

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

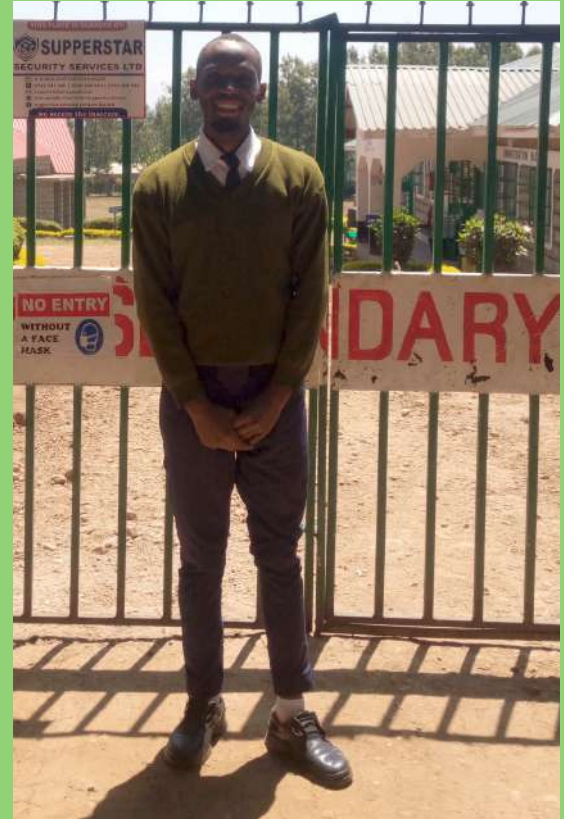


Volume 6 Issue 2

Spring 2021



Spotlight on Heena Nkatha & Ken Murithi



Heena Nkatha is this issue's primary grade student spotlight. She is eleven years old in Class 6, the equivalent of our 6th grade. Heena is an extremely social child. At the home, she regularly helps her younger brothers and sisters with chores and schoolwork. One of her favorite activities is playing basketball. Due to a grant from the World Orphan Fund, our home has a full court concrete basketball court. Who knows? Maybe the WNBA is in Heena's future.

Heena attends Gikumene Primary School, which is just down the hill and across the Meru-Maua Road. Every day, the children from the home walk together to classes. Most days the children come "home" for snack and tea.

This edition's secondary school student spotlight shines on **Ken Murithi**. Ken is in Form Four, the equivalent to our senior year, at Kirige Day Secondary School. He has just completed the multi-day thirteen subject Kenya Comprehensive Secondary Examination, which determines if youth can continue their education.

Ken's early education was interrupted. While Ken is 21 years old, he still has dreams of becoming a barrister (lawyer). We wish Ken the best of luck with his KCSE scores. Hopefully he will score high enough to be accepted into a pre-law program.

Heena Nkatha is mentored by the Acker Family of Shoreham, New York.

Education is the Key!

Whatever free time Ken has after chores and studying he spends on the football pitch. The home has two portable football (soccer) goals purchased with funds donated by the World Orphan Fund. Ken is a member of the Dragon Hills Football Club which is comprised of boys from the home. The Dragon Hills squad plays matches against schools, neighbor clubs, and college teams.

Susan and Charles Bevington of Rocky Point, New York are long-term mentors of Ken Murithi.

News from the Home

Operation Food Self- Sufficiency

HCF's long-term goal is 100% food self-sufficiency, and we are producing as much food as possible. We hope to purchase more land for crops and to replace our storm-damaged greenhouses. This harvest was six bags of beans, which we will last about two months, and seventy bags of maize. Some of the maize will be ground, some used, and some bartered. We hired a tractor for threshing.



RIP Brenda Mwendwa

The Heart and Soul of HCF

by Larry Hohler

Things are looking up in Kenya. Because of the quick action of the Kenyan government last March -- closing schools and churches, and limiting domestic travel -- the pandemic appears to be under control; churches have reopened, and the kids went back to school at the beginning of January.

One of our most beloved children, Brenda Mwendwa, was to have joined her classmates in their last year of primary school. Brenda came to us when she was four after her parents died. In what seemed like all of a sudden, she had become a teenager. She was slow to develop because of a pre-existing condition, but she became the pint-sized life of the party from almost the time of her arrival. When folks came to visit from New York, she was the most photographed of our orphans because she was very cute and always smiling. Brenda was a great entertainer who loved to dance, and with her sparkling personality, she endeared herself to visitors, the rest of our kids, and our staff.

Last fall, when she was 16, Brenda suddenly became anemic and was in and out of the hospital for several months. Two of our older boys donated blood to help in her recovery, but Brenda's condition continued to worsen. She died on January 25, almost a year after the passing of Joe Kirima, our home's founder.

Brenda is greatly missed. The Kenyans are better at dealing with death than most of us, but they are not used to dealing with the loss of a youngster who came to represent the heart and soul of the home.

Rest in Peace, Brenda.



