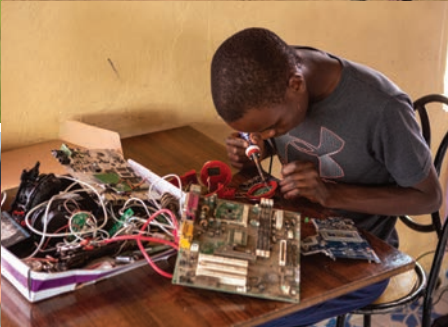




CELEBRATING
20 YEARS

2025 GIFT CATALOG

WWW.KENYAMATTERS.ORG

Mission & Vision

FOR OUR KENYA MATTERS FAMILY!

Kenya Matters seeks to nurture and empower at-risk children and families in collaboration with Kenyan partners, with an active donor community in the United States and around the world.

Kids are in school, getting healthier, and feeling safer, but their future is far from set. They need mentors to guide them into the future, help to create jobs for themselves, tuition for colleges, counseling for trauma, and continued encouragement to hope for tomorrow.

Perhaps our greatest pride at Kenya Matters is to see kids grow up with a desire to “pay it forward”. They pray for resources to help their relatives, neighbors, and sometimes siblings that can not find room in the current program.

They pray for their American and Dutch friends, often by name. They are working hard to lift themselves up, as grateful recipients of God’s help and ours. They are motivated to continue on in life so that they can share more abundantly with others. The love and care they receive, expressed through their lives to others, is the hope we hold.

ON THE COVER



After spending his childhood & teen years at the children’s home, he graduated high school. Today Edwin is married, has two children, and he is an artist. He paints murals, creates sculptures, and makes furniture.



After graduating high school, Peter went to university for the sciences, studying physics and chemistry. He is now married, has a child, and he is a partner in an entertainment business.



Dear Supporters,

We are all doing well and are grateful that God has remained faithful to us. As we continue to navigate life after the pandemic, we face challenges that call for us to be creative in how we meet them.

Since the children have to spend so much time in school and doing homework, we hired a music teacher who trains them in vocals, dance, and piano. Our hope with this is that these activities can help ease the pressure the kids are facing by being in school six days a week.

We hired another teacher to help with extra tutoring, to help kids with any problems they may have with learning. We have also started a new initiative where we get together with other children's homes and play friendly soccer matches. This has helped keep their morale high and is also a great way to exercise. Another new norm includes regular walks in the afternoon when the weather permits.

We have partnered with Eden Thriving, whose mission is to "teach basic environmental science and cultivate better conservation practices at the household level." This has been great for the children because it is teaching them ways to care for the environment. The kids have also started minor projects such as building bird nests around the compound, and some are now proud owners of chickens, doves, and rabbits.

At the end of every year, students in Grade 8 sit for the National Exam that will determine where they will attend secondary school. We ask that you join us in praying that all their hard work will bring them success and find a school that fits for each of them.

We are forever grateful to Kenya Matters for their continued support as we love and take care of these children and the community.

In Christ,

Dorcas Wachira

Dorcas Wachira, Children Home's Co-Founder

LETTERS FROM THE PAST

LOOKING BACK - REMEMBERING ELIJAH



Photo: The late pastor Elijah Wachira with his wife Dorcas.

NOVEMBER, 2011

Dear Jason and Friends,

We note with gratification the encouraging news of the good things that are happening in connection with our primary goal for this year, "The borehole" [aka well & water project].

It has been said before and it is being said again, the borehole will be a one of the vital pillars to support our future short/long term goals towards financial freedom. We will have reached or even crossed the Jordan, but will not have explored or conquered the Promised Land. Some African cultures will not discuss the issue of clothes for a child who is not born which is the same as saying, "Let us cross that bridge when we get there".

We have already identified in detail phase 1 of this project which involves the sinking of the well, pump, electric hook up, water tanks, and piping to the children's house, and irrigation for the small garden at the children's home.

