



Summer 2015

*Partnering with Communities,
Expanding Opportunities.*

A True Inspiration



Inspiration comes in all shapes and sizes. We feel it in kind gestures and see it in others' hard work.

Kenya Works has been inspired by the resourceful and selfless acts in our young friend, Abby Jenson. Abby is an eleven-year-old girl with a passion for helping others and for baking. Since the ripe age of nine, Abby has made a hobby of baking brownies and selling them at bake sales. She started doing this so she could donate her profits to Kenya Works. Through baked goods and dedication, Abby has generously managed to donate a total of 644 dollars in the last two years.

At Kenya Works, we don't operate under a one-size-fits-all model of giving.

We want all of our partners to know that every donation is unique and appreciated. This concept rings true in this inspiring example set by one of our youngest supporters. Thank you to Abby and to everyone who has given what they can to benefit Kenyans in need.

Special thanks from Diana Wambui, Miale Ya Tumaini Director

"Please let Abby know that it is raining heavily in Kenya, and classes are normally very cold. We were able to purchase socks and a pair of shoes per child. Their little feet will be kept warm. The children said to thank her very



36 pairs of shoes purchased

much, and she has made the children look forward to another school day. The smart looks make them want to be seen and heard. We are struggling to have them make less noise (it's the excitement) and she also made them feel special, loved and wanted. Most of them could not believe that the shoes belonged to them. They kept asking yangu? (Is it mine?)"



Someone once said "never get tired of doing little things for others". Today, your savings have occupied the biggest part of these children's lives. Thank

you for "seeing" these children, thousands of miles away.

A Message from Cosmas

The security status in Kenya in the last few years, including the most recent attacks from Al-Shabab, has been a concern to many Kenyan citizens and our friends abroad. The Government of Kenya have tightened security in the whole country, and Christian and Muslim leaders are conducting joint awareness and educational forums to inform citizens that religious fighting is not tolerated and those who are engaged in terrorism are not serving the interest of the Muslim community. In every settlement, people are engaged in getting to know their neighbor and educating the youth, who are highly targeted by the militia, about the issues of terrorism and community building.



Unlike many NGOs in Kenya, our mode of operation is holistic. For the past 10 years, we have been successfully addressing issues such as poverty, food security, education (youth and adult), and economic self-sufficiency. As a Kenyan and Kenya Works Project Coordinator, I am committed to building a strong Kenya, free of insecurity and providing individuals opportunities of growth and hope. We at Kenya Works will not be deterred by the recent unrest and will continue our mission to help the most vulnerable. I, along with our partners in Kenya, want to thank all our Kenya Works friends for your past and continued support.

Cosmas Ochieng
Kenya Works Project Coordinator

University Scholar

While Kenya introduced free primary education in 2003, secondary school is not free. Continuing education past the eighth grade is highly competitive and presents a huge financial barrier. In response, Kenya Works has developed merit and need-based scholarship programs to support students in secondary school. We are also, through the designated support of specific donors, supporting university students in Kenya.



Eric is one such university student who, after the death of his father from inadequate healthcare, set his sights on becoming a physician. His high scores admitted him to medical school, but the financial costs kept him out. With the help of Judy Canter, whom he calls his "angel", his medical school has become a reality. Following are Eric's thoughts for the future:

"After completion of medical school, I have made up my mind to help the less fortunate people, the vulnerable, the orphans and the elderly here in Kenya. I believe that every single child, fortunate or unfortunate, orphan or not, is capable of achieving great things. The Kenya Works family gave me support freely, and I would like to do the same for the needy using all that I learn in medical school and in any other aspect that I can. Here in Kenya, there are so many children and people who need the support in the matters of clothing, shelter, food, education and healthcare. Thank God for giving Kenya Works a kind, caring and sharing heart! Thank God for Judy!"

We have no doubt that Eric's dream will be fulfilled and will benefit many. Through Kenya Works scholarship programs, we are removing the monetary barrier to education and helping students in Kenya build a positive future. Education can break the cycle of poverty.

Makini Pad Production



Such exciting news! Production of our own Kenya Works Makini Pad has begun. Our improved, eco-friendly sanitary pad will give Kenya Works a "full circle" of service from production to beneficiary; empowering women and girls through education and opportunity. Special thanks to Felisters Kavata and the whole Vicodec organization, for their dedication in the development and production of the superior pad, along with their rich and collaborative friendship.

The Makini Pad has been receiving wonderful reviews from our recipients as well as school support staff. Lillian, a secondary teacher in Homa Bay says, "After comparing to other pads, I am convinced beyond any reasonable doubt that the Makini Pad is of superior quality and will support the girl child to progress academically alongside the boys in class".

Since production began in April, 2015, we have already reached 3,000 Makini Pad beneficiaries. Help us to bring this essential initiative and product to more girls and women throughout Kenya.



Mathare Embraces TOT Message

Millicent Akinyi and Michael Kiage are staff at Mcedo Bejing, a school with over 600 students in the Mathare slum of Nairobi. They both were trained in our TOT (Training of Trainers) workshop, which focuses on positive parenting, gender-based violence, effective communication and community empowerment. Since their training in July 2014, they have facilitated 3 workshops, educating 150 community members about these important topics. Along with a team of past trainees, 50 new TOT trainers recently completed the training in Mathare, gaining the knowledge, support and confidence to share this critical, life-changing information with their communities. The TOT workshops [FUNDED BY KENYA WORKS] continue to build a strong framework for education as well as intervention.



Kiage explains the scope of the challenges in Mathare: "Before this project was introduced, Mathare was in a total state of confusion in terms of parenting and communication. Neither parents nor community members saw the importance of proper communication. As a result, some children turned to street life, the most traumatized committing suicide. Quarrels, frequent conflicts, and gender-based violence were commonplace.

As we speak currently, all this has been reduced by great percentage, and we can speak of a new Mathare that reflects the face of a civilized community. We are looking forward to reaching many people in all corners of the

country, and we give thanks to the Kenya Works team for their support. Together, we will do a lot for Kenya."

Plans are in place for this team to reach 50 more Mathare community leaders this August through another TOT workshop training. Their commitment to their community is inspiring and they are leading transformational change.



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