November issue of....

the ACF Cheetah Express



It's graduation day! Celebrations were held for children in grades that will be transitioning to a higher level.



Final examinations are on-going now through the end of November. The results will determine the students CBC (Competency-Based Curriculum) pathways which are: STEM, Social Sciences, or Arts and Sports Science



Holiday Campaign Kick-Off

ACF Computer Lab

The holidays are a season of giving. A time for us to reflect on all that we have to be thankful for. As we gather with the people we love and count our blessings, I hope you'll consider giving the gift of learning.

Kenya has become one of the most exciting technology centers in all of Africa, and the jobs our kids will be applying for in a few short years will expect them to know their way around a keyboard, a spreadsheet, and the internet. In the cities, children grow up with that. In rural Kenya, most don't.

ACF Friends & Family: Hamjambo? (*Hello, how are you all?*)

When I sit down to write this newsletter, I always want to tell you everything: the workshops, our first tour group, the new partnerships, the students who just finished another term.
This year has been full, and you've heard a lot of it already. So this time I want to tell you a story, share some news that I think changes everything for us, and then ask for your assistance.

The story
One of our longtime sponsors recently decided to take on two more children. When he got their information, something didn't add up. Both kids were in the same grade, but one was three years older than the other. He called me to ask whether we'd made a mistake, and to be honest, I didn't understand it either.
So I sent a message to our staff in Kenya. They told me this is very common. Many children start school a year or two late. Then, when their parents can't pay the fees, the children are sent home, sometimes for weeks or months at a time. When they come back, they've fallen behind and can't catch up. *That's how you end up with an 11-year-old and an 8-year-old sitting side by side in third grade.*
I've been doing this work for many years, and I still learn something new all the time about how hard these kids have it. They aren't behind because they aren't capable. They're behind because life keeps pulling them out of the classroom.

What's changed
For most of ACF's history, our contact with the children was limited. We saw them during school breaks, which are just three times a year, and we couldn't give you the kind of detail about their family lives that we wanted. That's changing now.
Linet and Enock are now our full time staff and they will oversee and monitor our students all year round, not just a few weeks out of the year. They will have access to the school campuses, and work one-on-one with the directors. They're getting to know the teachers and building relationships with the parents. They can see when a child is struggling and step in before that child falls through the cracks.

Much of their work will happen at home.
Most of our parents never had the chance to go to school themselves, and they don't always know how to support a child who is studying. When our kids come home on a break, they're often sent straight out to herd

We want to change that for our kids. This holiday season, Amboseli Children's Fund is building a computer lab where our students can learn real, practical skills. Typing, research, writing, problem-solving, and the basics of technology that will open doors to good jobs and further education.

Our current estimate for cost will be around $500 USD for each laptop (a tad bit more than our usual "goat for the holidays" campaign, but well worth the investment). A classroom would be 20 computers, and yes, this is a lofty goal. Please know, **any amount helps** and together, we believe we can make this happen!

Give a computer today



We're going to have our own ACF computer lab!

A child in Kimana is ready to learn. All they need is you!

When you donate to the ACF computer lab, you're not just giving equipment. You're giving a girl the confidence to apply for that job in Nairobi. You're giving a boy the skills to start a business of his own. You're telling a whole community that their children belong in Kenya's future.

Thank you for believing in them with us.



Holiday Computer Campaign

the cows or do chores. Homework rarely comes up. Linet and Enock will be working with these families to show them how important their participation is, so education becomes something the whole household supports.

In many ways, these two Case Managers are becoming a second set of parents to our students, cheering them on and connecting home and school. After 13 years, it's the biggest step forward we've ever taken. It also means you'll hear much more about your student's life than you ever have before.

Why I'm asking for your help

Right now there are about ten children on our waiting list, and many more families hoping their child will be next. We can't add children unless we add sponsors, and the best people to find new sponsors aren't me or our board. **They're you.**

You know ACF isn't a catalog where you pick a photo and get a letter twice a year. You aren't paying to a general fund. **Your sponsorship fee is used solely for the benefit of the child you sponsor - and goes not only to their school fees, but also includes mentoring, spiritual growth along with educational fieldtrips and workshops.**

You also know we aren't here giving something for the moment. We're working toward a change that reaches future generations. Our graduates will ensure their own children are educated; girls will not undergo FGM or be married early, boys will appreciate and value the women in their family. That's the kind of change we are already witnessing!

