

PROVIDING CHILDREN
IN KENYA WITH HOPE,
HOMES, AND A FUTURE



Volume 4 Issue 2

Fall 2019

Live for Today, Hope for Tomorrow

Spotlight on Betty Gakii

Betty Gakii found that “Education is the Key”!

We are pleased to introduce you to Betty Gakii, one of Hope Children's Home's success stories.

Betty grew up in Meru, not far from our orphanage. Her father died when she was 13, and her sickly mother was unable to pay her school fees even though Betty scored well on the qualifying test for secondary school. The Home's Director, Joseph Kirima, understood her need and took her in. Shortly thereafter, Betty was assigned to a dedicated mentor, David Edelstein, an American teaching overseas who agreed to donate \$365 every year until Betty completed her education. With his encouragement, she graduated from secondary school and was accepted into the Teacher Training Program at nearby Chuka University. After graduation from that institution, Betty began teaching Swahili at Naari Secondary School in Meru District. She also fell in love with Sammy Kathurima, a local driver who lives with his

extended family near the Children's Home. They married in 2015.

Betty's teaching career, however, was cut short when the Teachers' Service Commission suddenly increased the requirements for certification as a classroom teacher. Betty found herself needing a new job. Meanwhile, the staff of our Children's Home was seeking a person with the appropriate skills to serve as Joseph's assistant. Betty fit the bill. Shortly after she joined our staff, she gave birth to twin girls – Adrian and Abigail. Because of the proximity between her new home and her workplace, she is able to perform her duties while Sammy's extended family provides childcare for the twins.



Betty's position at the Home includes keeping the accounts and handling communications with the Hope Children's Fund Board. The most difficult part of her job involves aiding our social worker and house mothers in seeing that all 89 young people in our care follow the rules of the Home. The most satisfying part of her job is being able to serve as a role model who exemplifies our motto, "Education is the Key!"

- Larry Hohler,
HCF president



Betty and Samuel's twin girls, Adrian and Abigail, are now two years old.

Major Graduation News!

Big Return on Investment!!!

Kelvin Mutuma Naari recently graduated from Mt. Kenya University with a degree in Medical Laboratory Science.

This major event is the result of the selfless effort by the Hope Children's Fund and Kelvin's hard work.

Congratulations!



News from the Home

We are proud to announce that the children at the Home have performed extremely well on their second trimester report cards. Our slogan is EDUCATION IS THE KEY! and the youth are doing their part.

The following youth achieved academic excellence:

Duncan Murangiri 404 first in class
Naftary Mwirigi 465 first in class
Bridget Nkirote 472 first
Triza Makena 456
Mark Murimi 421f
Eric Mutea 462
Robinson Kithinji B+ Secondary School
Denis Murithi 745/800 first in class Nkubu National Polytechnic
Edith Kanana Distinction Pre-Law School

**Education
is
the
Key**

Our youth enter the dining hall every day to see Danielle Garafola's EDUCATION IS THE KEY! mural. It appears they are heeding Danielle's artistic motivation.

World Orphan Fund donation brings renovations and improvements to HCF



We are most thankful for the World Orphan Fund's \$10,000 donation. The WFO assists orphanages around the world, providing assistance to build infrastructure and provide technical training. Steve Donovan of WOF visited the home last fall. Funding from WOF will be implemented in four phases.

1. Renovation of kitchen equipment/kitchen
2. a. Supplementing beds/mattresses in the youth dormitory
b. Construction of a concrete pad in front of the orphanage/installation of a basketball court
3. Bathroom facility renovation and improvements
4. Further development of the Matovich Technical Training Center

The changes will vastly improve the daily quality of life of the children. We hope the partnership between HCF and WOF will be a longstanding one.



Notes from WOF Nonprofit
from guidestar.org

We have three hard a fast rules as a charity.

- 1. We visit personally every orphanage we help. You cannot make a solid assessment without spending time with the children or their caretakers.**
- 2. We insist on absolutely no overhead. We pay our own travel costs, and what few expense exist are reimbursed by the founder. That means 100% of cash donations go directly to projects.**
- 3. We mostly focus on emergency and transformational funding - funding solutions to problems orphanages cannot afford, or cannot see.**

News from the Heart



Hope Children's Fund is supported by many small donations from caring people of all ages and all walks of life. Some of our donors are children who spend their money purchasing Kenyan crafts from the Meru Women's Cooperative. We are very excited to have the support of the next generation, including two of our youngest supporters, Giorgina, age 8, and Liana, age 6. Every donation, no matter how small, makes a real difference. This event was at Long Island University on September 15. Booth courtesy of Rich Rivkin.



