



SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER

WWW.KENYAMATTERS.ORG

REFLECTION FROM OUR MAY VISIT

BY HEIDI SWIERINGA, CO-CHAIR



Since my trip in 2014, there are many things I noticed. Kids I met back then are much taller. They exude quiet leadership and responsibility. Their eyes are bright with hope and self confidence. They have a realistic shot at being self-sufficient and have opportunities they would never have dreamed of before they entered the children's home.

The staff are committed and passionate people, encouraging the kids each day. It is clear the powerful impact of consistent investment in kids' care, education, and how a family environment disrupts generational poverty and builds remarkable character.



These thriving kids are able to use and demonstrate the skills, gifts, and passions they were blessed with. Thank you for your partnership in this small organization. Know that your support, at any level, is dramatically lifting kids to their potential.



BOARDS MEET TOGETHER

In our 18+ years of working with our partner in Kenya, we have never had so many members of both boards physically present together. Three from our Kenya Matters board met with the executive team of the CRCA for a lengthy meeting and meal. We discussed vision for the future and celebrated both past and current efforts, helping this community and the children entrusted to our care live into their hopes and dreams.



FIELD TRIP DAY

BY RANDY BUIST, PRESIDENT

One of our customs, when we visit our friends in Kenya, is to take the children on a field trip. This idea began to develop in 2008, when Elijah, our Kenyan friend and visionary for the children's home, suggested that we begin to show the children parts of their country that they did not normally see. By doing so, they would develop a greater appreciation for their country and increase their horizons in the process.

On this trip, with the suggestion of our Kenyan staff, we visited Nairobi National Park. The park is an expansive area. On the second day of our trip in May, we took our first-ever visit to this park. It is a drive-thru park, where visitors can exit their vehicles only in specified areas.

Some Kenyans talk about having never seen many animals during their visit(s) here. Yet, our day proved to be a combination of quiet prairies, torrid rainfalls, and countless animals that did not disappoint. Keeping the children quiet, not to scare the animals, was quite the challenge — and filled them with joy!

