

# *Jambo!*

## **We are Taru Bound!**



**Marilyn Lewis**



**Carolyn Jenkins**



**Zach Peterson**



**Missy McConkie**



**Michelle McMurray**

--- sisters ---



**Mark Friess**



**Jackson Friess**

--- father and son ---

We are returning to Taru village this week with an exceptional, dynamic team of volunteer interns. It has been three years since a full team has gone to Taru, and everyone is very excited. With valuable experience in teaching, business, special education, art, science, music and more, this diverse team will be involved in every aspect of Kenya Keys. The days will be filled meeting with sponsored students, teaching science and math, hosting a special boys conference and evaluating and strengthening our girls' programs. Our interns will also conduct reviews of our libraries, lead Global Classroom art projects, provide teacher trainings, assess trade school opportunities, join in Special Olympics, and so much more.

Each day will bring endless opportunities for the team to learn about the beauty of the Kenyan culture, and will give the people of the village a glimpse into American lives. We extend our appreciation to this great volunteer team - and their families - for their dedication to Kenya Keys. This will be an extraordinary trip with extraordinary people! Follow our activities on social media.

***Be sure to follow our team in Kenya through our [Blog](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) posts.***

## ***The Men Return for the Boys Conference***



We are excited to be hosting the first-ever Kenya Keys Boys Conference this month in Taru village. The cornerstone of this event will be the return of Kenya Keys-sponsored graduates to encourage, motivate and support boys currently in secondary school. In Kenya, boys this age face many responsibilities and difficult decisions. Our alumni men, now employed throughout Kenya, will be able to speak to the students from their own experiences, challenges and successes. The conference will be held at Taru Boys Secondary School where Kenya Keys had its beginning over 12 years ago. This will be open to all of the boys at the school, extending the benefit of Kenya Keys beyond our sponsored students. It is sure to be filled with lots of energy and inspiration.

## ***Girl Empowerment: "I Believe in Myself"***

Young girls in Kenya face so many risks unheard of in America. This past year, with the added burden of the extended drought, there has been a huge increase in the number of girls in primary school sold into marriage or becoming pregnant. Yes, **primary** school!

*But we have a powerhouse of local Kenyan girls to address the challenges facing their peers through the Save our Sisters (SOS) group. Two of their dynamic leaders, Lydia and Caroline, are returning to Taru to reignite the sisterhood and encourage strength, commitment, and girls believing in themselves (experience their energy in [this](#)*

video). Both Lydia and Caroline are in college now, supported by Kenya Keys sponsorships. These young women illustrate the power of education and leadership - hallmarks of Kenya Keys.



Lydia

The SOS girls will be working with our staff and interns to develop strong empowerment programs. Kenya Keys participated in an online fundraiser through Globalgiving in the spring, raising money for a Girl Empowerment Fund. Thank you to all who participated. Because of your generosity, and a matching gift from the Gates Foundation, we are now positioned to provide more effective programs for



Caroline

girls to help them build a better life for themselves. Who better to help develop those programs than the girls themselves?

## ***Elephants Stand in the Way of Education***



The infamous "red-colored" Tsavo elephants are coming into the villages.

Hurdles to an education come in many forms for Kenyans: they have to pay to go to secondary school, lack of menstruation supplies keep girls out of the classroom, famine ravages families and now . . . elephants are coming between students and their schools!

Because of the severe drought that continues in the Tsavo National Park area, home to the infamous "red-colored" elephants, these huge creatures are roaming into the lowland villages where the rains have finally returned. Aware of the danger that these wild creatures pose to children running miles to school, several schools in our service area have been forced to close while park rangers address the problem.

*Want more inspiration? We're posting stories about what is happening for Kenya Keys both in the USA and in Kenya on Facebook, Instagram, and our blog. We hope to inform, inspire, and engage you.*

*Be part of the Kenya Keys' family by clicking the links below.*

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