INTERNATIONAL LENTEN OFFERING - The congregation of Saint Anselms Episcopal Church selected Hope Children's Fund for their international Lenten offering. Rev. Dr. John P. McGinty presented Hope Children's Fund's Vice President Kevin Mann with a check for \$500.00! The money will be used to provide food for the 89 children of their orphanage in Kenya for three weeks. Pictured from left to right: Laura Spillane, Rev. Dr. John P. McGinty, Kevin Mann and Aida Mann. For more information about H.C.F. or for details on how to help, contact Aida and Kevin Mann at (631) 470-6351 or email kevinmannmail@gmail.com.

Hope Children's Fund sells Kenyan crafts at many venues around Long Island. We are very thankful for the continued support of Cathy and Mike DePasquale of Depamarkets as well as the support of Rich Rivkin of Long Island Music Festivals.

We also do private parties and showings. For more information contact Kevin Mann at 632-470-6351.



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The Meru Women's Cooperative just celebrated their 12th anniversary. The cooperative was started in 2007 with a seed grant from Little Portion Friary. The grant was written by Shoreham-Wading River High School students. There are now 29 members of the Meru Women's Cooperative. It is led by Nancy Kirote/Mama Africa.

Gala Time! Calling all Sponsors!

Dear Friend of Hope Children's Fund,

We are excited to announce our third annual Douglas J. McDonough Passion for Education Gala. It is our largest fundraiser of the year, and we are asking for your help in making this year's event even more successful than last year's.

Please find below our levels of sponsorship:

Gold: \$10,000 -- Name branding for dinner includes 10 tickets (table) plus three pages in the journal.

Silver: \$5,000 -- Name branding of cocktail hour includes 10 tickets (table) plus two pages in the journal.

Bronze: \$2,500 -- Band sponsorship includes two tickets and one page in the journal.

4. \$2,000 -- Name branding of journal plus two pages in the journal.

5. \$2,000 -- Table sponsor 10 tickets plus full page in the journal.

6. \$1,500--Name branding Raffle/Auction plus full page in the journal.

7. \$365 -- Child mentorship for one year.

8. \$250 -- Full page in the journal.

9. \$210 -- Food for one week to feed 89 children at the Home.

10. \$125 -- Half-page ad in the journal.

11. \$100 -- New bed/mattress for the children.

12. \$75 Business card ad in the journal.

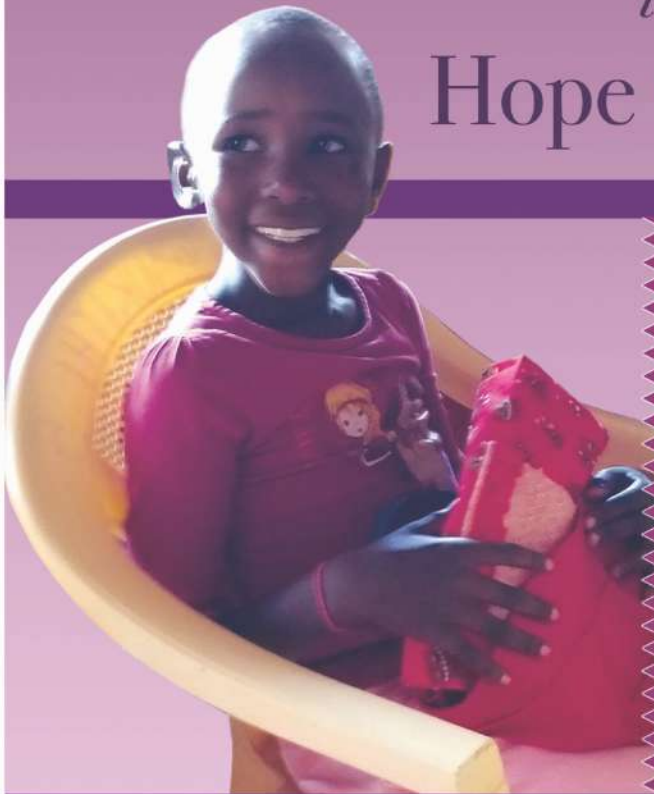
Your support of our efforts on behalf of some of the world's most vulnerable children is greatly appreciated. Your donation is 100% tax deductible under the tax law. We are a 100% volunteer organization with no U.S. office, employees, or overhead.

