



2022 GIFT CATALOG

WWW.KENYAMATTERS.ORG

LETTER FROM DORCAS

Children's Home Co-founder

Dear Kenya Matters Family,

Over the last 18 months, we have seen the world change drastically from the challenges brought on by COVID-19. As nearly all normal ways of living came to a halt, we faced our own challenges, especially when the lockdowns happened and schools were shut down. We made the decision at the onset of the pandemic to have the children stay at the home rather than go to their respective relatives, and that was a task we could not have managed all on our own.

We are so grateful for the support of Kenya Matters during this crucial time as we were able to keep the children fed, active, and most importantly safe from COVID 19. Even through all the challenges we faced, we are so grateful that two of our students, Esther and Lilian, performed so well on their final high school exams that they were admitted to University. We also have Rebecca who started her second year at University. This gives us hope that these children are creating a better future for their lives and their families. We are also deeply grateful for our committed staff who stayed throughout the year and joyfully took care of the children, even though this meant they were unable to visit their families.

One of our highlights for this year was a Thanksgiving celebration held in May when all the children who have come through the CRCA returned. There were a lot of great memories, stories told, and tears shed as they expressed their gratitude for how CRCA had made a difference in their lives. We were so grateful to be reunited with many of these children who are now adults, some with families, and striving to live their lives well.

We are also so grateful that we were able to build a house for a family member of one of the children, Michelle. Through it all, we give thanks to God for all the ways we have been provided and taken care of.

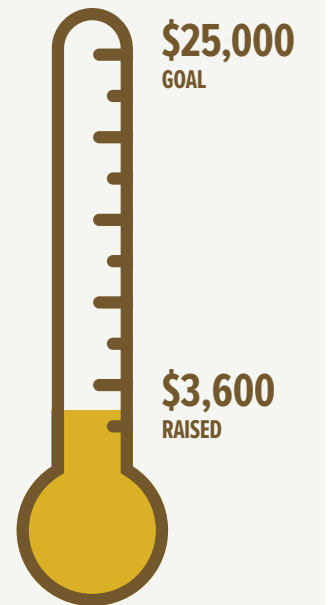
As life slowly opens up again, we continue our commitment to provide a safe place for vulnerable children and support their families. For everyone who has contributed, whether financially or through prayer, we are deeply grateful and indebted to your generosity. May God richly bless you in all that you do.

With Gratitude,

Dorcas Wachira

Dorcas Wachira
Co-Founder, CRCA

BUY THE VAN FOR THE FAM!



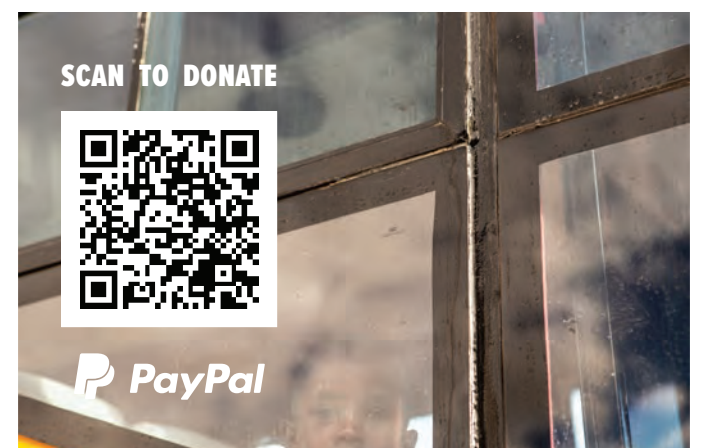
We need a van FOR OUR KENYA MATTERS FAMILY!

In 2007, we raised funds to purchase a used car for transportation, and it has served us well for the past fourteen years. We now need a vehicle to get the children to school! In 2007, they were walking to the local school that was severely underfunded. Since the children have been improving their studies, they now attend a school in the nearby town of Naivasha. Some of our children, now young adults, are also studying at universities.

Our Kenyan staff has identified a gently-used passenger van that is well-equipped to get the children to and from school each school day. The cost for the van, including inspections, and permits, will be approximately \$25,000.

Our U.S. board discussed this project at length. We, as your board and Kenyan staff, believe that a purchase of a van is a wise decision at this time. Now, we need you to help make this a reality. Let's make this happen sooner rather than later.

You can scan the QR code, donate at kenyamatters.org, or use the envelope with this holiday catalog.



HIGH SCHOOL GRADS GO TO UNIVERSITY

After graduating high school, our graduates often find work in the community or move elsewhere to continue their lives beyond school. Some will attend a technical school, and others may attend college (two year degree) or university (four year degree).