People can only really understand that when they hear it from someone who has been in our program and understand our mission.

So I'm asking you to be an advocate for these kids. Here are a few ways:

- Tell your story. When someone asks what you've been up to, tell them about your student.
- Pass this newsletter along to a friend, your church, your book club, or anyone you think would care.
- Invite someone to sponsor. A personal invitation means far more than anything we could send.
- Host a small gathering. Coffee or dinner with a few friends. I'm happy to join by phone or video.
- Share our holiday computer lab campaign with people who might want to help.

Most of you came to ACF because someone told you about us. Somebody shared a story, and you said yes. One of those children on our waiting list is hoping someone will do the same for them.

Their photo's and names are listed below. Help us add a few more.

Wishing you many blessings this Holiday Season,

Shari Young
Amboseli Children's Fund
949-350-3516

New Focus School

Reto Education Centre

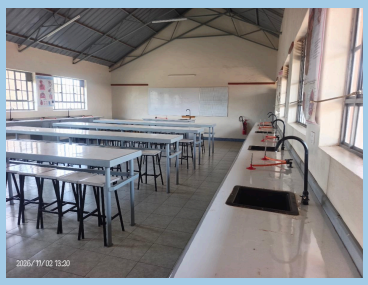


We are pleased to announce that we have identified another primary/Jr. secondary school in the Kimana area that meets ACF requirements and will be partnering with us in 2027.

Reto Education Centre is a Christian-based private boarding school located in Kimana. "Reto" is the Maasai word for mutual assistance.

Daniel Ole K'idiri and his wife, ***Prisca Kidiri***, started this school with the desire to provide Maasai children in Amboseli a safe and disciplined learning environment with complete holistic care.

Stay tuned for more updates about this exciting development!











How has ACF changed this past year and what to expect going forward...

We have much to celebrate this holiday season with our new partnerships, focus schools and Kenya support staff. Not to mention all of our Sponsors and Donors who make this work possible.

Yes, we have gone through a bit of a transition - but the future looks bright! We have added new board members and sponsors, consolidated the number of schools we work with, and the big one - ACF is now providing case management for each one of the children in our program. This is a big deal! And will be so beneficial for the long term success of our students. It's truly so much more than paying school fees - we are giving these children the tools needed to transform their lives.

Starting next year, a minimum of one field trip will be provided, to expose our students to different environments and widen their knowledge of various trades and career paths. with hands on workshops and projects.

We are even looking at a chess program, music and robotics. The opportunities are there and we are excited to now have the staff to pursue them!













Visit our new website!

HOLIDAY GATHERING NEWS

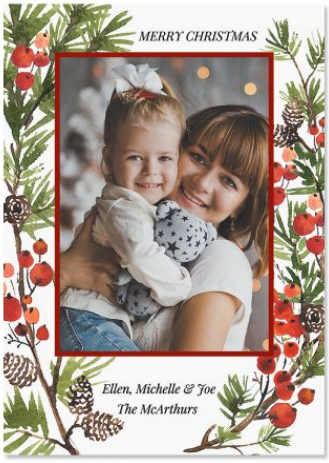
Final exams are still going on for several grades, but most of the students have been sent home for the winter break.

Daniel, the Director of Reto School, has a sister property next door which is a small hotel. He has graciously offered us the use of this space and the grounds to host our Holiday gathering in December, while the schools are closed.

Because most of our children are transitioning to new schools, they must sit for an "interview" which consists of an exam followed by a discussion with a head teacher to determine their strengths and weaknesses going forward.

We are going to combine this with the Holiday festivities and ask the parents to join us for a traditional Maasai feast. (Goat, Chapati, Ugali, Greens, Potato.)

All children will write their sponsors and we will have lots of photo's to share. It will be a grand celebration of gratitude and thanks!



We are asking sponsors if they can send a Christmas Card to their child and write a note of encouragement for 2027.

This small gesture will mean so much to your student(s) - THANK YOU for making their holiday special!

Cards must be received by Friday, Dec 11. Mail to:

Amboseli Children's Fund
81766 Camino Los Milagros
Indio, CA 92203

Yes, we have several children who need sponsors!

