



We just hugged your sponsored kids... updates from the **ACF Cheetah Express**



Our first ever ACF Tour Group meets their students!

Did we have a few bumps on the road? YES, quite literally, it's called the "African massage". The wildlife sightings were amazing, but honestly the highlight was definitely spending time with the kids. Watching their faces light up with joy when they jumped in the pool, or building helicopters and wood tool boxes and learning about batteries and electricity. Our sponsors were nothing short of amazing. All rolled their sleeves up, delved right into the workshops and made learning interesting and engaging for the kids. Even those extremely shy ones - even those that don't speak English all that well - every single one of these lucky children will remember this time spent with their sponsor. It will be the talk of their community for years to come!





An Update on Our Kenya Program - and Important News About our Future!

To our ACF friends and family;

Exciting and significant changes are coming to ACF, especially with our team on the ground in Kenya.



Workshops, workshops and more!

After our tour group departed for Tanzania, our board member Sam Bridle stayed in Amboseli with me to work with three more groups of our students: primary, junior secondary and secondary. Our new employees Narasha and Enock were

After careful reflection and discussion, ACF and Leonard Mpaayo have decided to part ways. We are deeply grateful for the time and effort he dedicated to our program, and we know he will be successful in his future ventures.

This wasn't a quick decision - it followed real strategic planning and a hard look at what our sponsored children and families need going forward. We're grateful for what was built; but now we must position ourselves to serve our students even better.

Along with the addition of staff in Kenya, I too, will be searching for an intern to work with me in the U.S. We have many great programs on the horizon, but as with all non-profits, we need to secure funding. Having these individuals onboard will enable me to focus on applying for grants, finding corporate sponsors and adding additional children to the ACF family.

Going forward, we'll be expanding our collaborations with **Ngong Road Children's Foundation (NRCF)** and **Lenkai Christian School**. We feel fortunate to have obtained a commitment from each of them to help us grow our program and add complete holistic child services.

NRCF, being positioned in Nairobi with a full staff of qualified workers will be overseeing our university students who are also in Nairobi. This includes monitoring their attendance, grades and activities as well as providing mentoring and counseling when needed. These services have been needed for such a long time and we are thrilled to have their assistance.

In addition, Lenkai Christian will become one of our "focus" schools meaning that we have direct input into their curriculum, their computer lab program (to be developed) and hands on access to all of our students. This is priceless!

Our new *Program Manager* Narasha and *Case Manager* Enock have already met most of our children and over the next few weeks will be visiting the parents and the schools. We are truly working to build lasting relationships and a solid network for change.

None of this alters our commitment to your sponsored child. ***I have grades, letters and LOTS of photos to share from this trip. Please allow me a bit of time to sort through it all, but never fear - an update will be coming shortly!***

As the dozens of pictures on this email show, I just had the privilege of leading our first-ever

there to assist, along with Allard (Mudavadi) a pastor and the headmaster at Lenkai School.

Hopefully the smiles in the photo above tells the story. All the children were eager to learn and participate. We had programs in carpentry, electricity, STEM projects, college planning, personality tests (what a big hit those were!) team sports and even shared the age old tradition of roasting marshmallows over an open fire. The kids were enchanted!

Each time I visit Kenya and see our students again I'm amazed at their development. Their English is better, their ability to interact and communicate improves. It's easy to spot the new ones; eyes downcast, shy, afraid to talk. These workshops and gatherings help us to come together as "family" and we watch these children blossom and become confident youth.

*For those of you that have given to the **ACF Scholarship Fund** - please accept our appreciation for helping us make these gatherings possible.*



sponsor trip to Kenya. It was a powerful reminder of why we do this work, and it's part of what informed these decisions - we saw firsthand what strong, transparent partnership looks like, and we're committed to that standard everywhere we work.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly.

With gratitude for being a part of our story,

Shari Young

Co-Founder

AmboseliChildrensFund.org



How you can help





It's all in the details...ACF and Lenkai Christian School

Bishop John Parit Ole Singa'ru

Faith Leader, Community Leader and Education Champion

John Parit is a respected faith and community leader committed to transforming the lives of children, families and vulnerable communities in Kenya. Through his leadership and commitment to education, he has supported the development of Lenkai Christian School in Kimana, Kajiado County, as an institution focused on quality, values based and holistic education.

His vision is to provide children with a safe and supportive environment where they can learn, develop their talents, build confidence and acquire the knowledge and skills needed to become responsible leaders. He brings strong community leadership, local networks, faith based values and an understanding of the educational and social challenges affecting children and families.





Dorcus Parit HSC

Founder and Director, Hope Beyond | Child Protection and Women's Rights Advocate

Dorcus Parit HSC is a Kenyan community leader, child protection champion and women's rights advocate, and the Founder and Director of Hope Beyond. Her work focuses on protecting vulnerable children, empowering women and girls, and addressing harmful practices including Female Genital Mutilation, child marriage and gender based violence.

Through Hope Beyond, Dorcus has worked with communities, schools, government institutions, traditional leaders, civil society organizations and development partners to promote the rights, safety, dignity and wellbeing of children and vulnerable families. She brings experience in advocacy, community mobilization, safeguarding, partnership development and program implementation.

Shared Vision for the ACF Partnership

Bishop John Parit Ole Singa'ru and Dorcus Parit HSC bring complementary leadership, community knowledge, education and child protection experience to the proposed partnership between ACF and Lenkai Christian School.

- Quality and inclusive education
- Child protection and safeguarding
- Girls' education and empowerment
- Prevention of FGM and child marriage
- Trauma informed support for vulnerable children
 - Digital literacy, technology and innovation
- Leadership, life skills, sports and talent development
 - Teacher and school capacity strengthening
 - Community engagement and family support
- Sustainable development and environmental awareness

Commitment to Partnership

The leadership of Lenkai Christian School and Hope Beyond is committed to transparency, accountability, safeguarding, responsible stewardship of resources and meaningful collaboration with ACF and other partners. The best interests of children will remain at the center of all partnership activities.

“Every child deserves a safe place to learn, the opportunity to dream, and the support to build a better future.”



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