Phase 2 of the project will be to irrigate several acres of our larger gardens and to develop a greenhouse for vegetables. A fish pond and a livestock(dairy cows/goats) program will hopefully be part of this phase as well. There are many dreams. We are good dreamers, and some of our dreams could be termed

as nightmares because of their implications in terms of money and efforts, we thank God that many of our dreams in the past have been achieved. Where we are today was nothing but a dream five years ago.

Two of our primary goals for 2011:

Goal No. 1: The well & water project

Complete the phase 1 and phase 2 of the borehole project. This plan of action is in the able hands of the Kenya Matters board and their water team.

Goal No. 2: Improved academic performance.

We need to focus on the kids' academic performance. Steps have already been taken towards this end. Extra teachers are being hired to provide additional tutoring to all the kids to supplement what they get in school, and four kids are going to the nearby private school. We have a music teacher who will come one Saturday of the month to teach the kids how to play the keyboard.

The realization of these goals would make 2011 an exceptional year of success.

God is able; let us commit all our ways to him.
Elijah

WE HIT WATER!

REFLECTING ON PAST GOALS

AUGUST, 2011

Kenya Matters Friends,

It is with much excitement and relief that we can share some amazing news! After nearly four months of frustration, last week water was found at 220 meters! We hesitated to share the news not knowing important details. On Tuesday of this week, it was confirmed that we have a good source of water.

The new well is capable of pumping 1,300 gallons of water per hour! In the words of one of the contractors on the site: "This volume is not for domestic use only. It can be used for industrial purposes." This project was envisioned nearly six years ago by Elijah, our director in Kenya, and Jason Anderson. Today we celebrate a vision that has become reality!

We have WATER!

We have raised a good sum of money to get this project started, and additional funding will be needed to complete this project. This water can be used for irrigation of crops along with hygiene use (toilets, showers, laundry, etc.) and many other things. Those projects will need funding, but...

Today we celebrate! Please celebrate with us and know that this project is not just in our hands!

Celebrating with a thankful heart!

Randal L. Buist
Board President



Photos: Randy and Dorcas (top right), The famous water fight! (bottom)

2024 UPDATES

YOUR DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Text
"KMKIDS"
to phone number
53555 to donate
over text.



PROJECTS

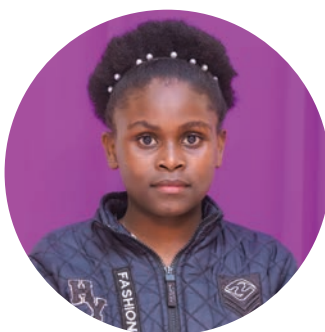
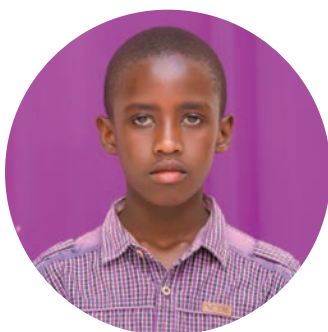
We have built a boys bathroom as well as a sheep + calves pen — in just the last 2 months!

STAFF

We are continually blessed to have a great team that gets things done, and done well!

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

We're thrilled to introduce Maria Njeri, a wife and mother of 3, who joined us this year. She has come to us with a background of 13 years as a social worker at another institution. Her passion for kids is contagious!



Photos from left to right:
Eric Kuria, Mary Nyakio, Esther
Chege, Rebecca Wanjiku.

GRADUATIONS

- Eric Kuria and Mary Nyakio sat for their grade 6 exams in October.
- Lewis Kiarie and Joseph Lowar are currently sitting for their form 4 (grade 12) exams.
- Esther Chege and Rebecca Wanjiku will graduate later this year with an Education and Accounting degree, respectively.

2025 GOALS

EMBRACING SOLAR FOR FUTURE ELECTRICITY NEEDS



Electricity costs in Kenya are particularly high as compared to much of the world. One way that we can help the children's home become more sustainable is to reduce the cost of electricity, often reaching more than \$700 per month.

Over the past year, the board and staff in Kenya have evaluated the cost of a solar system that would significantly reduce the cost of electricity. In recent months, we have received three quotes for the installation of solar panels and batteries to store the electricity.



