



Volume 4 Issue 1 Spring 2019

#### Live for Today, Hope for Tomorrow



#### Spotlight on Kelvin Koome (2)

Kelvin Koome came to the home in 2010, and he has been a role model for his peers and classmates ever since.

Kelvin Koome (2) should not be confused with Kelvin Koome (1), who was one of the first boys at the home in 2005. Kelvin (1) is now working as a physician's assistant at a new Meru hospital. Kelvin (2) is now 17 years old and attending Kirige Boy's Secondary School. He works very hard in school and hopes to attend university after taking the Kenya Comprehensive Secondary Examination in November.

At Kirige Boy's Secondary School, Kelvin's work ethic extends beyond the classroom. He participates in several extracurricular activities, namely basketball and the drama/acting club. As a form four student this year, Kelvin was elected class president by his peers. Form four is equivalent to the senior year of high school in the United States.

Kelvin has been mentored by the Spillane family since 2010. The Spillanes are major

supporters of Hope Children's Fund. Meghan Spillane was the first to travel to Meru, Kenya. She was followed by younger brother Kyle. Their mother, Laura, visited the orphanage in February. Oldest son Tim and father John have not YET visited, but knowing the Spillane clan, it is probably only a matter of time.

Kyle Spillane was voted in as board member of Hope Children's Fund in 2018. Mother Laura Spillane joined the HCF board in 2019.

#### **News from the Home**



Staff and some graduates of the home

#### Introducing the True Heroes of the Home

Many of us are parents, and some are grandparents. We are accustomed to juggling responsibilities. Can you imagine taking care of 89 children 365 days a year?

Faith Naitore and Anjelica Kathambi cook for one hundred souls each and every day. Each meal is prepared over a wood fire. With no refrigeration, all meals are prepped and prepared daily. Imagine peeling potatoes for 100. This Herculean task has been made even more difficult due to the lack of running water. Because of local construction, children and staff must port water 400 feet up Tungi Hill for cooking, washing, bathing, laundry, and toileting. The things we take for granted. Hopefully the water will flow again soon.

**Betty Gakii** is the secretary and assistant to the director. As a former resident of the home, she has a unique perspective. Betty graduated from Chuka University with a

teaching degree. She taught before the birth of her twin girls, Abigail and Adriel. Betty juggles being a mother with the tremendous responsibility and logistics of keeping the home running smoothly.

Jane Kimathi is the home's social worker. Managing the medical and emotion needs of 89 highly vulnerable children keeps Jane constantly on the go, moving from one potential crisis to the next.

Our house mothers, **Magdaline** and **Alice**, keep the dorms humming along. Think of laundry, bedding and bathroom supervision for 89.

**Steven Mwiti**, the home manager, has been with Joseph since the start. He serves as another father figure to youth desperately in need of male role models. Steven greets every visitor like family and is committed to the success of each and every child.



Co-founder and Director Joseph Kirima with his wife, Veronica, and grandsons Wesley and Walter.

Providing food for 100 souls daily is no easy task. We both raise and purchase food. We own and rent property for food production of maize, greens, onions, poultry, and cows. James, Robert, Joyce, Mary, and Joshua provide security and work the farmland.

All of our children are required to wear school uniforms. **Samson Kimathi**, our tailor, repairs clothing and produces school uniforms. We also sell school uniforms as a way of producing income.

At the helm of this complex organization of support of our children is **Joseph Kirima**, the co-founder and director. Joseph birthed the concept of the orphanage and has been the foundation on which the home sits. All of the children who have come to the home have literally been saved by Joseph. Without Joseph Kirima, the home and Hope Children's Fund, simply stated, would not exist.

So, while our slogan remains Education is the Key, we want to give credit to those behind the scenes who make the whole operation a success!

## News from the Heart

We, as an all-volunteer organization, are always amazed by the kindness of people on behalf of

our children.

We highlight individuals and groups who have gone above and beyond to assist the children of Hope.