We currently have five students attending universities. They include Peter Njuguna, Caroline Nyokobi, Lilian Wanjiku, Esther Wanjiru, and Rebecca Wanjiku. In addition, Mercy Ngina and Deborah Wairimu are attending two year college programs.



Caroline



Lilian



Esther



Rebecca

HOUSE BUILD FOR COMMUNITY FAMILY

In late 2020, our Kenyan leadership identified a family in the community who desperately needed a new house. The generosity of the Kenya Matters family was overwhelming. In the early stages, our growing children helped dig the foundation in preparation for the build. With COVID, the project temporarily stalled. Finally, the house was dedicated, which is an African custom, and the keys were handed over to the family late this summer!



Breaking Ground!



Kids dig the foundation



Ribbon Cutting



Brick mason at work

REPAINTING THE FACILITY

With the regular dust and rains of Kenya, the children's home often begins to appear worn. Per government regulations, it was requested that the entire facility receive a new coat of paint both inside and out. This was no small undertaking, but the place is again shining bright!



Dining Hall



Dorm Rooms



Entrance Sign



Kitchen

GRADUATES COME BACK TO CELEBRATE & extend thanks to Dorcas & CRCA staff

Early in 2021, graduates of the CRCA began communicating among one another to create a celebratory event to show their gratitude for the staff of the children's home who had helped them move through childhood and into adulthood.

Funds were collected among these young adults to help pay for the rental of a tent and plentiful amounts of food. With much planning, and in the safety of the open air, an incredible event took place in early May!

If you did not read the letter from Dorcas on page two, please return to that page and read of her own gratitude.



Graduates



Dorcas being thanked

CONGRATULATIONS ON COMPLETING TWO OF LAST YEARS GOALS!

SOLAR WATER HEATER



The solar water heater, when installed, will decrease our cost and usage of firewood. On sunny days, it is capable of heating water in its 300 gallon tank to more than 90 degrees Fahrenheit. The hot water will be used for cleaning and showers for the children. The project was fully funded during 2021. Thanks to all of those who made this possible. Stories of the installation will be shared once the installation is complete.

RAINWATER COLLECTION



We will install gutters on our dining hall and kitchen building to decrease our electricity usage. This will include a piping system and an additional storage tank for the captured water. Our well is an incredible source of water. Yet, it draws water from more than 800 feet below the ground. Because the water is so deep in the ground, it takes a great deal of electricity to get the water above the ground. Rainwater collection is still far less expensive than the well water, and we want to capture this inexpensive water for use.

2022 GOALS

VAN FOR THE FAM



Much of what we want to say about the van is on page 3. However, we really want to emphasize that we need your help to make ‘The Van For The Fam’ a reality in 2022! Let’s get our kids to school and then back home again in a timely manner in 2022. **This project is up to you to make happen!**

MICRO-LOAN PROGRAM



Our micro-loan program is meant for our children after they graduate from high school. Some of them will attend higher education institutions, and others will need to purchase tools or get loans to begin their own businesses. Our microloan program will help these young adults have the ability to receive a low-interest loan to get them moving in a good direction with their finances.

Text
“KENYAMATTERS”
to phone number
56651 to donate
over text.

DAILY NEEDS

As a volunteer-led organization located in the U.S., with supporters around the globe, Kenya Matters makes a significant impact in the lives of the children and families with whom we are involved. We provide at-risk children with support that continues beyond high school. Because the children’s home becomes the primary family for many of the children, we follow the example of many healthy families by continuing to support them as necessary and staying connected after graduating.

YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT KIDS’ MONTHLY EXPENSES!	
\$100	Living Expenses 1 student, 1 month
\$12	Mosquito Net
\$25	Bed Sheet and Blanket
\$120	Eye Dr. Appointment includes transportation