By January, we hope to determine our best way forward with this project. Decisions will include what solar panel and battery configuration to use and which vendor to select for installation. Our board is committed to this project, and many of you have already expressed support for it.

As of this publication, we have raised over \$20,000 for this effort. We anticipate that costs will be between \$25,000—\$30,000. If you feel so moved, we welcome your support!



20 NEW MONTHLY DONORS

We are hoping you will consider becoming a monthly donor. With the cost of inflation, increased education costs, and more of the children attending high school, we are hoping to add monthly supporters. Our goal for 2025 is to add 20 new monthly donors. **Will you be one of them? Scan to donate.**

MAC & MEATBALLS EVENT IN MARCH

This informal fundraiser is a cook-off event and silent auction, attendees taste and vote on the best entries, and the best cooks are awarded prizes. Join us to enjoy great food, compete for silent auction items, and hear about the children and projects that you help support through Kenya Matters. The funds raised help provide for the daily expenses and education costs of the children. Attendees are invited to enter the contest by cooking a crock pot of either Mac & Cheese or Meatballs, or both if you like!



CHANGE THROUGH EDUCATION

By Levi Molenje, Co-Chair, Kenya Matters Board

My mother was born in the late nineteen thirties in a small village in Western Kenya. She did not attend any formal schooling. In those days, formal school was still very foreign. In the rare cases when parents let some of their children attend school, it was typically the boys who were given the opportunity. Mother was curious though. She wanted to know what going to school was all about. When young, she even tried, on multiple occasions, to sneak and accompany her older brother who was then attending school, but she was always stopped. So like many of her peers she got married in her late teens and started a family shortly after.

My mom really cared about our education. She made sure we went to school when we needed to and provided us with basic necessities to ensure we were comfortable – something that many of our peers did not have. Even during difficult times, she was steadfast in her support for our education. She always reminded us that education was not only the key to success, but it was also the shield with which we could protect ourselves from whatever life threw at us.

Like a gecko uses the trunk of a mugumo (hardwood) tree to hide behind and escape from potential threats, she always told us that we could use education to shield ourselves from any challenge that we would face in life. Our family was big, which put a lot of strain on the little resources available. Yet, my mom made sure that each one of us had the opportunity to attend high school. This was not the norm for most families. We were very lucky to have a mother, who regardless of herself not being educated, she made sure we went to school and received that coveted gift of education.

Kenya Matters, and our staff in Kenya, are equally committed to the gift of education for the children. All of them will attend high school. After graduation, if they are able, they will attend a technical school with a career path or a two year college. Our best students will attend a four year university.

Photo: John Karanja's graduation



DAILY NEEDS

Kenya Matters makes a significant impact in the lives of the children and families with whom we are involved. As a volunteer-led organization located in the U.S., with supporters around the globe, 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.

HELP SUPPORT KIDS OR GRADUATES’ MONTHLY EXPENSES!	
\$100	Living Expenses 1 student, 1 month
\$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 OR GRADUATES’ 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.



MEET THE CHILDREN

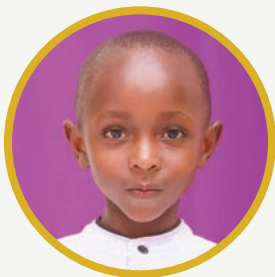
These are the children who are currently living at the CRCA safehouse. This is where they live, are loved, learn about life, and are taught about the goodness of Jesus. In addition to these children, we have a handful of students attending colleges and universities. Please take time to look at the pictures 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