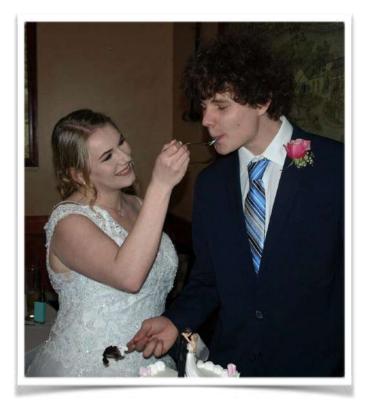


#### **Dress a Girl Around the World**

The East Northport Knights of Columbus Columbiettes made 20 dresses to donate to our girls at the home.

Dress a Girl Around the World started when founder Rachel Eggun Cinacher needed a project for Hope 4 Women International's tailoring program in Uganda.

Today, Dress a Girl has thousands of sewers across the U.S., Canada, Australia, the UK, Sweden, the Philippines, Uganda, Germany, Norway, Japan, and many other countries around the world. They have dressed more 500,00 girls across 89 countries.



### Wedding Ceremony Aids Orphans

On March 31, Danielle Parsley married her best friend, Alexander Reed, in an intimate ceremony on Long Island, New York.

Danielle and Alex met in March of 2017 at a rave in Prague during Danielle's studies abroad. They soon found themselves falling in love and managing the intricacies of a long-distance relationship.

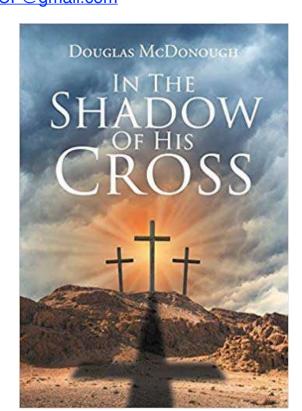
The wedding ceremony was officiated by Hope Children's Fund board member Cari Faith Besserman, Universal Life Church, Minister. In honor of the occasion, the newlyweds made a donation to Hope Children's Fund because joy should be shared and because love is love. For further information about wedding services, contact Cari Faith Besserman at CF4HCF@gmail.com

## In the Shadow of His Cross by Douglas J. McDonough

The Hope Children's Fund organization suffered a great loss when Douglas J. McDonough passed on March 1, 2018. The board renamed our Passion for Education Gala in his honor to ensure that his legacy of compassion continues.

The board is proud to announce the publication of Doug's last book, *In the Shadow of the Cross*. Doug's wife, Ginny, finished the last six chapters. The book is available in soft and hard cover from Barnes and Noble and Amazon.

Even from the other side, Doug continues to inspire us. His life proved that a man is measured not by what his limitations appear to be but by what he can accomplish with kindness and effort.



#### from Amazon.com

Over two thousand years ago, a man named Jesus of Nazareth lived, preached about love and forgiveness to his friends and followers, ultimately was crucified on a cross, died, and rose on the third day. It is a story that has been told and retold for millennia. But what do we know about what was happening in the shadows of Christ's cross?

In the Shadow of His Cross is a fictional story of political intrigue, love, and revenge. Titus is a centurion of the Roman army assigned to maintain peace and order in one of the furthest outreaches of the Roman Empire. There, he navigates the dangerous political waters in Jerusalem, following his orders while also using the

power plays between Pontius Pilate, the governor of the Roman province of Judea, and Caiaphas, the high priest of the great temple of Jerusalem, to his ultimate advantage.

In the shadows, we also meet Dysmas. Dysmas is a man no different from many of us. He is a devoted husband and father, doing his best to raise his two young children in difficult political times. He is a hardworking craftsman and a loyal neighbor. But something happens to change him, to seal his destiny to be crucified alongside Jesus of Nazareth. Is forgiveness and redemption possible?

Find out what took place *In the Shadow of His Cross*.



The Meru Women's Cooperative was started in 2007 with a seed grant from Hope Children's Fund. The group, now with 29 members, is led by Nancy Kirote, aka Mama Africa. The group supplies most of the Kenyan crafts HCF sells at craft fairs in the United States. With the money raised through the sales of crafts, women in the cooperative have been able to send their children to school and move up the economic ladder. The Women's Cooperative offers micro loans as well as counseling and support to women suffering from domestic violence or abandonment.

