



Partnering with communities,
expanding opportunities

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WINTER 2018

JACKLINE'S JOURNEY

From FGM, motherhood and child marriage to opportunity for herself, hope for her daughter

My name is Jackline. I am a 14-year-old Maasai girl from Kajiado, Kenya.

According to our culture, a girl between the ages of 9-11 years goes through Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and thereafter is declared ready for marriage.

It was no different for me. I was initiated into adulthood through FGM at the tender age of 11, and a few months later, I became pregnant.

I gave birth at home. My blind grandmother, who has cared for me since my own mother died, is a traditional birth attendant. She told me not to worry

when the pain started. She whispered words in my language, but foreign to me, to keep the baby from coming while the others were gone for market day. She calmed me with a supper of ugali and cabbage before calling me into the hut. The others would not be there to witness, but would be called by the cries of the baby.

And so my daughter Rachel Sanaipei was born to me when I was only 12 years old—Rachel from the *Bible* and Sanaipei after a prominent Maasai daughter, known for her education, success and strong spirit.

I returned to school thanks to my grandmother. But my father and stepmother planned for me to marry a man much older than I am, against my grandmother's wishes. To find a way out, I pleaded with a volunteer teacher at my school to make me his wife instead, wanting to relieve the burden of myself and my child from my grandmother.

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24%
of Kenya girls
experience FGM

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how do you say
#GIVINGTUESDAY
#JUMANNEYA KUTOA
November 28, 2017



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#GivingTuesday November 28, 2017

#GivingTuesday—the global online day of giving—brings communities around the world together to kick off the charitable giving season.

Sharing the Kenya Works story is one of the best and easiest ways to expand impact for those in need.

Please join us online
#GivingTuesday and
throughout the year.



DID YOU KNOW

ISSUES & IMPACT IN KENYA

Food Insecurity

Estimates indicate 4 million Kenyans are going hungry due to the effects of drought on food production.

Kenya Works and its partners provide a nutritious meal for 3,250 school children every day integrated with school programs. Nutrition fuels educational ability and lays the foundation for the children's—and the country's—future.

Scholarship

In Kenya, families are required to share the expense of secondary school education costs, putting students from poor families at considerable disadvantage.

Kenya works is providing education scholarships for orphaned and vulnerable children. And, 100 % of our scholars pay it forward by doing service projects to help their communities.

Elections + Violence

This year's divisive elections have created spikes in violence, largely affecting women and children.

Nearly 1,000 community leaders and volunteers have trained in Kenya Works Community Works forums on abuse awareness, positive parenting and community building—advancing tolerance and human rights for all.

Makini Pad

65% of Kenyan women and girls are unable to afford safe and effective means to manage their menses.

In 2017, Kenya Works provided 15,000 girls with Makini Pads and health education for the entire school. The program will expand to a minimum of 20,000 in 2018.

Ray & Laverne Schmidt

Carry On Family Philanthropic Values

Laverne and Ray Schmidt both had parents who set an example of service in their community, and that has remained a foundational directive for the couple.

They see themselves as stewards of the financial gifts that they have and give with intention through organizations that provide clear, demonstrable positive outcomes in addressing community problems. And in their beliefs, community extends to people in Kenya where the life and death issues of poverty are so extreme.



The Schmidts have helped thousands of people in Kenya through their life-long generosity, and have been supporting Kenya Works as Major Gift Donors since the organization began.

"People are poor here [in Wisconsin] but in Kenya, it looks so different," Ray said. "I feel Kenya Works is as good a charity as there is."

"There is such tremendous need, and through Kenya Works, there is a clear, better ending. Kids are going to school, they are being fed, they have clean water. The Kenya Works projects are changing people's lives. We both sleep a lot better at night knowing that we are helping to make such a difference. It's wonderful to know that joy," he added.

FIFTY
e m p o w e r s
FIFTY

For a friend's 50th birthday, two Kenya Works supporters created a custom donation as an alternative birthday gift.

