

Changing
the world
one
child
at a time

MAKENA Musings

Newsletter of MAKENA Children's Foundation, Inc. Fall 2016 Vol. 17, No. 2

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A Message
from the
President

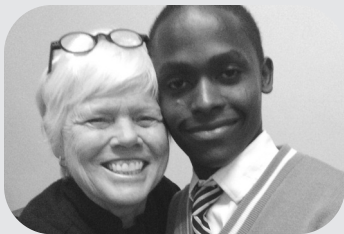
Anne Batzer

My heart is full of all the positive experiences from my recent trip to Kenya. This newsletter tells the story of just some of the deeply moving moments from the time spent with our students, their families and our Kenyan partners, Charles and Francis Karanja.

Accompanying me on this journey was Makena sponsor, Lindsay Berryman. Lindsay used her varied background as a psychiatric nurse, successful business owner and first woman elected Mayor of my city, Medford, Oregon, to add thoughtful questions and brilliant ideas to every discussion.

Just as valuable is Lindsay's personal demeanor. She would be comfortable sitting down and relating to any person on our planet. Within two minutes of meeting every Kenyan, Lindsay would have them laughing with her. This ability to connect and bond is a gift that inspired me and, at times, kept me going when challenges arose. The strong bridges Lindsay forged with everyone she met endure and will serve us well as we move forward.

Lindsay shared special moments with the young woman she and her husband Jim sponsor, nursing student Rachael Njeri and the young man Medford's Rogue Rotary Club co-sponsors, secondary student David Maina (see photos below.)



These personal meetings impact our students in deeply profound ways. Meeting the American "stranger" who sponsors them is a memory that I know they will talk about each time I visit with them in the future.

(Continued on back)

Makena Alumni Club Completes Its First Community Service Project

By Anne Batzer

Shindano Primary School is typical of rural educational institutions in Kenya. Shindano has over 600 students, yet the Kenyan Government pays the salaries for just 12 teachers. In addition, the government gives the school \$14.00 per student per year. Headmaster Joseph N'gang'a has dedicated himself for 11 years to educating these children from our Makena students' home village of Maraigushu. He says he worries because the children lack decent nutrition and the school has inadequate funds to pay for basic school supplies.

For these reasons, the Makena Alumni Club (MAC) chose Shindano Primary School as the recipient of its first community service project. MAC is composed of our university students and alumni who meet three times a year for mentoring and peer support. Our Kenyan volunteer, Francis Karanja (pictured at right) directs the Alumni Club. Late last year the MAC members realized that, although many are still students themselves, they have much to give. Saying they are inspired by the generosity of their American sponsors, they reached out to help others.

On a blustery day, MAC members, joined by some members of the Naivasha Rotaract Club, traveled to Shindano Primary School to give each of the 600+ students 5 workbooks. These necessary books fill a gap in the school supplies essential to these students' learning.

This project flourished under the leadership of Chair, Simon Mwangi (pictured at right). Many parents attended the event and carefully cradled the workbooks to protect them from the falling rain. We know this precious gift from our young alumni is just the first of what will be many service projects. We are bursting with pride at this accomplishment.



ABOVE Lindsay Berryman demonstrates flossing to curious—and somewhat skeptical—students at Shindano Primary School. Lindsay distributed Dental Kits to the children. We are so grateful to the Interact Club at St. Mary's High School in Medford, Oregon for assembling and donating these Kits.

AT RIGHT Makena Alumni Club member Samson Machohi gives workbooks to a student at Shindano Primary School



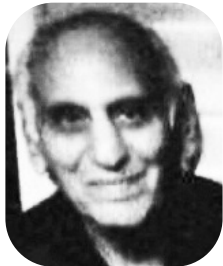
To Honor My Father

By Mary Jo Baich

Makena sponsor Omar Jahangir, MD, recently announced the establishment of the Saleem Jahangir Scholarship Fund to honor his father and ensure that one Kenyan student annually will have access to excellent schooling. This scholarship is now fulfilling the education dreams of Makena student Johnson Kamau as he studies at Murang'a University. When Johnson graduates, another promising student will be chosen to receive this ongoing gift.

Is this commitment to provision of education in Kenya the result of a gene, a family heritage or a prayer of gratitude? Omar, medical director of Elkhart General Hospital in Indiana, says, "all the above."

Born of Pakistani parents who immigrated to Africa, Omar attended public schools in Nakuru, Kenya. His pharmacist father, Saleem (pictured at right), demanded excellence and pushed Omar to be the top in his class. Omar says his father directed him to pick one of three courses of study: medicine, engineering or an MBA program. Omar says he knew at a very early age he would choose the medical field.



Omar's older brother—a banker—now lives in Canada, as do their parents, Saleem and Najma. His parents often come to the United States to visit their granddaughters and to share time together as a family.

Omar says his father used to write about politics for Kenya's newspaper, *The Daily Nation*. Now retired, Saleem posts informative pieces on culture, politics and markets on Facebook. Omar says it pleases him that many of his friends now follow his father online.

The theme of education is a continuous thread in the Jahangir family. When Omar learned about the Makena Children's Foundation, its connection to Kenya and its focus on education, he knew he had found a way to honor his Dad—thus continuing the legacy that Saleem Jahangir gave his son, Omar.

Like father, like son—a benefit with lasting implications.