Respectfully submitted,
Hope Children's Fund Gala Committee

The 3rd Annual Douglas J. McDonough
Passion for Education
2020 Gala
to benefit



Hope Children's Fund



*Join us for an evening
of music, cocktail hour,
a plated dinner, raffles
and silent auction—
all supporting the education
of the children
of the Jerusha Mwiraria
Hope Children's Home,
Meru, Kenya*

Sunday, February 16, 2020

6:00 - 11:00pm \$199 per person

at The Inn & Spa at East Wind, Wading River

Please rsvp: HCFgala@gmail.com

Hope Children's Fund, P.O. Box 1345, East Northport, NY 11731

Formal attire preferred. Discounted overnight accommodations available.



Gala Journal Seeks Advertisers

Dear Hope Children's Fund Supporter,

Our Passion for Education Gala Journal is well underway.

The journal is used for both promotion and publicity for Hope Children's Fund and its advertisers. Our inaugural journal was sponsored by The Pride of Judea Alumni Association. Dr. Stan Friedland, a former HCF board member, was instrumental in getting the sponsorship.

This year we are offering different levels of participation.

Gold: Name branding of the journal - \$2,000 full sponsorship.

Ads: Full page 8.5"x5.5" \$250
Half page 4.25"x2.75" \$125
Business card \$75

Mentor ads: \$25 for mentors only. Up to 100 words and a single photo (photo offset ready).

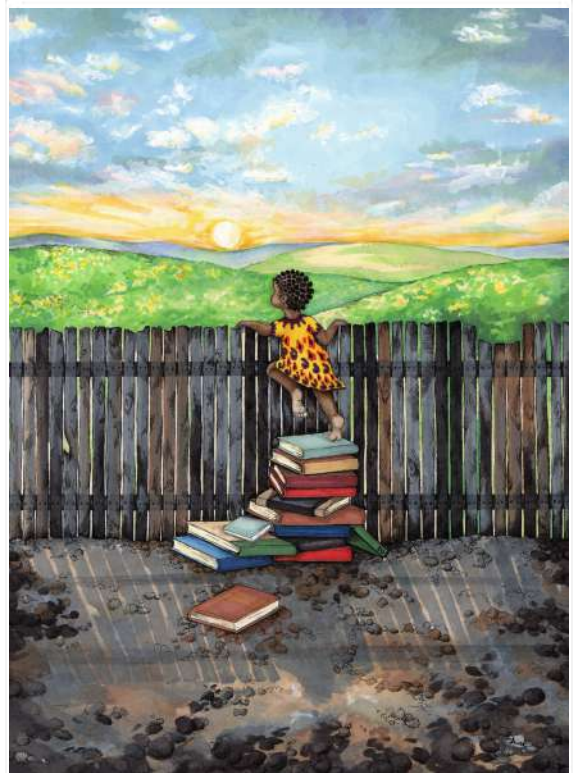
This journal will be given to all attendees at the gala as well as to the Jerusha Mwiraria Home in Meru, Kenya. All proceeds from the journal will go toward tuitions for children attending higher education institutions in Kenya.

Respectfully submitted,
The 2019-2020 Passion for Education Gala Committee

From the Board

The Hope Children's Fund Board is facing an impending economic crisis. Our tuition costs are skyrocketing. This is due in part to the success of the children of the home. They have become great students and continue to reach high academic standards. More and more of our youth are gaining admission into national technical training schools, colleges, and universities.

“Last year our tuition costs were more than \$45,000. We anticipate the cost will increase this year.”



Painting by Danielle Garafola

The board's constant struggle is to raise enough funds to reach the ever-increasing tuition demand. Last year our tuition costs were more than \$45,000. We anticipate the cost will increase this year.

How can you help? As a reader of the e-newsletter you are one of a relatively small group of dedicated activists who have nurtured the orphanage over the years. Your continued support has produced a pharmacist, a physician's assistant, a business owner, and in November our first doctor when Doreen Gatwiri will officially become Dr. Gatwiri. Watch for that celebration and coverage in the next edition.

Continue to support H.C.F. by

- Mentoring a child or continuing your mentorship
- Attending the Douglas J. McDonough Passion for Education Gala on February 16, 2020
- Walk or run in our annual bi-continental run on June 7, 2020 or sponsor a runner/walker
- Donate your minimum required distribution from your tax shelter
- Purchase Kenya crafts at our craft sales across Long Island
- Support our annual appeal

While these are monetary supports, the most important thing you can do is to share Hope Children's Fund with your friends and neighbors. We are a group of volunteers. Remember HCF has NO salaried employees or offices in the United States. We do have paid employees in Kenya to care for our children. We are a grass roots charity that provides food, clothing, shelter, educational opportunities, and medical care for 89 youth under our care. You are and can continue to change children's lives . . . forever.

