor, a long time friend about our efforts with these precious children in Kenya and ask them if they might be interested in supporting our work.

Throughout mid November, Leonard will be available for questions or concerns. I am always available.

949-350-3516
young.shari2005@gmail.com

Together our impact is so much greater! This is more than just sponsoring a child. It's a promise to help a child change their life.

[Visit our Website](#)



Our Women in University & Vocational Training

(from left to right)

**Rose Nampasa - KCA University,
Business & IT Technology**

**Dori Laiman - Amboseli Institute
Hospitality, Food & Beverage**

**Nelly Lasoi - University of Nairobi
Pharmacy**

**Charity Seyian - Mt. Kenya University
Dental & Oral Health**

**Cynthia LaShaine
Business & IT Technology**



Milton Saitah Graduates!

We are pleased to announce that our eldest male student has graduated from Strathmore University. Milton has a Bachelors degree in Business and Commerce and is still completing his CPA. Milton is the only child in his family to get past primary education. Thank you Richard Walser for your kind support over the last 12 years!



A new generation of Maasai warriors is born in Kenya

In the bracing morning cold of Kenya's Maasailand, 900 teenage boys clad in traditional Maasai shukas line up for a cup of hot milk

that will sustain them through the day.

In spite of the cold, they have been sleeping on the ground. They have gone hungry. And they haven't bathed in a month. It's all part of learning to be a Maasai warrior.

They have traveled from all over the Maasai ancestral lands in southern Kenya and northern Tanzania. All 900 were handpicked to take part in a Maasai warrior training camp, which only happens every 10 to 15 years. It teaches Maasai cultural values, leadership skills — and how to be tough.

Changing times

Traditionally, transitioning from child to warrior as a Maasai involved



taking part in a one-year warrior camp. Maasai youths would be secluded and learn survival skills, bushcraft — and, if the opportunity arose, how to kill a lion.

All that has changed. The boys now wield long sticks, not blades. No lions are killed. And warrior camp has been condensed down to one month, timed to coincide with school holidays.

Education takes precedence

One woman's son is taking part in this camp, and although she is just 35 years old, this ritual has already changed considerably in her lifetime.

"My husband dropped out of school for a whole year so that he could attend," she says. "But now, they are the leaders, and they know the importance of education. So these boys will undergo this rite of passage, but we still make sure that they go to school."

The role of women

One of the traditional responsibilities of a Maasai wife and mother is to help build the homes that make up this temporary settlement.

Having all 900 recruits come with their families would be logistically impossible, so each woman feels responsible for all of them.

"The children are brought here from across Kenya and Tanzania, so we are their mothers. They can enter any house. They can all eat. There is no difference between my son, whose mother is here, and the one whose mother is not here."

Shrinking lands

This new generation of Maasai leaders faces unique challenges. Kenya's 1.2 million Maasai people are profoundly affected both by climate change and the shrinking of the grazing land available to them, both because of urbanization and agricultural expansion.

"These children will be change-makers," says a cultural chief who traveled here from Tanzania. "That's the message that we want to send to them. They are the ones facing these challenges, and we want them to know that they are not alone."



Last year over the holidays, our ACF group raised enough funds to provide solar light kits for each of our families. I still hear words of appreciation from our students as they say it was life changing. Meals are now cooked outside; no more open flame and smoke to breathe in the home. Flash lights, phones and lap tops for our students can all be charged.

Many of you have asked me to show photos of the kit. So Rose sent these with her continued gratitude. Rose lives in a home made of corrugated metal (not the traditional mud hut) but here you can see the solar panel, light and charging box.



Thanks
FOR YOUR SUPPORT



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