



# 2023 GIFT CATALOG

[WWW.KENYAMATTERS.ORG](http://WWW.KENYAMATTERS.ORG)

# A LETTER FROM DORCAS

*Children's Home Co-founder*

Dear Supporters,

We are thankful that we have remained strong as we end another year. Though life has returned to normal after COVID, we continue to face fresh challenges, but we persevere and face whatever comes our way.

The children are now fully back in school, but the schedule has been tough for them because they have to catch up on the time they lost during the pandemic. This means that some of them go to school six days a week. Three of our children had a death in their family, and we are walking with them as they grieve for their loved ones. Our guardians (relatives of the children) have also struggled because we have not had our usual rains over the past two years, which means fewer crops for food, along with animals dying. For many of them, the cost of food is very high, which has made matters even more difficult.

We are thankful that the kids and staff are healthy, fed, and cared for despite these difficulties. Carol, one of the oldest children, had successful surgery to remove a tumor in her neck. We thank God that she is now fully recovered and is graduating from nursing school this month. Rebecca, who is now a 3rd year university student, is doing an internship.

We are very grateful to Kenya Matters for increasing our monthly donations by \$400 since July. With this increase, we bought a new cow, which gives us better quality milk. We also repaired our bread oven to make our own bread, which helps us save money. We purchased warmer hoodies, hats, and gloves for the kids to wear to school during the unusually cold weather.

We continue to trust God in all that we do, and we thank you for standing with us through it all. Pray for us as we care for these children and their families.

In Christ,

*Dorcas Wachira*

Dorcas Wachira

# MARY WAMBUI

## *A Story 10 Years in the Making*

**Mary is hoping to join us at our annual Mac & Meatball event, March 11, 2023. Put it on your calendars!**

Let's go back to January of 2008 when Mary joined the children's home. She was thirteen years old and about to enter seventh grade. At that young age, she was thoughtful, insightful, and focused on her studies.

She arrived at the CRCA with her older brother, Samuel. Prior to their arrival, they had both been living with their grandmother, which was not a good situation for the pair of siblings. When our Kenyan leadership team was asked to engage in the situation, the need was not difficult to understand.



Almost two years after arriving at the children's home in December of 2009, Mary was asked about her first few years of calling the CRCA her home during an interview conducted by the staff. The staff noted her growth as a leader.

*"She verbalizes her feelings and thoughts very well. She appears to be a future leader for the kids. She is very helpful and often is the first to jump in and help where needed."*

Throughout her middle school and high school years, Mary continued to excel in her studies. She was often shy when she first arrived at the home in 2008, but over the next handful of years, she would step forward to lead devotions and help with general tasks. Mary certainly emerged as more of a leader with each passing year.

Last year, Mary was asked to write a simple description of where she found herself in life. She wrote the following:

*"A few years ago, I graduated from college at the top of my class. I currently work at my church as a ministry assistant. I help in the office and help with programs of our church. It is a good job. I have my own apartment that is close to the church. I am doing fine, even with COVID. I am thankful to Kenya Matters for helping me get to this place in life."*

*"Today, I am amazed. I look back and remember the nights that I went to bed hungry and cried myself to sleep. I got depressed at some point, and I become suicidal. I lost hope and became emotionally drained from all the verbal and physical abuse.*

*Then God sent me guardian angels at the children's home, people who loved and supported me. I fought my way up. In a society where everyone cares for themselves, God gave me favor. I graduated from college. I am intelligent, brave, confident... the list is endless. I owe all this to God. I am excited for the woman I have become. I am not rich, but my heart is content. I am more hopeful for the woman I will be in the days to come. Bad days don't last a night. So hold on, and one day you will tell your story, too."*



2012



2022

# 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 farther away, in the 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](http://kenyamatters.org), or use the envelope with this holiday catalog.



## RAISING RABBITS *And young men!*



Rabbits, bunnies, kisaungura (Swahili). These furry creatures have become the intrigue of the children over the past couple of years.

Building them small shelters out of whatever materials are available, feeding them with garden scraps, and catching them whenever they escape have become almost daily activities for the kids.

Over the past decade, rabbit meat has become a more normative form of protein. It is readily attained at the local butcher shop, and yet they are not so abundant that the market price is low.

On hot days, the wheelbarrow is used to transport them to shady spaces. Raising rabbits is unique for several reasons, one being that they reproduce quickly if they are thriving as a colony. However, trauma, such as an attack by an animal can immediately halt their multiplication for months.