The donation provided 50 girls in Elgeyo Marakwet County, Kenya, the life-changing experience of working with the Marakwet Girls Foundation, which advocates for women's rights, and against the harmful cultural practices of

female genital mutilation, child marriage and gender-based violence. Kenya Works has established a new partnership with this dynamic organization, in conjunction with the Makini Pad Initiative—our own creation of eco-friendly, reusable sanitary pads and panties.

In addition to providing girls with essential products that help them stay in school during their menstrual cycle, this program also provides fair-wage employment for the Kenyan women who produce them.

YEAR-END GIVING SEASON IS HERE!

Light up the holidays for all the special people on your shopping gift list with an **ALTERNATIVE GIFT** donation to help someone in need.

Gifts can be made by check or online at kenyaworks.org. You will get access to our beautiful downloadable holiday gift card to present to your recipient. And, best of all—your gift will keep giving around the world, providing high-impact programs to the most vulnerable Kenyans.



KENYA WORKS DONORS change lives

Jackline suffered multiple traumas from FGM, child marriage and motherhood at age 12, to being denied the right to go to school.

She and her daughter—like so many Kenyans in need—deserve a better future. And, the future deserves them.

Jackline's Journey (cont. p1)

I was married to my teacher, and within the year, he took me back to school and paid my fees. He believed I should continue my education, but his family did not, a source of great conflict for him. He thus encouraged me to seek help at a county office. I made great effort to do this, hosted there for two weeks trying to get a solution. When it seemed that nothing was to come of it, I decided to begin the long walk back to my matrimonial home.

On the way, I accepted a lift—a common practice as there is so little transportation—from a man driving to Magadi. He asked about me, and so I shared my story with him. He said what happened to me was not right, and offered to take me to the police station in Magadi, where he knew I could find help. And, on this journey, my life took a new path.

They have carved a mark of love in my life.

- Jackline

Through the police, I met an advocate for the Masaai people who was trained by an organization [Kenya Works], and he contacted them to see if they could sponsor me to go to school. Before I knew it, my dreams of education were becoming real. Through Kenya Works, I joined my boarding school, and I am getting the education that was always in my view, but never in my reach.

When it came time for the holiday school closing, I worried about what would happen to me—where would I live, and would I be returned to school? Caroline [social worker with Kenya Works] came to visit me at school and became my bridge to the place that would become home during the holidays,

Miale ya Tumaini [a Kenya Works partner organization]. Caroline took me shopping, and encouraged me to feel involved in making my own life—to see that I and my opinions matter.

I have been exposed to people of great importance to me—they have carved a mark of love in my life. At Miale, I feel a sense of belonging—at home. Diana [the director] is like a mother to me. My grandmother cares for my child, so that I can make a future for us.

While adjusting has not always been easy, I am able to see that other life in the distance—where at 15, I would be having a second or third child while taking care of a husband and aged in-laws. Instead, I am able to build a life for myself. And for my daughter Rachel Sanaipei, who like her namesake will have the opportunity for education, success and to build her own strong spirit.

Thank you—Asante—is not enough to express what I feel, but is all I can say now.

Fifty Empowers Fifty

Join Kenya Works Makini Pad Initiative, in conjunction with Marakwet Girls Foundation, in touching the lives of fifty young and needy girls in Rimoi, Elgeyo Marakwet County on 15th September 2017. Both organizations advocate for girls rights and against harmful cultural practices along with supporting safe and reliable eco-friendly sanitary pads.

We are keeping girls in school and building their positive futures, together.

So Many Ways To Create Impact



JOIN US ONLINE



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MAKE YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TODAY



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 - \$150.00
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incorporated in Wisconsin. Your donation is tax deductible.

goes directly to cultivating opportunities in education, financial literacy and social support for the most vulnerable Kenyans

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Appleton, WI 54912
PO Box 1572

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