The 3rd Annual Douglas J. McDonough

# Passion for Education 2020 Jala to benefit HCF

Hope Children's Fund



### Sunday, February 16, 2020

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

#### From the Board

The Hope Children's Fund Board of Directors has had a very positive start to the 2019 year. We now are responsible for 89 children. Our biggest concern and budget item remains tuition. With 46 youth in post-secondary education, tuition comprises almost 50 percent of our expenditures.

We are very excited to add Laura Spillane as a board member. Laura comes to the board with the great skill set in finance and business. She also has 12 years experience as a parent of Kenyan travelers Meghan and Kyle. Laura is an anchor on the Douglas J. McDonough Passion for Education Committee. We thank Laura for donating her time and talents to the board.

The board has received assistance from the World Orphan Fund to improve the infrastructure of the home. These improvements include updating mattresses and beds,



concrete work, revamping the kitchen cooking utensils, modernizing the bathrooms, and obtaining supplies and equipment for the Matovich Technical Training Center.

We are very happy that our Co-Founder and Home Director Joseph Kirima is on the mend. Joseph is the rock on which the home sits.



Stevie Micheli (far left), Shoreham-Wading River High School graduate and Kenya traveler, entered the Peace Corps on April 1 (no joke). Stevie has been posted in Zambia.

#### Long Island's Global Citizens

Children's Home, which Kenya's capital! opened in Kenya in 2005. Hope Children's Fund with the children.

On February 18th 2019, significant Aida and Kevin along stateside. However, they at with Linda Patterson do employ individuals kevinmannmail@gmail. and Kyle and Laura in Kenya to care for the com.

Long Spillane, traveled to Meru children they serve. Islanders Aida and Kevin to volunteer with the Mann have worked to orphans. During their trip for school tuitions partially provide a future for some of (on February 28th) they by selling Kenya crafts. the world's most vulnerable celebrated the birthday H.C.F. started the Meru children in Meru, Kenya, of their "daughter" Women's Cooperative in They volunteer much Risper Mwendwa who 2007 and today 29 women of their time with Hope turned 24. Risper was in this cooperative are Children's Fund, a nonprofit organization that their Children's Home in through craft sales. Aida provides safety, food, 2005 and the Manns have and Kevin sell crafts at clothing, health care and been mentoring her since local fairs and also do education to children and 2006. She graduated from private craft parties. young adults in Africa. Meru National Polytechnic Hope Children's Fund The Manns helped find and with a degree in Business provides a hand up, not build the Jerusha Mwiraria Relations and now lives a hand out. They truly Hope Children's Fund and works in Nairobi, believe that Education Is

no employees, office or the effort,

The home earns money

The Key!

For more information They have also been to is a 100% volunteer about Hope Children's Kenya nine times to work ran organization, with Fund, or to assist in overhead Aida and Kevin Mann 631.470.6351

from Neighbor to Neighbor publications March 18, 2019 Noelle Lambert



LONG ISLAND'S GLOBAL CITIZENS - "The Fearless Five" pictures from left to right; Linda Patterson, Aida Mann, Kevin Mann, Laura Spillane and Kyle Spillane. Photo courtesy of Aida and Kevin Mann

#### **HCF Board of Directors**

President – Larry Hohler 631-473-1662 <u>hohlerli@aol.com</u>

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Newsletter layout Jean Branna

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



**SUNDAY • JUNE 2, 2019 • 9am** 

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: \$25\*

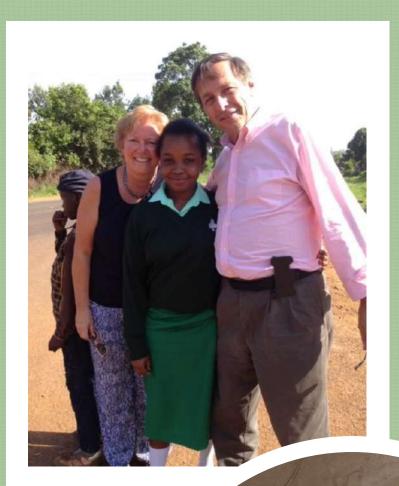
\*Runners/walkers who can secure more than \$100 in pledges run for free.