This means that the group of kids taking care of the rabbits are learning to be responsible in new ways. They know that both keeping the rabbits in the shade, and keeping them in a secure fenced area are important to continue growing the rabbit project.



## *Need your vehicle Washed?* **YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS**

A dozen years ago, water was struck at 800+ feet below the ground, and the first gallons were pumped onto the surface. The children grabbed the flowing hose and began their first real 'water fight.' It was a joyous moment that is still remembered fondly.

More than a decade later, a couple of the older boys at the safe-house have found a weekend job that gives them the opportunity to work with water, occasionally spray one another with the hose, while creating goodwill with staff members and neighbors.

Their car wash, complete with attention to the details of cleaning the interior and leaving the exterior spotless, has paid them good dividends. While they rarely get paid with Kenyan shillings, they do get paid in sodas, an occasional trip into town, and sometimes a meal at the local nyma choma (roasted meat) eatery. Indeed, they are learning the benefits of becoming young entrepreneurs.



David & Lewis

# 2022 PROJECTS COMPLETED

*Your Donations are Making a Difference*

## HOT WATER HEATER



This unit is designed to efficiently heat water with a wood-fired furnace. With the growing number of teenage bodies at the children's home in recent years, the need for regular showers has increased. (Ask any middle-school teacher.)

With this unit, we have been able to make weekly showers mandatory for each of the children. For those who so desire, warm showers are available more regularly as well. Our staff is thankful for this project's completion.

## RAINWATER COLLECTION



Our team had gutters installed on the dining hall and kitchen building to decrease usage of the well water pump. This helps us conserve electricity and water in order to conserve electricity. This project included the installation of gutters, a piping system for moving the captured water, and rebuilding an old underground tank that had been dormant for over a decade due to previous deterioration. The rebuilt tank, complete with a cement cover, has a capacity of 30,000 liters of rainwater (7,925 gallons) giving us the ability to save electricity and water.

## 2023 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 2023! Let's get our kids to school and then back home again in a timely manner in 2023. **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 helps these young adults have the ability to receive a low-interest loan to get them moving in a good direction with their finances.

Text  
"KMKIDS"  
to phone number  
53555 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.

## HELP SUPPORT KIDS OR GRADUATES' 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 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.





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



# 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

<b>\$30/Month</b>	<b>Water Filters</b> Keeps the water clean
<b>\$75/Month</b>	<b>Electricity</b> 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

<b>\$300</b>	<b>5 Sheep</b>
<b>\$60</b>	<b>1 Sheep</b>

# 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 2023.

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**  
7 Students

**College & University**  
4 Young Adults

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



**Miriam Wangari**  
Grade 3 — Naiva Royals School



**Mary Wambui**  
Grade 3 — Naiva Royals School



**Nancy Wanjiku**  
Grade 4 — Naiva Royals School



**Erick Kuria**  
Grade 4 — Milimani Primary



**Mary Nyakio**  
Grade 4 — Naiva Royals School



**Patrick Mwangi**  
Grade 5 — Naiva Royals School



**Joseph Njenga**  
Grade 5 — Naiva Royals School



**Maxwell Kiprono**  
Grade 5 — Naiva Royals School



**Margret Wairimu**  
Grade 5 — Kinungi Primary



**Faith Cheron**  
Grade 5 — Milimani Primary



**Pauline Wanyua**  
Grade 6 — Milimani Primary



**Ann Wangui**  
Grade 7 — Milimani Primary



**Brian Juma**  
Grade 7 — Milimani Primary



**Michelle Wanjiku**  
Grade 7 — Milimani Primary



**Kelly Githuka**  
Grade 7 — Milimani Primary



**Brian Kimani**  
Grade 7 — Milimani Primary



**Evans Muthui**  
Grade 8 — Milimani Primary



**Geoffrey Mbugua**  
Grade 8 — Milimani Primary



**Eric Kokolan**  
Grade 8 — Milimani Primary



**Mary Nduta**  
Grade 8 — Milimani Primary



**Ezekiel Mcharia**  
Form 1 — Karai High School



**Peter Ngemya**  
Form 1 — Njiiri School



**Dorcas Aleman**  
Form 1 — Kijabe Girls



**Lewis Kiarie**  
Form 2 — Molo Academy



**Joseph Lomar**  
Form 2 — Mai-Mahiu Boys



**Joyce Wangui**  
Form 3 — Karai High School



**David Ngige**  
Form 3 — Mai-Mahiu Boys



**Isaac Kimani**  
1st Year — University of Nairobi



**Esther Wanjiru**  
2nd Year — Grets University



**Elizabeth Wanjiku**  
3rd Year — St. Paul's University



**Carol Nyokabi**  
Completed, waiting for graduation —  
Kijabe School of Nursing

**Form 1 = Freshman**  
**Form 2 = Sophomore**  
**Form 3 = Junior**  
**Form 4 = Senior**



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## MEET SOME OF THE RELATIVES