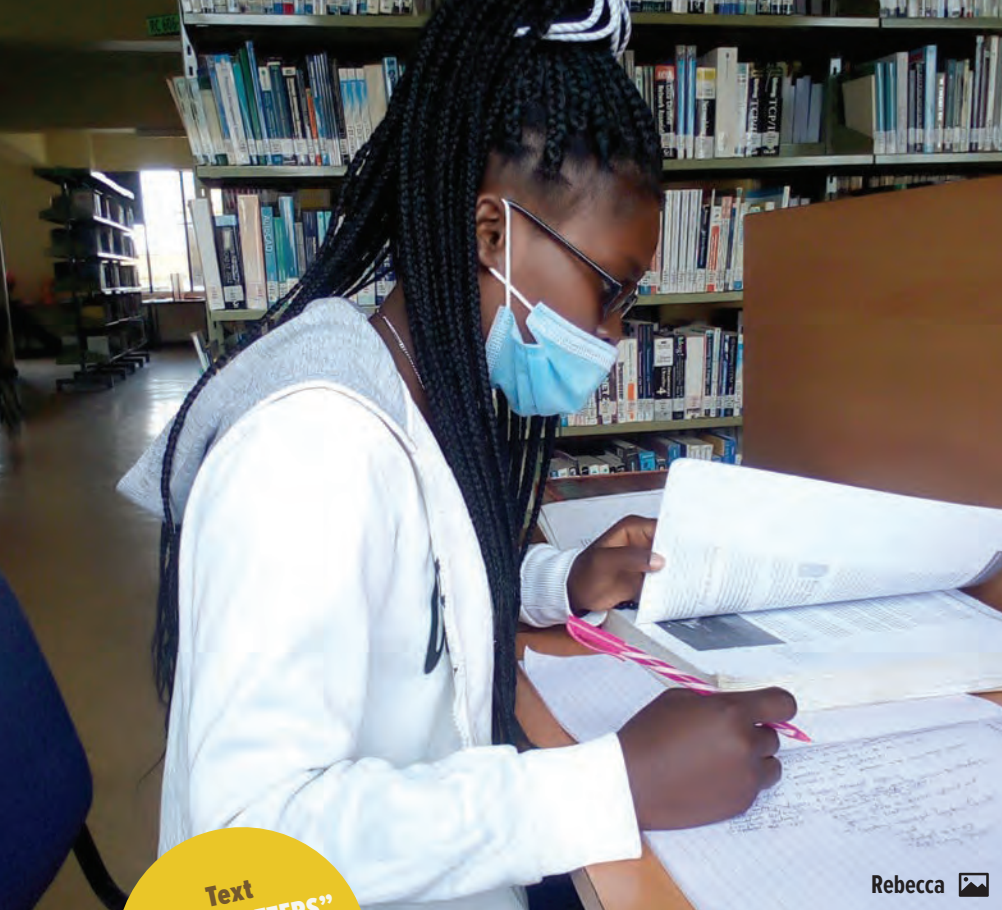


Sign up to become a monthly supporter (any amount) and receive a free Kenya Matters t-shirt shipped to your home!

YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT KIDS’ MONTHLY EXPENSES!

Our children cannot rely on parents or relatives for any portion of their daily living expenses. Thus, Kenya Matters works to provide the full amount of their care, averaging \$100 monthly per child.





Rebecca

Jane

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to phone number
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over text.

Empower Change THROUGH EDUCATION

Our children, your children, deserve the best we can provide, and they are inspired to tackle their studies with enthusiasm and discipline.

Your generous donation to our Education Fund is a strategic investment in the lives of future leaders. Education provides the tools for success. The benefits begin with one individual child and then ripple out into the community. Kenya Matters is dedicated to helping our children thrive!

HOW YOUR SUPPORT CAN HELP EDUCATE

\$65/Trimester	Elementary School 1 student, 3 trimesters
\$94/Trimester	Day School 1 student, 3 trimesters
\$35	Uniforms Mandatory to attend school
\$21	Shoes Mandatory to attend school
\$15	Backpack



WELL AND WATER PROJECT *Celebrating 10 years of clean water!*

In rural Kenya, many people live without a nearby water source. Ten years ago, October 2011, after a number of previous drilling attempts, our well hit an abundance of water more than 800 feet below ground.

Since 2011, our children have been able to access clean water for drinking, bathing, cleaning, and growing vegetables in the garden. Our local community, which includes a nearby farm, school, and affordable rental units, has been able to purchase water for their daily needs, most often transported by donkey carts and blue plastic water barrels.

The constant supply of clean water from the CRCA well has transformed the lives of our children along with those of the surrounding community. In recent years, a Kenyan donor funded a pipeline to provide water for 600 + children who attend a public school down the road. Additionally, a neighboring orchard and vegetable farmer had a pipeline installed as backup for the times when the rains fail to arrive.

HOW YOU CAN HELP SUPPLY CLEAN WATER TO KARAI

\$30/Month	Water Filters Keeps the water clean
\$75/Month	Electricity Keeps the pump running



How water was collected before the well



Celebrating the arrival of water!

