

Jambo!

Spreading Impact in Kenya



It was a coming together of great significance: a Kenya Keys' team consisting of Americans and Kenyans traveled to Chwele, in western Kenya, to provide training in our successful sponsorship and girl empowerment programs. Our blog is now full of stories about the many priceless moments experienced there (you can read the posts [here](#)).

The training was enormously successful, and everyone agreed that it was a life-changing experience. And beyond that, everyone there was changed by the connections they made. Bridgit, a girl from Chwele, said of the SOS (Save Our Sisters) team from Taru: "You were more than sisters - you were our best friends." And Shalom expressed her appreciation: "Every moment of the training was of great importance to me. I can't thank you enough."

The girls from Chwele weren't the only ones who were grateful to be there. The Parkin family traveled there from the U.S. Angie Parkin described her family's experience as "absolutely unforgettable." Read all the beautiful tributes from the training's participants in the blog: [Short Training, Lasting Impact](#).

Alma Mater Matters



Perhaps no "product" of Kenya Keys' work in rural Kenya is more inspiring than seeing how eagerly our sponsored students participate in mentoring and leadership. As often as they are able, they return to their alma maters to encourage, teach, and mentor the students there. "We are now professionals," says Samson Charo, "but we once sat in your seats. We had empty stomachs. It seemed impossible to continue." Ali Jabu encourages the students: "Don't be

discouraged. If I can do it, you can too!"

Director Brent Hayes cannot hold back tears as he sees these young professionals leading others. He has long invited the students to chant, "We are the future leaders of Kenya!" (You can read that story [here](#).) And now, he is watching that dream being fulfilled, as one-by-one these mentors are empowering hundreds to follow in their footsteps. Read Brent's moving blog on the subject [here](#).

Best Olympics Ever

The Rio Olympics have drawn the attention of the world. We love the moments of victory, especially the unexpected "underdog" victories. But the best olympic moments are the glimpses we get into the hearts of the competitors.



That's what makes the Special Olympics at Ndhivyo Special Needs School the best olympics ever -

these athletes are all heart. Raphael Galukah, Headmaster of Ndhivyo, describes their "giggles, jumps, and beaming faces" as the students participated in the events. Each student earned a place on the podium. And all who watched the proceedings were touched by the passion and joy of the athletes. For more Special Olympics inspiration you can read Rinda's blog, "[Number One in Her Own Division](#)."

We are very excited to announce the second annual "Run to Mtulu" fun run, on Saturday, October 1st at Uplands Elementary School in Lake Oswego, Oregon. This fun event is perfect for kids of all ages. It is organized by Kenya Keys' volunteer, Missy McConkie, and the proceeds support Mtulu Primary School in Kenya. Visit the [event website on Crowdrise](#) to learn more and to register. We hope to see you there!

Beautiful Resilience



What would you do if getting to school each day meant running the risk of being attacked by an elephant? Or if you were moved from an established school to a new one, one that significantly lacked classrooms, dormitory space, and other resources? How would you respond to a major setback in your studies, like a personal illness, a death in your family, or the loss of funds to pay tuition? Kenya Keys' intern Ben Hilton, writes movingly about the resilience he found in the girls of Taru, who have hurdled unbelievable obstacles time and time again. Read his entertaining and thought-provoking blog: [Of Ice Cream & Elephants](#).

Want more inspiration? We're posting stories from the trip and other endeavors on Facebook, Instagram, and our blog. We hope to inform, inspire, and engage you; and we want to hear from you as well. Be part of the Kenya Keys' family by clicking the links below.

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