Many of the kids who live at the children's home have relatives who love them. Yet, these relatives do not have the means to support the children. The reasons are diverse. They include such things as limited finances, poor health, too many children of their own, remote locations that have no means of getting children to school, and sometimes mental instability.

Yet, it is the desire of our leadership team in Kenya to keep the children connected with their relatives in the best ways possible.

**The following are three of the most significant ways that this takes place throughout the year.**

- Every month the relatives are invited to attend a Sunday worship service at the children's home, along with a meal following the service. It is common for seventy people or more to join together for the better part of a Sunday.

- Each of the committed relatives is invited to a micro-loan group who gather six times a year to discuss finances. The group, together, holds a small bank account. Every time they gather, members are invited to pitch their ideas for new means of sustaining themselves, be it a new business or planting a new garden. The group then votes on the best ideas, and loans are given to members of the group. Over the ten plus years of this program, every loan has been repaid!
- The Kenyan school year provides three breaks throughout the year, each lasting about a month long. During this time, many of the children return to their most caring relative to spend a week living with them. This experience continues to sustain family ties for when our children are launched into the world following high school, trade school, college, or university.



Miriam, Mary and grandma



Ezekiel, Trick and aunt



Nancy and grandma



Brian, Geoffrey and aunt



Kelly and grandma



Paulina, Patrick and grandma



Trick, brother and a friend



Joyce and relatives



Bobo and relatives



Mitchel and her aunt



Mary Ann and great-grandma



Evans, Joseph and aunt



# C.R.C.A. Board

## COMMUNITY RECOVER CENTER AFRIKA

**Pastor Ben** — Chairperson of the board. Pastor Ben served as both pastor and a Bible professor in Kijabe for much of his life. Four years ago, he and his spouse moved to their retirement home a mile away from the CRCA. Sometimes he visits just to spend time with the children and staff.

**Mr. Samuel Gatheru** — Vice Chairperson of the board. Samuel has his own private medical practice. In addition, he has worked with the government for over thirty years. He is currently the chairperson of the Naivasha sub-county hospital. With these experiences as his background, he brings much to the board.

**Mrs. Dorcas Wachira** — Co-founder of the children’s home. Dorcas, and her husband Elijah, retired from their life of working for a missions organization for much of their lives. After Elijah’s passing, Dorcas took a more active leadership role with the children’s home. She directs the staff and spends time mentoring the children.

**Rev. Hezekiah Weru** — Treasurer of the board. Hezekiah is a recently retired college lecturer. He had been teaching at the college level for many years prior to this retirement. As an educator, he brings a strong educational focus to the board.

**Mrs. Jane Semenye** — Board member. Jane is a farmer and pillar in church and community. She has been very instrumental in the decisions of which kids in the community will be significantly helped by moving to the children’s home. Her wisdom and knowledge of the Karai, and greater Naivasha community, is humbling.

**Mr. Chris Sambu** — Board member. Chris is a certified public accountant and is the owner of an accounting company that he founded. In addition, he is a lecturer at a local business college. He is one of the newest members of the CRCA board.

We thank God that, because of your help, the community’s operations remained unaffected by the national challenge of COVID-19. Our employees are grateful beyond measure that they kept their jobs and that their pay was not reduced.

We are grateful for the opportunity to carry out this work in support of Elijah and Dorcas Wachira’s vision of assisting those in our community who are facing insurmountable challenges. We appreciate your help as we work together to advance this cause.

# 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



**Moses Githaibi**  
Board Secretary



**Jerry VandenBosch**  
Board Treasurer



**Levi Molenje**  
Board Co-Chair



**Heidi Swieringa**  
Board Co-Chair



**Brian Workman**  
Board Member



**Ryhs Meyer**  
Board Member



**Stephan Lutz**  
Board Member



**Jorhie Beadle**  
Board Member



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

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

PIC TAKEN APPROX 2006, KARAI, KENYA