News from the Board

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Please help our orphanage while shopping online. When shopping **AMAZON**, go to smile.amazon.com and choose **Hope Children's Fund** as the organization you want to support. For shopping at over 2400 online stores and services other than Amazon, many of which you are probably already using, please go to our website, www.hopechildrensfund.org and click "sign up" under **iGive**. It is free, makes shopping easier, and you even get a small tax deduction! Really, no kidding.

Please help us help the helpless with your tax-deductible donation. Make your check payable

Mini van fund drive off and running — but not at the finish line yet!

We hope that you and your family are doing well during this unique time we're living in. We understand that these are challenging times for all of us, but we would like to humbly ask for your attention for a few moments.

Incorporated in 2003, Hope Children's Fund, Ltd. is a New York State licensed 501 C 3 that provides for the physical and emotional needs of some of the most vulnerable AIDS-affected children who were living on the streets of Meru, Kenya.

Our goal is to furnish the food, clothing, shelter, and medical care that will enable these children to be enrolled in local schools. At the Jerusha Mwiraria Hope Children's Home, we expect to provide these children with the tools that will help them to become productive adults.



As Board of Directors, our mission is to provide a safe

and stable environment for the children under our care. As the sole providers for these children, their safety and stability are one of our top priorities.

Over the years we have lacked a vehicle to transport the children to and from their regular activities of attending school, shopping for food and supplies for the home, and visiting medical providers.

This lack of vehicles creates a constant struggle for us to transport the children to where they need to be. Transportation safety is critical in Meru, Kenya, where the common means of travel are walking, matatus (minibus), and lorries (trucks).

These means of travel can be extremely dangerous. Tragically, over our existence, two of our children; Glory and Michell, have been killed on the road on their walk to school from our home.

Since the pandemic, public transportation is no longer the safest option for our immune-compromised children, who regularly travel to the doctor. We feel that a new vehicle for transporting our children has the potential to save lives.

“Over the years we have lacked a vehicle to transport the children to and from their regular activities of attending school, shopping for food and supplies for the home, and visiting medical providers. This lack of vehicles creates a constant struggle for us to transport the children to where they need to be.”

Meru Toyota will provide us with a new Hiace minivan (16 seats) if we can raise enough funds. The vehicle comes equipped with removable seating, which will help us to transport food items and bulk purchases to the home.

The purchase of this minivan provides us with the possible income-generating opportunities for private taxi and transport of goods, thus moving us closer towards our goal of self-sustainability.

The total cost of the vehicle is approximately \$42,000. The price of our goal includes the cost of insuring the vehicle for one year. If we cannot raise enough funds for a new vehicle, we will purchase the best used one available based on our fundraising. As of April 12, \$33,111.72 has been raised, with \$7,600 obtained through our [GoFundMe](#) page. We have already met nearly 80% of our goal!



We realize that these are difficult times to be living in and that money is a precious resource for all of us, now more than ever. With this said, we humbly ask you to please consider donating to the vehicle fund if it is within your means to do so.

Any donation, small or large, will inch us closer to our goal of safe transport for the children. As a result, any and all support helps to fuel their growth as productive, happy, and loving members of society.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this. Your attention and support mean the world to us.

In gratitude, The Hope Children's Fund Board of Directors

**Please consider donating to the vehicle fund.
We have established the following sponsorship levels:**

Elephant \$2,000 + Hippo \$25 Lion \$1,000

Giraffe \$100 Rhino \$500

Any donation, small or large, will inch us closer to the goal of safe transportation. Please donate through our [GoFundMe](#) page or send your donation to Hope Children's Fund P.O. Box 387, Setauket, New York. Please mark your check or donation "vehicle donation." Thank you in advance for your continued support.



An [article](#) about Kyle Spillane's efforts to raise funds to transport HCF children appeared in a recent edition of the Times Beacon Record newspapers.

Honoring Joseph Kirima



The Kirima family gathered to celebrate the first anniversary of Joseph Kirima's passing. Without his passion and commitment to the children of Meru, HCF would not exist. His wife Veronica has picked up the responsibility by becoming the director of the home. We are thankful to the entire Kirima family for their dedication to the Jerusha Mwiraria Home. The dormitory of the home has been renamed the Joseph Kirima Dormitory.

News from the Heart



The Community Service Club of Roslyn Middle School, under the leadership of Ms. Loretta Fonseca, met via zoom with HCF Co-President Kevin Mann on March 7. The club wanted to learn about Hope Children's Fund and wanted to help. Ms. Fonseca found out about Hope Children's Fund at a Long Island craft fair where Kenyan crafts made at the home and the surrounding area were being sold.

The result was a highly successful "Duct Tape the Principal" fundraiser. Students and teachers purchased lengths of duct tape and then taped Principal Craig S. Johnson to the cafeteria wall. Roslyn Middle School raised \$460.00 with its first fundraiser. Clearly this event underscored the *fun* in fundraiser.

Ms. Fonseca and her club have made a long-term commitment to mentor Juliet Mwendwa for \$365.00 per year. The additional funds raised will go to the vehicle appeal project.