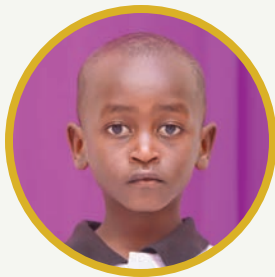
**Primary
School**
18 children

**Secondary
School**
14 Students

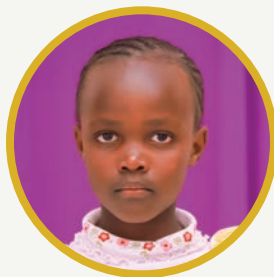
**College &
University**
4 Young Adults



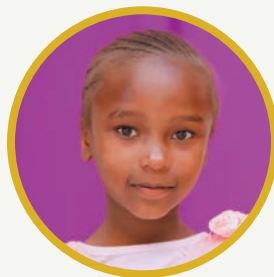
Samuel Mwangi
Grade 1 — Eli Prep School



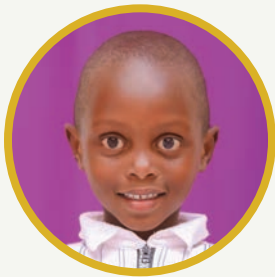
Peter Karikuki
PP1 — Eli Prep School



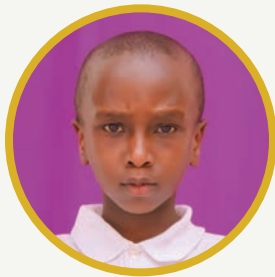
Blessing Wanjiru
Grade 2 — Eli Prep School



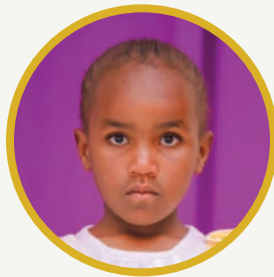
Caroline Wanjiru
Grade 2 — Eli Prep School



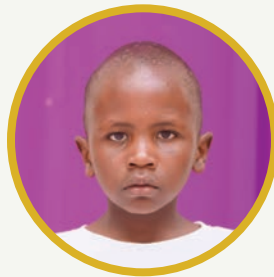
Stephen Muchiri
Grade 2 — Eli Prep School



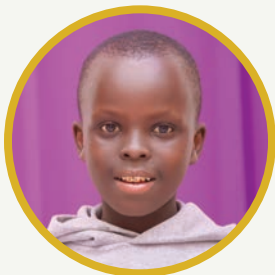
John Njuguna
Grade 2 — Eli Prep School



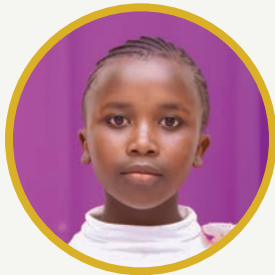
Daisy Wanjiru
PP2 — Eli Prep School



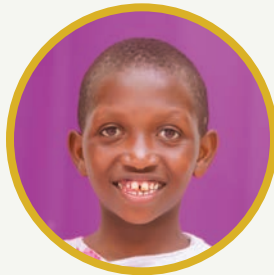
David Kamau
PP2 — Eli Prep School



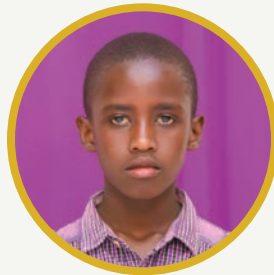
John Eterej
Grade 6 — Milimani



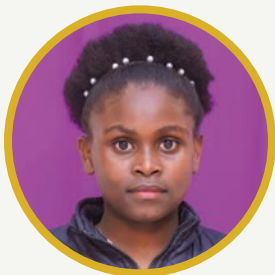
Miriam Wangari
Grade 6 — Milimani Primary



Mary Wambui
Grade 6 — Milimani Primary



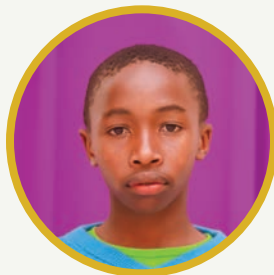
Erick Kuria
Grade 7 — Milimani Primary



Mary Nyakio
Grade 7 — Milimani Primary



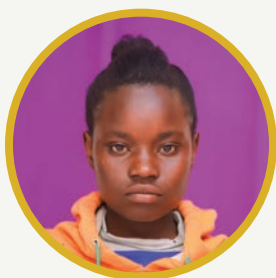
Patrick Mwangi
Grade 8 — Milimani Primary



Joseph Njenga
Grade 8 — Milimani Primary



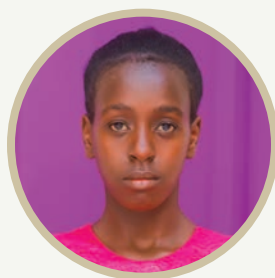
Maxwell Kiprono
Grade 8 — Milimani Primary