The Jahangir family now resides in Granger, a city located near South Bend. It is a lively household that includes three daughters: Soha, 8; Anaya, 4; and Areesha, who is almost a year old. Omar and Sana are both practicing medicine, and Omar recently started his own hospitalist medical company.

Newest University Student

Joseph Njoroge was accepted into Egerton University in Njoro, majoring in Agri-Business. He started classes in August. Joseph says his life's mission is to use his future college degree to figure out how the limited resources of the earth can be used more efficiently in order to feed the burgeoning world population. We are so proud of him for setting this ambitious goal. After years of boarding school where nearly every minute is scheduled, the transition to university life is somewhat daunting. "I have to get myself up in the morning," Joseph said with a laugh. "Then, I have to figure out how to get clear across a huge campus between classes. I can't be late." Promising to mentor him and help him adjust to college life is Makena student Alice Njoki who is in her third year at Egerton, majoring in Actuarial Sciences.



Like parents throughout the world

this Kenyan woman wants a better life for her child. She shares our belief that education changes lives.



Helping Each Other

The Makena Alumni Club has started an online Chat Room. It's filled with jokes and funny stories, but also helpful information. Here Makena Alumnus Daniel Kimani thanks another alumnus, elementary school teacher Martha Waithira, for telling him about a job possibility. Because Martha told him about the job opening, Kimani is now teaching and tutoring students at a Kip McGrath Education Center. Speaking of the Makena alumni, Kimani said, "We have known each other since we were toddlers. It's been a beautiful journey."

Let there be light!

Grace Njeri's daughter Pnina points to a light powered by a small solar panel that sits on the tin roof of the family's home. Three such lightbulbs now illuminate their living room, kitchen and outdoor space, delighting this single mother of six children.

Still, without running water, without electricity for cooking and with constant repair needed to the mud and animal dung walls of their home, life is challenging.

The Makena Children's Foundation believes education is the most sustainable path out of poverty. Please help us change the future for our families.

Spread a little light to the children ...

Sponsorship transforms a child's life. Please consider sponsorship for a child that is waiting for your help. If sponsorship is beyond reach, please consider a donation. Because we are all volunteers, overhead is extremely low, but sponsorship funds do not cover all of our costs.

Make your tax-deductible donation TODAY, payable to Makena Children's Foundation, Inc., 711 Medford Center, #117, Medford, OR 97504.

- ☐ I wish to sponsor a Makena student with a gift of \$2,000 annually.
- ☐ I wish to lend a hand to the smooth operation of the Makena Children's Foundation with a gift of:
 - ☐\$50 ☐\$100 ☐\$200 ☐\$400 ☐\$600 ☐\$1,000
- ☐ You have permission to mention my support in your publication(s).
- ☐ I prefer to make my gift anonymously.
- ☐ I am unable to contribute now, but please keep me informed about the work of Makena Children's Foundation.
- ☐ I would like to share my story relating to Africa or my sponsored child.
Please contact me by phone ☐ or by e-mail ☐.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ e-mail _____

Makena Children's Foundation ... educating children in Kenya since 1997

It's a boy!



It is with great pleasure that we announce the birth of Antony Kinyingi, son of loving parents Hannah Wanja and her husband Alfred Ngahu. Hannah is an Accountant at the financial institution, K-Unity, and Alfred works as a Regional Manager for UNICEF.

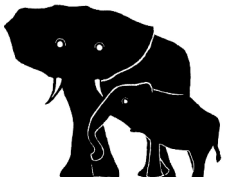
Hannah is the first student ever sponsored by the Makena Children's Foundation. When we met her in 1995, she was 8 years old and had never been to school. Hannah knew no English when she entered her first class—which was taught in English. Undaunted, Hannah mastered both the language and the course work so easily that she was later invited to be in the first class of girls to attend secondary school at Nairobi's prestigious Starehe Academy. She went on to graduate with an Accounting degree from Kenyatta University in 2013.

Hannah serves as a fine role model for all the younger students in the Makena Children's Foundation. She says she and Alfred love being parents to Antony. Hannah has embraced parenthood in the same way she has approached each new experience—with her strong intelligence and great depth of heart.

Our warmest congratulations to Hannah and Alfred!

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MAKENA Children's Foundation, Inc.
711 Medford Center, #117
Medford, OR 97504

If you'd like to help bring the priceless gift of education to deserving children, please complete the form inside and send your donation TODAY.

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A Message from the President (Continued from front)

If you have received this newsletter, you are part of the Makena Children's Foundation's success story. "Asante Sana!" (thank you very much in Swahili) seems inadequate to express our gratitude.

Kenya's challenges are many. But we came back from this trip convinced that education is the most sustainable path out of desperate poverty and the key to giving residents of the developing world the tools they need in order to solve their own problems.

Self Help Group



The parents and guardians of the Makena students continue to meet monthly in order to work together to make life in their home village, Maraigushu, a little easier.

Almost all still live without running water and electricity, in homes constructed of mud and animal dung. They've registered their group with the Kenyan government and have amassed nearly one thousand dollars. They are raising money by giving micro loans to each other and collecting interest.

In photo at left, Lindsay Berryman greets the leaders of the group, Joseph Kamau, Solomon Wanyoike, Lucy Njenga and Johnson Kamau.

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