Ms. Fonseca envisions her 6th graders continuing the mentorship until their graduation from Roslyn High School. Juliet Mwendwa attends Class 7 at Gikumene Primary School in Meru, Kenya. She lives with her 94 brothers and sisters at the Jerusha Mwiraria Hope Children's Fund Home.

We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with the Community Service Club at Roslyn Middle School. They obviously are a club with great heart and great action.



Principal Craig S. Johnson graciously participated in Roslyn Middle School's "stuck for a few bucks" HCF fundraiser.

The 4th Annual Douglas J. McDonough

Passion for Education



Rotary
Rocky Point



2021 Gala

to benefit

Hope Children's Fund

July 24, 2021

The Inn & Spa at East Wind,
Wading River

Join us for an evening
of live music by X-Session,
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

6pm - 11pm \$199 per person

Formal attire preferred.

Discounted overnight accommodations available.

Every ticket pays for a trimester of
secondary school for a child from the home.

Please *rsvp*: HCFgala@gmail.com

Hope Children's Fund,

P.O. Box 1345, East Northport, NY 11731

hopechildrensfund.org



Gala Weekend

The Douglas J. McDonough Gala Committee proudly announces the expansion of the 4th annual gala into Gala Weekend!

The weekend will kick off Friday, July 23, with a 6 p.m. cocktail party reception at Desmond's at East Wind in Wading River. The gathering will welcome back all former Kenyan travelers and their families to share photos and memories of their experiences at the home in Meru. East Wind will be offering a special room block rate for us both Friday, July 23, and Saturday, July 24.

Saturday will be a double-header event. During the day, Hope Children's Fund supporters are invited to visit the Shoppes at East Wind. All supporters will receive a special discount booklet. Ride the Carousel, visit the cheese shop, the wine shop and the other twenty or so specialty shops.

At 6 p.m. the party starts in the Northampton ballroom. Live music by X-Session, live video from Kenya, dancing and merriment accompanied by raffles and a silent auction. East Wind will again provide special room block rates. The party ends at 11p.m. with after parties on your own.

Sunday, July 25, starts with a group breakfast at Desmond's. The breakfast is at your own expense. At 11:30 a.m., it's all aboard the North Fork Trolley for a tasting tour of RG/NY and Macari wineries followed by a tasting at Long Ireland Brewery. This is a separate ticketed event. We will return to East Wind to complete our fun-filled weekend.

For questions and bookings contact Aida and Kevin Mann at (631) 470-6351 or kevinmannmail@gmail.com. Please do not contact East Wind directly.



*East
Wind
Long
Island*



Gala Sponsorship Opportunities



Hope Children's Fund, Ltd. P.O. Box 1345, East Northport, NY 11731 USA 631-470-6351

Dear Friend of Hope Children's Fund,

We are excited to announce our 4th Annual Douglas J. McDonough Passion for Education Gala on **July 24, 2021** at the prestigious East Wind Long Island. Being a 100% volunteer organization (with no U.S. office, employees or overhead) the Gala is our largest fundraiser of the year. We are asking your help in making this year's event the most successful yet. 100% of all proceeds from the event support the Jerusha Mwiraria Children's Home in Meru, Kenya. In addition to attending our Gala event, this year there are more ways to help than ever!

1) Event Sponsorship*

Hope Children's Fund is excited to offer sponsorship opportunities at every level, so giving is easier than ever!

GOLD	\$10,000	Name branding for dinner includes 10 tickets (one table) PLUS 3 pages in the journal.
SILVER	\$5,000	Name branding of cocktail hour includes 10 tickets (table) PLUS 2 pages in the journal.
BRONZE	\$2,500	Band sponsorship includes 2 tickets and one page in the journal.
TABLE SPONSOR	\$2,000	Table sponsor 10 tickets plus 1 full page in the journal.
AUCTION SPONSOR	\$1,500	Name branding Raffle/Auction plus 1 full page in the journal.
CHILD MENTOR	\$365	Child mentorship for 1 year
FOOD SPONSOR	\$210	Food for one week to feed 89 children at the Home.
BED SPONSOR	\$100	New bed/mattress for the children.

2) Journal Advertising*

We are pleased to announce our 2nd Passion for Education Gala Journal. The journal is used for both promotion and publicity for Hope Children's Fund and its advertisers with a local Long Island circulation of over 1000+ unique impressions!

JOURNAL SPONSOR	\$2000	Name branding of journal plus two FULL page ads
FULL PAGE AD	\$250	8.5" x 5.5"
HALF PAGE AD	\$125	4.25" x 2.75"
BUSINESS CARD AD	\$75	3.5" x 2"

3) Raffle/Silent Auction Donations*

We are seeking donations of items/services for our Raffle/Silent Auction at the event. If you would like to submit a donation, please contact Aida and Kevin Mann at kevinmannmail@gmail.com. In your email, please provide item description, retail \$ value, pickup/drop off needs & if you require a receipt for tax purposes. **All donations must be submitted by 07/10/21.**

Your support of our efforts on behalf of some of the world's most vulnerable children is greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the Children of the Jerusha Mwiraria Home we THANK YOU,
Hope Children's Fund Gala Committee

* donations are 100% tax deductible under Tax Law