Thank you for your continued support of Hope Children's Fund.

Hope Children's Fund is a 501 c (3) charitable non-profit organization. All gifts are tax deductible. EIN: 75-3065651

Please help us help the helpless with your tax-deductible donation. Make your check payable to: Hope Children's Fund, P.O. Box 387, Setauket, New York, 11733.

Save Money on Your Taxes and Help Hope Children's Fund

The new IRS tax code allows individuals over the age of 70½ to make contributions to organizations such as Hope Children's Fund directly from their qualified retirement plans.

What this means is that someone can take all, or a portion, of their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and have their financial institution send the contribution directly to HCF.

The amount you send is considered part of your RMD, but not taxable income. Please ask your tax accountant how to take advantage of this tax loophole as you consider your contribution to Hope Children's Fund.

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Rob Badalian,
winner of the 2019
Bi-Continental Run USA.



Compete against Kenyans who will be running simultaneously on the other side of the world!



SUNDAY • JUNE 7, 2020 • 10am

Setauket-Port Jefferson Station Greenway Trail

PORT JEFFERSON STATION, NY

Enter parking lot at the traffic light between Enterprise Car Rental and the 7-11 on Rte. 112



Suggested donation: \$30*

(Registration day of race: \$40)

**Runners/walkers who can secure more than \$100 in pledges run for free.*

Registration: 9:00-9:30am

Run begins at 10am

Register at Elitefeats.com

T-shirts for the 1st 50 registrants / medals for all finishers

For more information, contact Larry Hohler at hohlerlj@aol.com or Ed Hyshiver at edhysh@optonline.net

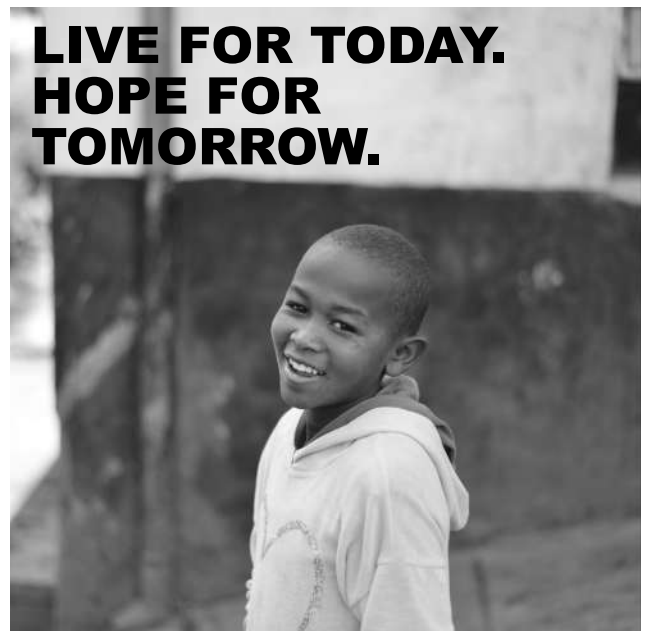
**All proceeds go to support the Jerusha Mwiraria Hope Children's Home in Meru, Kenya.*

**Our Mission
is to provide
safety, food,
clothing, health care,
education,
and the means for
the
children
and
young adults
in our care
to create a
productive
successful
future
for
themselves.**



**EDUCATION
is the
KEY!**

**LIVE FOR TODAY.
HOPE FOR
TOMORROW.**





Help Hope Children's Fund for FREE by shopping online

IGIVE

Make a no-hassle, tax-deductible contribution with iGive

Simply go to www.hopechildrensfund.org and click "sign up" under iGive



Register Hope Children's Fund as the organization you want to help when you shop online.

Help our orphaned children with a percentage of every purchase from more than 2,000 vendors*

- Special, exclusive discounts and offers to iGive shoppers
- Shop by product or vendor with easy price comparisons
- Get a small tax deduction with every purchase. iGive tallies year-end tax deduction!

*iGive vendors include big-name box stores, large online companies, and smaller specialty vendors. Services include travel, hotel, taxes, educational, and more. Each vendor donates a different percentage.

AmazonSmile



When shopping at Amazon, use AmazonSmile. Go to smile.amazon.com and register Hope Children's Fund as the organization you wish to support. Each time you shop, you have to start at smile.amazon.com, but your registration and all Amazon prices and benefits (ie. Prime) remain.