

# The East African Children's Education Fund

*Opportunity Through Education*

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## Hujambo!

The East African Children's Education Fund, known as the EACEF, is a not-for-profit organization formed as a collaboration between the Mount Kenya Academy Foundation and the Children's Literature for Children Foundation, both 501(c)3 certified organizations.



## About Us

Currently focused in Central Province, Kenya, the organization engages in programs ranging from the promotion of English-language literacy to the development of inter-community relations. By building and furnishing libraries, the EACEF hopes to instill in communities that face educational hardships a sense of academic encouragement. Mentorship programs seek to give underprivileged children the chance to suc-

ceed in encouraging environments they wouldn't otherwise be able to access.

In every aspect of its outreach, the EACEF strives to create environments conducive to learning. Other initiatives, such as the construction of fully equipped kitchens and latrines, help to accommodate the everyday necessities of the students. From hygiene to academics, the individual programs combine to engender a sense of hope and promise in education and to teach the students that with hard work and a solid educational foundation, the sky is the limit for their future success.

The EACEF believes that the first step to prosperity is proper schooling. With the opportunity provided by an enhanced education, these young children will become the future leaders in East Africa and in the world.

## Mission Statement

The EACEF exists to create and promote **educational opportunity** for academically gifted, economically disadvantaged children in East Africa.

# EACEF: NEWSLETTER

December 2007



## Who We Are:

The EACEF is run by a group of diverse students with one common vision.



English Cook,  
Director of Development



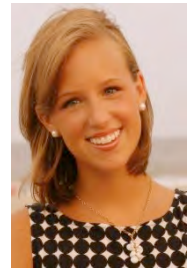
Lillie Molavi,  
Director of Communications



Bradley Baird,  
Development Officer



Alexis Mitchell, Director  
of International Relations



Maggie Allen, Director  
of Community Outreach

# Letter from the Founder

December 2007



Dear Friend,

How different would your life be if you were denied the "Golden Ticket" of a higher education? Contemplate the injustice, if this denial was the result of an entrance test score falling short of the top 20th percentile.

Tragically, this American hypothetical is a harsh reality in East Africa.

My name is Andrew Sugrue and I am a senior at The Westminster Schools in Atlanta, Georgia. Since the 9th grade, I have been tutoring at the Agape Center, an after-school program for underprivileged, at risk children. I was paired with a 9-year-old boy, David, who was struggling in his classes because of a lack of parental support at home. After working with him for the past two years, his grades have steadily risen, and I attribute this not only to the subject-specific tutoring program, but also to his newfound sense of accountability and hope in education. Last year, I read "Le Syllabaire" by Josef Zobel and was inspired by a phenomenon that I had observed many times but never really addressed: Zobel states, "Education is the key that opens the door to our freedom." David was not born into the best of worlds by any means. Raised by a mother who works double shifts to make payments, he seems likely to stay on a path of continued and regenerative poverty. Yet, with the promise of education, he has the chance to learn and, with hard work, create an improved life for himself.

I had the chance last March to travel to Kenya on an exchange program with our sister school, the Mount Kenya Academy. I originally expected to be the do-gooder American in an unsophisticated, less civilized country. My experience during the first few days, however, proved me completely mistaken. Instead of my anticipated primitive culture, I found a vibrant, hard working people who have forever changed my sense of perspective. Even with their lack of resources and infrastructure, they have hope in the future of their country. Where I was expecting to hear trivial questions about American life, I was surprised by sixth grade children asking me if I

had advice on how to promote the role of women in society. These children knew more about American culture and government than I did. I was shocked, then, to discover that only a handful of these children would be able to move on to high school and even fewer to college, as the State of Kenya only lets the top 20th percentile of test-takers advance to a higher education. To me, this seemed an unfathomable injustice. Even though many of the students I met had a natural intelligence, a large portion of them would be banished to the coffee fields for a life of migrant labor. On the other hand, I was set on the fast track to college never having thought of what life would be like without the opportunity laid at my feet. Would I be as "smart" and "accomplished" if I were put in the same situation as my friends in Kenya? Would I have had the chance to succeed at all? After struggling for weeks with these questions, I came to realize that not all of our accomplishments are achieved off of our own backs alone. Rather, our successes are reached with the support of those who came before us and sacrificed for our opportunity.

Therefore, I am asking you all to become our support system to ensure that these children can attain success. We cannot guarantee that every child will escape the fate of poverty by any means; rather, we seek to provide the opportunity for those willing to work hard and achieve success for themselves, their families, their country, and ultimately for the world.

Along with several like-minded students, I have created the EACEF as a partnership between the Mount Kenya Academy Foundation and the Children's Literature for Children Foundation, both 501(c)3 certified corporations. The mission of our organization is to promote "opportunity through education" by implementing our various programs in East Africa. With your generous support, our idealism can become reality and these hardships can be addressed. Thank you all for your investment in the future of these children.