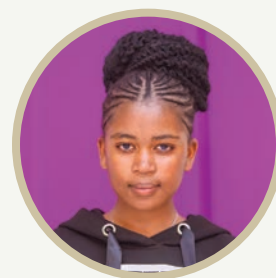
Faith Cheron
Grade 8 — Milimani Primary



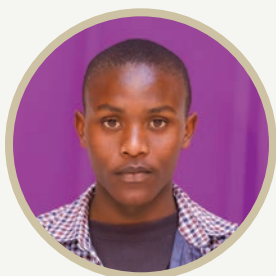
Rose Waceke
Grade 8 — Milimani Primary



Pauline Wanjiku
Grade 9 — Milimani



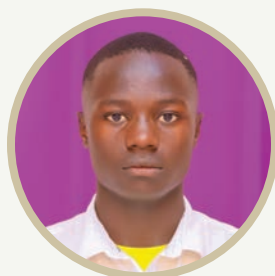
Ann Wangui
Form 2 — Kijabe Girls



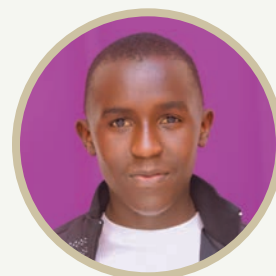
Evans Muthui
Form 3 — Kinungi Secondary



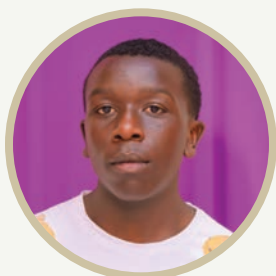
Michelle Wanjiku
Form 2 — Mai Mahiu Girls



Kelly Githuka
Form 2 — Munyu Secondary



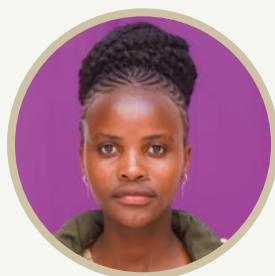
Brian Kimani
Form 2 — Kinungi Secondary



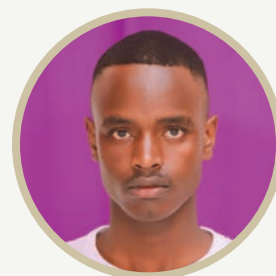
Geoffrey Mbugua
Form 3 — Munyu Secondary



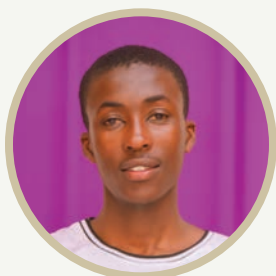
Eric Kokolan
Form 3 — Mai-Mahiu Boys



Mary Nduta
Form 3 — Mai-Mahiu Girls



Ezekiel Macharia
Form 4 — Munyu Secondary



Peter Ngemia
Form 4 — Njiiri School



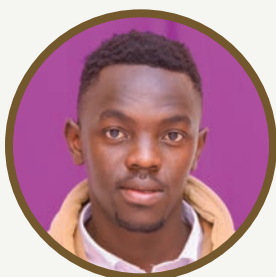
Dorcas Payon
Form 4 — Kijabe Girls



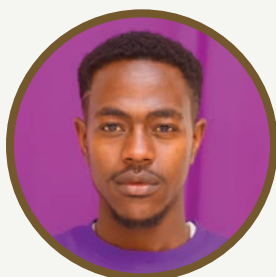
Lewis Kiaire
Awaiting Form 4 Exam Results



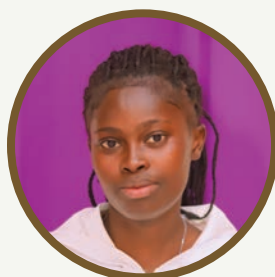
Joseph Lomar
Awaiting Form 4 Exam Results



Isaac Kimani
3rd Year — University of Nairobi



David Ngige
Graduate



Rebecca Wanjiku
Graduate



Esther Chege
Graduate



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 back-up 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

We want to take a moment to celebrate how far we've come! Not only did we dig a well, but we purchased a generator, constructed a new kitchen, dining area, along with all new bathrooms and showers for the kids.