Registration: 9:00-9:50am
Run begins at 10am

T-shirts for the 1st 15 registrants / medals for all finishers

For more information, call Larry Hohler at 631-473-1662 or Ed Hyshiver at 631-664-0257 \*All proceeds go to support the Jerusha Mwiraria Hope Children's Home in Meru, Kenya.

#### Jane Makondi Scholarship Winners Announced



The HCF board of directors is proud to announce the first winners of the Jane Makondi Scholarship. Jane was the social worker at the opening of the home in 2005. Her untimely passing left a huge gap in the day-to-day operations of the home.

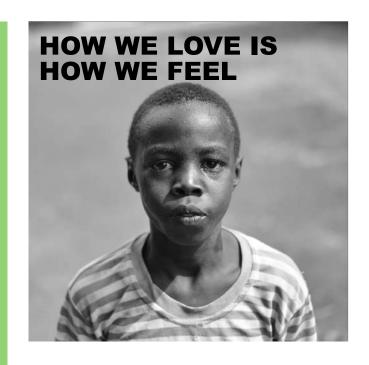
The scholarship was funded as a matching grant by the Jean Watson Fund. The award is given to the student with the highest qualifying score on the KCPE (Kenya Comprehensive Primary Examination) and the student with the highest qualifying score on the KCSE (Kenya Comprehensive Examination). The awards cover secondary and university education respectively. The winners' tuitions will be paid for the duration of their education.

The two winners are Paul Orando and Edith Kanana. Paul is attending Form 1 at Kirige Day Secondary School. Edith is attending Mt. Kenya University Westlands Campus in Nairobi. She is studying law. Paul Orando is mentored by Shravan Joshi. Edith Kanana is mentored by the Wunsch family.

**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.

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.



## EDUCATION is the KEY!



#### **HCF's Artist Danielle Garafola**

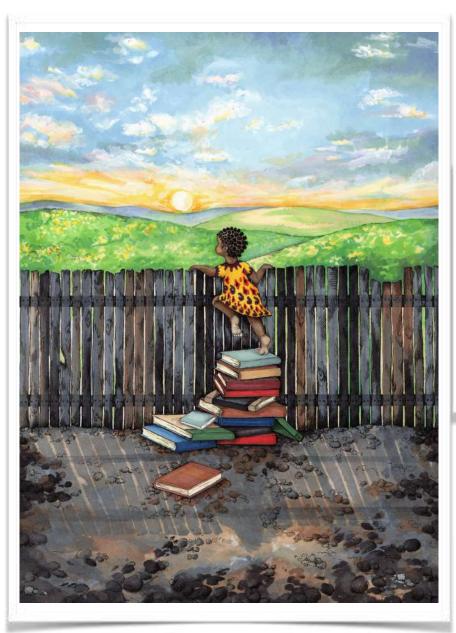
Danielle Garafola's artwork *Way Out* is just the latest example of her commitment to Hope Children's Fund going back to her high school days. While attending Shoreham-Wading River she was an extremely active member of the Global Awareness Club. Danielle actually created a paint-by-stencil design for a van for the home in 2007. Volunteers carried her stencils and spray paint to Meru and custom painted a Toyota minivan.

Danielle's artwork is everywhere at the home. When she visited, she painted the home's slogan, Education is the Key! in the dining hall. The six-foot installation features a key with all the curriculum areas. Danielle also painted a 30-foot HCF logo on the back of the home. Until recently it could be seen from the road entering Meru. The growth of banana trees has now obscured the road view.

While at college, Danielle held a one-woman show at Barnaby's in New Paltz, NY entitled Monsters, with the proceeds going to the charity.

We are thrilled to announce that Danielle has married the love of her life, Joe Fritschen, on March 30. We wish them both a long happy life together.

For prints of Way Out contact Danielle at <a href="mailto:daniellelilian@gmail.com">daniellelilian@gmail.com</a>







## Help Hope Children's Fund for FREE by shopping online

#### **IGIVE**

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

Simply go to <a href="https://www.hopechildrensfund.org">www.hopechildrensfund.org</a> 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
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\*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**

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