



SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER

WWW.KENYAMATTERS.ORG

RUN/BIKE/HIKE Where You Are

A FUNDRAISER FOR SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

On **Saturday, May 14**, Kenya Matters is hosting a fundraising event. The kids at the safehouse need daily transportation to and from school, and we are raising funds to purchase a van. Education is critical to the development of each of our kids at the safehouse and is a significant contributor to breaking cycles of poverty. It is so important for these kids to be in school!

In the spirit of daily Kenyan life, participants will spend time exercising in the manner they select. For instance, one participant will be running a 25k race in which she is asking people to donate for every mile she runs or to make a general donation for the van purchase. Similar ideas may include, but are not limited to, cycling and hiking.

We need you! Our goal is to raise \$5,000. If you are interested in participating in this event, contact Kathy Buist (kathybuist@gmail.com). If you are willing to cheer on a participant with your financial support for the purchase of a van, check out our website for this event. **Help us meet our goal**



You will find an envelope with this newsletter, or you can donate online at www.kenyamatters.org



FRIENDS BECOME FAMILY

Rebecca joined the children's home when she was 8 years old. She is now a college student. While she has limited involvement with her extended biological family, she has gained many 'brothers' and 'sisters' during her years at the children's home.

Rebecca recently posted this poem, along with pictures of several of her 'sisters.' Her post demonstrates how the children become family with one another as they spend their childhood years together. Now, as young adults, many of them continue to encourage one another forward in life's journey.

*Family isn't Always blood,
I promise this is true.
Family are the people who,
Simply love you for you.
Family has no strings attached;
They take you as you are.
They are always there to listen,
No matter near or far.
Family gives you what you need;
Even if it's tough.
Sometimes all we need to hear,
Is that we are enough.
Family loves us when we're happy,
And even when we're sad.
They celebrate the little things;
We didn't know we had.
Family doesn't have to be your bio Mom or Dad;
Sometimes God gives us the people,
To fill the void we have.
They fill the voids within our hearts;
They love us to the core.
They'd do anything to see you smile;
I know this much for sure.
Family gives you nice warm hugs;
Lots of advice too.
Family will drop everything,
To stop and pray for you.
Family is there by your side,
Through the thick and thin.
They're always rooting on your team,
They want to see you win.
Family isn't always blood,
I'm saying this again.
It's the people that are there for you;
Until the very end.*

— Author Unknown

PETER A Glimpse of Character

BY MILKA WACHIRA, CHILDREN'S HOME DIRECTOR



Peter is quiet, happy, sensible, and now a finalist in his elementary school. He has been with us for just over six years, since November of 2015. He is very gentle with the young children here at the children's home. They love him so much.

Peter is also one of our "sharpshooters" in academics. He is very good with numbers. He displays qualities of a very good leader and has been one through his nearly six years with us.

As we casually talked this past Sunday, his glow and strong words moved me to tears. He began, "Were it not for the opportunity I got six years ago, I would be a herdsman somewhere in my village."

We thank everybody who is a team player and who continues to make it happen for the 40+ children who are orphaned. Together with the Kenyan community, you have made a difference in the children's lives!!!

RAINWATER CAPTURE UPDATE

EARLY 2022 PROJECT

After being on hold for a year due to COVID, this project was finally kicked off last month! We are installing gutters on the roof of the kitchen and dining hall, and the rainwater will flow into a large tank to be stored as water for the gardens.

Rather than purchase a new tank, our Kenya leadership decided to repurpose a previous tank. This tank has been rewashed and a cover has been built to keep the water clean while it is stored.

We appreciate your support for this project!



Mac & Meatball

TRANSFORMED TO EVENTS IN JUNE & JULY 2022

Text
"KENYA MATTERS"
to phone number
56651 to donate
over text.

IT IS TIME FOR OUR ANNUAL EVENT, BUT...

Last year, due to COVID, we held an online event instead of our in-person event. It was a fantastic hour together, but it was not quite the same as being together face-to-face, handshake-to-handshake.

Last fall, when it came to make plans for this spring, we simply did not know what to expect of COVID, including what restrictions would be in place. We decided it was best to hold off on this event this year.

For the past handful of years, we have brought our children's home director over from Kenya. She has really enjoyed meeting you and expressing appreciation for your support. However, she has only been here in the winter.

So, we are bringing Milka back to join us, but we are welcoming her to warmer weather! She will be with us for approximately three weeks at the end of June and early July so long as travel arrangements go smoothly for her.

We anticipate a handful of smaller events rather than one large event. We want to see you and spend time engaging in conversation and stories of lives being transformed. We need your support to keep this goodness going.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW KENYA MATTERS WEBSITE

We are excited to show off our new Kenya Matters website. After good use from our previous version, it was time to update the website so that it would be more functional again. We want to thank Germination Labs and James Fry for their help with this project.

Submitting donations is now easier than ever. You will need to create an account. Once you do so, it will be yours and will make future donations easier for you.

Check it out! [Kenyamatters.org](https://kenyamatters.org)

Stay tuned for locations, dates, and times of gatherings with Milka and our leadership team. If you would like to hold your own event with Milka and a group of friends, perhaps introducing them to the work of Kenya Matters, please contact us. We welcome the invite to your bonfire with friends, your dinner party, or perhaps a good summer BBQ party.

Contact us if you are interested in hosting. Hello@kenyamatters.org

P.S. We anticipate that our annual Mac & Meatball returns for 2023.