# The Kilimara Primary School Project



## Partnering organizations:

The EACEF has partnered with the Mount Kenya Academy Foundation and the Children's Literature for Children Foundation, both 501(c)3 certified organizations. While the EACEF functions as an independent organization, it also receives the 501(c)3 tax deduction benefits of being a part of the MKA Foundation. With experienced personnel in Kenya, the organization has been able to establish relations with key figures such as Charity Mwangi, the foremost educator in East Africa. Through these relationships, the EACEF has adopted **Kilimara Primary**, a rural public school outside of Nyeri, Kenya, as its first outreach project.

## Educational Infrastructure Improvements:

With windowless classrooms and dirt floors, the Kilimara Primary School lacks a conducive learning environment. To address these infrastructure needs, the EACEF has developed a three-phase plan in coordination with its Kenyan-based partners.



### **The Maktaba-Library Phase**

Swahili for "library," the Maktaba Phase seeks to address English-language literacy needs through the construction of the Beverly Ann Gregory Library

at Kilimara Primary School. Most children in Central Kenya speak the tribal Kikuyu, and without proper educational resources are unable to effectively learn English. Kenyan law states that the KCP high school placement test must be taken in English, leaving the rural students with virtually no chance to succeed. The proposed library will house hundreds of children's books and media resources.

### **The Chakula-Kitchen Phase**

Swahili for "nourishment," the Chakula Phase is the second portion of the EACEF's partnership with Kili-

mara. Many local children eat only one meal per day, consisting of a cornmeal-based porridge. Because of the students' inability to concentrate under such circumstances, the school has had to send the children home early. The Chakula Phase thus seeks to build a kitchen made to commercial standards with energy-efficient gas stoves that will feed over two hundred children a day.

### **The Chuo-School Renovation Phase**

Swahili for "school," the Chuo Renovation Phase will refurbish existing classrooms with skylights, new chalkboards and windows to create a better learning environment. In a further attempt to address the dismal state of all current classrooms, a relationship will be established between the students of the Mount Kenya Academy and those of Kilimara. The senior art students at MKA will be decorating the newly renovated walls of Kilimara with their own murals.

To learn more about the numerous naming opportunities, please contact Andrew Sugrue at [asugrue@EACEF.org](mailto:asugrue@EACEF.org).

## Enhancement Programs:

### The Mavazi Uniform Program

Swahili for “clothing,” the Mavazi Program will occur simultaneously with the renovations of Kilimara and aims to provide adequate uniforms and shoes for the primary school students. Many children of the area walk to school barefoot and must retain the same burlap uniform throughout their schooling. The Mavazi Program will ensure that a lack of clothing and shoes will not limit a child’s education.

### Ndoto Mentorship Program

Swahili for “hope,” the Ndoto Program will host an innovative mentorship collaboration between students of Kilimara and Mount Kenya Academy Senior school. With a central library space complete with tables to foster peer tutoring, the program will inspire a cooperative spirit between private and public schooled children.

### Rafiki Food-Fund Program

Swahili for “friend,” the Rafiki Program will inspire friendly relations between Kenyans and Americans through this innovative food fund. In order to continuously stock the kitchen provided in the Chakula Phase, a comprehensive food program will be created. Through this program, families in the United States and around the world will be able to provide supplies for set blocks of time.

## Expectations:

By providing the children of the Kilimara Primary School these unique opportunities, the EACEF hopes to successfully establish an encouraging educational community. KCP scores should rise drastically as a result of Kilimara’s infrastructure and program developments.

After having successfully achieved the outlined programs and improvements, the EACEF hopes to create a comprehensive educational plan that can be replicated at other underperforming schools.



## Donation Buying Power

\$25	Shoes for Ten Children
\$50	Five Desks in a new classroom
\$100	Clothing for Ten Children
\$250	Thirty Desks and Chairs
\$500	Furnish Two Classrooms
\$1000	Shipment of Library's new books to Kenya
\$2500	Two Water Tanks to provide fresh water
\$5,000	Refurbishment of One Classroom
\$10,000	Construction of a named Library
\$20,000	Construction of a named Kitchen and Food Fund
\$40,000	Construction of Shalom Junior School

# Anticipated Budget



## The Maktaba-Library Phase

Library Construction	12,000 USD
Book Shipments	1,000 USD

## The Chuo-School Phase

Classroom Refurbishment	25,000 USD
Water Tanks	2,000 USD

## The Chakula-Kitchen Phase

Kitchen Construction	15,000 USD
Food Fund	price pending

## The Mavazi Program

New clothing and shoes	est. 3000 USD
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Total 58,000 USD

# HOW YOU CAN HELP

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Contributions of all sizes are welcome. We accept donations on our website, [www.eacef.org](http://www.eacef.org), or by checks made payable to the “Mount Kenya Academy Foundation” and sent to:

EACEF  
2790 Howell Mill Road  
Atlanta, GA 30327

Your generous support can truly make the difference in creating educational opportunity for the children of East Africa!

The East African Children's Education Fund

2790 Howell Mill Road Atlanta, GA 30327

[Contact@EACEF.org](mailto:Contact@EACEF.org)