Photos: Mealtime in the new kitchen (left), New Generator (right, top), New Bathroom Facilities (right, bottom)



LOOKING BACK AT 20 YEARS

A Letter From Jason Anderson
Founder, Kenya Matters



Photo: Jason (second from left) and crew during his first trip in 2005.

Kenya Matters has been a grassroots movement rooted in relationships and mutual cultural learning. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised since 2005 by family, friends, neighbors and small church groups. We are a work funded by the good-heartedness of everyday people, who have risen en masse to collectively transform the lives of orphans, widows, and those struggling with extreme poverty and disease. We are a work that is carried out by Kenyan people who had gathered together to care for their neighbors and the orphaned children in their community-years before we arrived to give them a boost. What little they had to share was shared.

Those of us who have traveled to Kenya have been so inspired by the generosity and commitment of the local staff, board, and village neighbors, that we have been challenged to rethink our own versions of “community” and expressions of generosity. We have thus been transformed by their culture. In return, we have worked hard to maintain a spirit of humility and collaboration that may not always be felt from Western initiatives in economically developing countries. (While they may be developing economically, we seem in need of developing certain ethics and qualities in our own culture). We have received some feedback that encourages us to hope that they have also been transformed by who we are.

Since 2005, children have been fed, clothed, and given a place to sleep with mattresses and blankets. The children attend school equipped with appropriate uniforms and supplies, and

supported by tutors and mentors. Emotionally developing children have received love, attention, and attachment with caring adults – now affectionately referred to as Uncles, Aunties, even Mom and Dad. Pre-teens have been guided by both adults and their peers to value their role as important members of a larger community that works together to meet one another’s needs.

We have completed many projects that have helped the children thrive, including a deep well and water system. Some of our biggest projects of the past twenty years are highlighted in this year’s publication. We hope you can celebrate with us and continue to fund this good work.

Perhaps our greatest pride at Kenya Matters is to see kids grow up with a desire to “pay it forward”. They pray for resources to help their relatives, neighbors, and sometimes siblings that can’t find room in the current program. They pray for their American friends, often by name. They are working hard to lift themselves up, as grateful recipients of God’s help and ours. They are motivated to continue on in life so that they can share more abundantly with others. The love and care they receive, expressed through their lives to others, is the hope I have.

Jason Anderson



TRAVEL TO AFRICA WITH US!

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025!

Those of us who have traveled to Kenya have been so inspired by the generosity and commitment of the local staff, board, and village neighbors. We have been challenged to rethink our own versions of “community” and expressions of generosity, and we have thus been transformed by the Kenya culture.



In this spirit of learning and growing for transformation, we are inviting you to travel with us to Kenya in 2025. We anticipate this trip to last approximately two weeks, with three of these days designated for air travel.

During your time in Kenya, you will spend time with the children, staff, and community that you support via Kenya Matters.

Activities will include playing games, taking walks, and going on a field trip with the children.

You will stay near the children’s home, with arrangements that include tasty food & colorful culture, fully immersing yourself in the daily life of Kenya.

If you are inspired, please contact us at hello@kenyamatters.org

ESTIMATED COSTS:

- Airfare to & from Nairobi, Kenya, cost determined by airfare at the time of reservations. (Approx. \$1200—1500 roundtrip)
- Lodging, food, & transportation are estimated at \$90/day.
- Safari to the Masai Mara, three days & two nights, including lodging & food, approx. \$850.

Text
“KMKIDS”
to phone number
53555 to donate
over text.





WWW.KENYAMATTERS.ORG

*Elijah stretching out his arms
to bless the land that was
purchased for the children's
home while Dorcas celebrates
with him.*

PHOTO TAKEN APPROX 2006, KARAI, KENYA

hello@kenyamatters.org
P.O. Box 23, Hudsonville, MI 49426