A recipient of the sheep program



SHEEP PROGRAM

The simple gift of five sheep can help raise an entire family out of abject poverty. This is our longest running program, beginning even before the children started to arrive at the safehouse in 2008. These animals, donated through the sheep co-op, provide income in the form of milk, meat, and lambs. The recipients of these sheep are relatives of the children living at the safehouse. This is yet another way your gift strengthens the larger community surrounding the CRCA.

In a very unique way, this gift keeps giving. The first and second born lambs born from the five donated sheep are returned back to the program so that others can benefit. Thus, the cycle of generosity continues.

HOW YOU CAN HELP CREATE SUSTAINABILITY

\$300	5 Sheep
\$60	1 Sheep

MEET THE CHILDREN

These are the children who are currently living at the CRCA safehouse. This is where they live, are loved, learn about life, and are taught about the goodness of Jesus.

In addition to these children, we have a handful of students attending colleges and universities. Due to COVID, and out of an abundance of caution, the staff has chosen not to accept new children this past year. As the Kenyan population gets vaccinated, they hope to again welcome new children in 2022.

Please take time to look at the pictures of these amazing young people. They love sharing their pictures with those who are helping make their hopes and dreams become reality!

Snapshot of the Children

(Nov est, 2021)

Primary School
20 children

Secondary School
5 Students

College & University
7 Young Adults

68 Children have lived at the CRCA safehouse since Jan, 2008



Mary Wambui
Grade 2



Miriam Wangari
Grade 2



Eric Kuria
Grade 3



Nancy Wanjiku
Grade 3



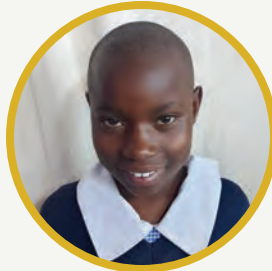
Mary Nyakio
Grade 3



Patrick Mwangi
Grade 4



Joseph Njenga
Grade 4



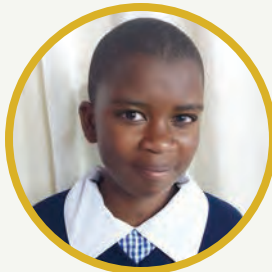
Faith Katap
Grade 4



Jeremy Wachira
Grade 4 (Milka's Son)



Pauline Wanjiku
Grade 5



Anne Wangui
Grade 6



Mitchell Wanjiku
Grade 6



Brian Kimani
Grade 6



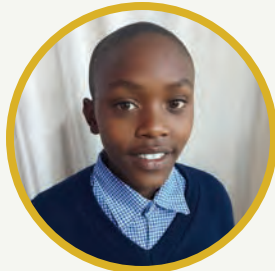
Mary Nduta
Grade 7



Eric Kokolan
Grade 7



Geoffrey Mbugua
Grade 7



Evans Muthui
Grade 7



Peter Ngemya
Grade 8



Dorcas Aleman
Grade 8



Ezekiel Macharia
Grade 8



Lewis Kiarie
Form 1 (Freshman)



Joseph Lomar
Form 1 (Freshman)



Joyce Wangui
Form 2 (Sophomore)



David Ngigi
Form 2 (Sophomore)



Isaac Kimani
Form 4 (Senior)



Deborah Wairimu
College



Mercy Ngina
College



Esther Wanjiru
University



Rebecca Wanjiku
University



Caroline Nyokobi
University



Lilian Wanjiku
University



Peter Njuguna
University

STORIES OF OUR CRCA GRADUATES

Let us indulge you in a story of three lives that have been transformed, and continue to be transformed, because you chose to join the Kenya Matters family.

SCAN TO DONATE



Teresea, Joseph and their younger brother



December, 2008: On a field trip to several of the local impoverished families in the Karai community, Teresea, on the left, and Joseph on the right, along with their little brother who carries HIV. The older two had recently joined the children's home. Their little brother remained with aging grandparents because protocols for dealing with HIV were not readily understood.

During her nearly ten years at the CRCA, Teresea became one of the most outstanding students of the CRCA. She is brilliant, kind, and compassionate. Today her family is thriving, and she is enjoying being a mom and spouse!



Teresea pictured with her husband Mwangi Irungu and son Francis Mwangi



Joseph Muchiri

Joseph Muchiri, sister to Teresea, graduated high school in the fall of 2020. During his years as a high school student, he began to quietly assert himself as one of the leading voices among the children at the CRCA. His influence of hard work, kindness, and compassion, like his older sister, became a significant force among all of the children.