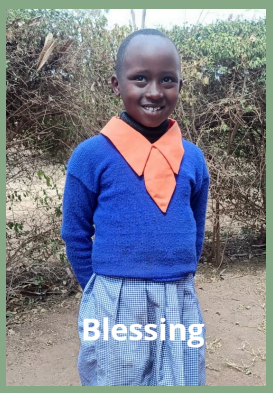
Sadly, Josephine has just lost her sponsor. The rest are all children living in extreme need. Most are in single parent households and are sent home frequently for lack of school fees. Yet all have been identified by their head teachers as bright children with much potential - if only given the chance.

For more info on each child go to:
AmboseliChildrensFund.org

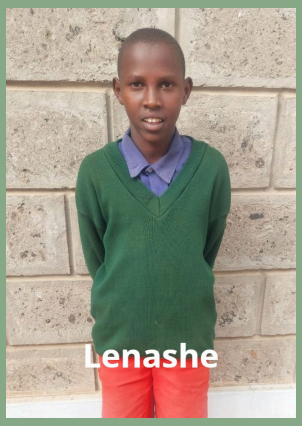
We need your help in finding sponsors. YOU are our best advocates!

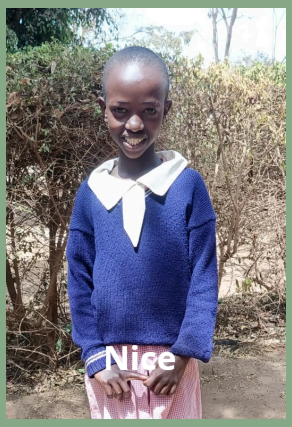
Please share this email with friends & family; together we can transform lives.

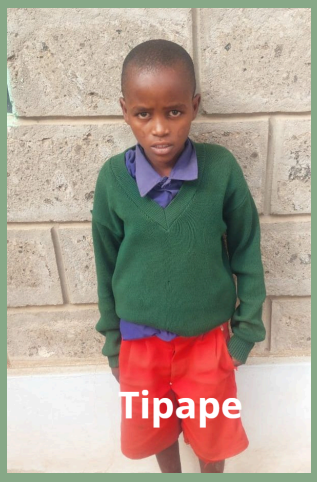
Become a sponsor today

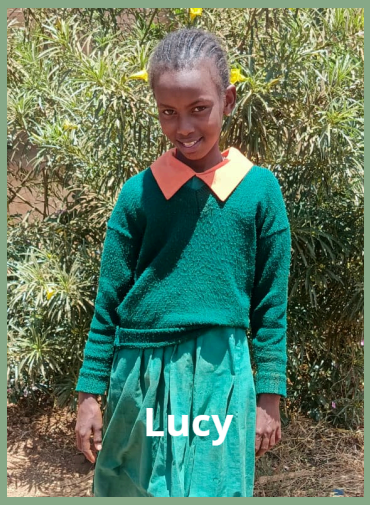


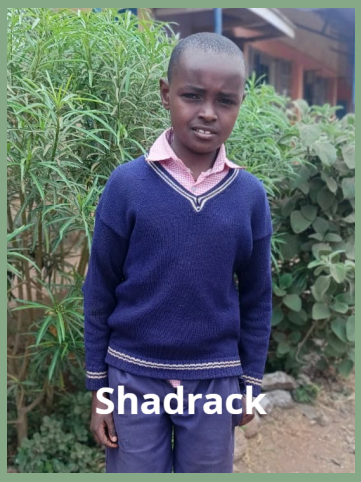


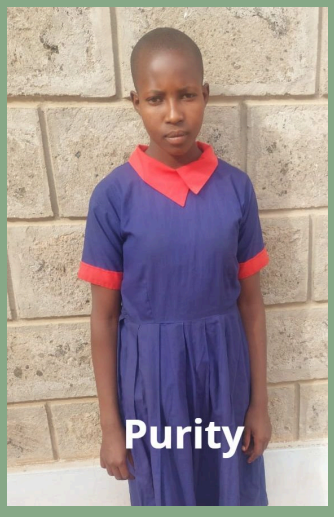
















Our Heartfelt Gratitude

Every time I'm in Kenya, someone asks me about our sponsors in America who care about their children. They don't know your names, but they know you're there. You're the reason a girl stays in school instead of getting

AMBOSELI
Children's Fund

married at fourteen, and the reason a boy who once spent his days with the cattle is now a graduate with a job. None of this happens without you.

Thank you for believing in these kids, sometimes before they believe in themselves. We can't wait to show you what comes next.

Transforming lives, one child at a time

ACF Sponsorship Fund

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