



The Giving Hope Project



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

Children helping children in Kenya be happier, healthier and more hopeful.



For Alex, a brown and white spotted goat grazing in a nearby pen may hold a key to his future. Alex and his younger brother are learning to care for the droopy-eared animal.

"If the goat can give out 4 liters of milk, (Alex) can sell half of it and the other he can consume with the family," explains Reagan Kaberia of Church World Service. "One liter of goat milk costs about 50 shillings, and that will be a big boost for the family."

Like many of his peers in Kenya, Alex has been forced to grow up faster than his counterparts across the globe. While many teens spend countless hours playing video games, Alex is showing off seedlings from his starter garden.

"He will sell some of the small plants and eventually the crop and keep some to feed his family," said Kaberia. "He will start saving for shoes, which he doesn't have any good shoes, and make sure he has something in his account so he can prepare for secondary school."

Asked what his future holds, Alex beams, then speaks through a translator: "He believes when he finishes school that he would like to be a pilot."

Do you want to help us give hope to Kenyan children?

Just like in previous years, the money raised by the church school class sales, children's offering and special gifts from congregation members will all go towards this special **Giving Hope** mission project. It costs just \$250 to train and empower the eldest child in the family for one year. Any donation, no matter the size, helps.

We invite you to give any amount of money to this special project in honor or in memory of family and friends. Please feel free to do this at Christmas, Easter or throughout the year. Cards are available so that you can let family and/or friends know that money has been given in their honor. Giving money to **Giving Hope** is a great way to honor a teacher, your parents or a loved one.

To Help -- Please make your check payable to "First Church of Christ," and drop off or mail to:

Att: Kate VanDerzee
First Church of Christ, Congregational
2183 Main Street
Glastonbury CT 06033

Together we can help these Kenyan children be happier, healthier and more hopeful.

Some 12 million children have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS across sub-Saharan Africa. Millions more live with sick or dying parents. While orphaned African children have traditionally been cared for by their extended families and communities, this safety net is unraveling as more and more adults succumb to the virus. **Children are being raised by children**, who can no longer attend school, lose their homes and inheritances, and fall prey to abuse and exploitation.



Church World Service's *Giving Hope* program...

- ***Giving Hope*** programs are founded on the principles of empowerment and community building.
 - Children create their own psychosocial support structures by forming working groups of five to sixteen members (heads of households).
 - Children create their own personal "dreams."
 - Children are trained as "peer educators" who train other orphans.
 - Working groups plan and implement income-generating projects that produce a "loan fund".
 - Individual households simultaneously begin household income-generating projects.
 - Working groups are linked to community structures to access services; education, health and advocacy.
- ***We are making a difference through this program!***
 - **Reduced stigma** through reintegration into communities and social systems;
 - **Increased primary school completion** and access to secondary school;
 - **Improved health**, access to care, ability to pay medical fees from family income;
 - **Food security improved** through the children's own livelihood sources;
 - **Livelihoods developed** through skills training and diversification.

Here at First Church we have a goal of raising \$5,500 by June 2009.

We hope to sponsor 10 child-headed households for one year. It costs \$250 to train and empower the eldest child in the family for one year.

- In the classes we pay for, the eldest child will learn how he or she will support the family (handicrafts, farming, etc.).
- The children are in working groups of 10 to 15 young people.
- They have paid teachers and a volunteer mentor called "Nkundabana." The word means "one who loves children." And, it is a role most ably filled by elderly people, who offer whole lifetimes of experience in the nurture of youngsters.

In addition, we also want to raise \$3,000 so 300 families can learn about hygiene, latrine and malaria prevention.

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Please include the following information with your donation...

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE/EMAIL: _____

If you are making a donation in honor of another person, please include their information so that we can print the complete list of donors in June 2009.

NAME: _____