Unlike Teresea, high marks in school were not his strength, and he had little interest in attending university. Shortly after graduation, our Kenyan leadership created a space for him to join the staff. He is primarily tasked with being a mentor to the boys at the home. With more than a year in his position, our leadership is elated with his continued influence on the children.

Joseph Muchiri and Edwin Ledama are seen eating pizza nearly a decade ago



Edwin's passion has always been artistry. While at the CRCA, he loved to hold impromptu comedy gatherings for the children and visitors. He was so creative with words and props that visitors imagined him taking the stage on a late-night comedy television show.

Edwin works with his hands to create a world filled with more goodness. He has a studio where he creates wood sculptures, amazing wooden picture frames, and paintings. He has even been commissioned to paint several outdoor murals. Over the next year, you will have the opportunity to learn more about his good work.

As for the little brother of Teresea and Joseph, a number of years ago, our Kenyan leadership worked with their grandfather to have him moved to a home where he receives love, care, and the necessary daily HIV medications to keep the virus in check. We still recall the day when his move took place and Teresea expressed her heartfelt gratitude.

We have more stories to share, and you are the reason that these children have such incredible stories to share!



Edwin Ledama seen painting in his studio on 10-31-2021

PETER & EUNICE

our house parents

“CRCA is the place to be. I thought it would be a one day visit when I came to visit years ago, but the welcome was awesome. My visits became frequent; I started working with the kids. It became a home for me. By and by, my wife and daughter joined. Now our son, David, has joined us. We are just in love with this place. We feel that this is where we are called to serve. The children have become a family to us!” — Peter Kinyanjui



David Kinyanjui
born October 4, 2021

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MONICA NJOKI

CRCA girls mentor

Monica grew up at the children’s home (CRCA). The following are her unsolicited words with minimal edits for reading purposes.

I have been at the safe house well over 10 years now, and I’m now serving on staff. What a celebration in my heart!

This is not just like any other job. For me, it is special because when I came to CRCA, I was barely ten. My mother was very sick. They said she had a few months to live. I had no hope for even the next meal, school, basic needs, BUT Kenya Matters changed my story.

I went to school, had 3 meals every day, and got love and comfort. Today, as I work, I do it from my heart as I give back. Were it not for the support I got, I’d probably be in the “same shoes” as my age mates in the village. (3-4 kids, married off, or living a hopeless life...) I thank God for this chance to serve my safe house siblings and thank all Kenya Matters partners for your giving. Hear it from the horse’s mouth... ”We are” because of your support!



MEET OUR BOARD & KENYAN STAFF

Kenya Matters partners with the CRCA (Community Recovery Centre Africa) to meet the needs of Kenyan children and families in the Karai community. Our board members bring career expertise and a passion for helping children and families thrive. Some have lived or currently live in Kenya, and others bring the experience of having served on other non-profit boards.

Our Kenyan staff works tirelessly to meet the needs of our children in order to grow them into thriving Kenyan citizens. The CRCA staff is empowered to make all decisions regarding the children’s’ diet, education,

spiritual needs, and health care. Additionally, our Kenyan co-founder, Dorcas Wachira, and our Kenyan director, Milka Gitau Mugogo, determine the appropriate staffing needs to meet the needs of the children.

Our board and the CRCA staff intersect to determine priorities for the funds raised, including general expenses, educational opportunities, and facility projects. The primary focus of the Kenya Matters board and our staff is to provide a safe, loving, and thriving environment for the children at the safehouse and to encourage them after they have graduated from high school and have made their lives into the larger world.

KENYA MATTERS BOARD



Randal Buist
Board President



Heidi Swieringa
Board Chair



Jerry VandenBosch
Board Treasurer



Jorhie Beadle
Board Member



Levi Molenje
Board Member



Brian Workman
Board Member



Kurt Wilson
Board Member



Stephan Lutz
Board Member



Moses Githaibi
Board Member

CRCA STAFF



Dorcas Wachira
Co-founder



Milka Gitau Mugogo
Director



John Wachira
Overseer



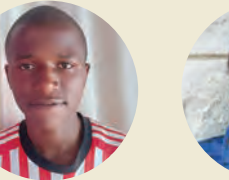
Peter Kinyanjui
House Parent



Eunice Muhoro
House Parent



Naomi Mburu
Caregiver



Joseph Machiri
Boys Mentor



Monica Njoki
Girls Mentor



Judy Wambui
Cook



John Kiru
Security/Handyman



Joseph Katap
Security/Handyman



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P.O. Box 23, Hudsonville, MI 49426



Pastor Elija Wachira & Dorcas Wachira,
founders of the children's home (CRCA)