

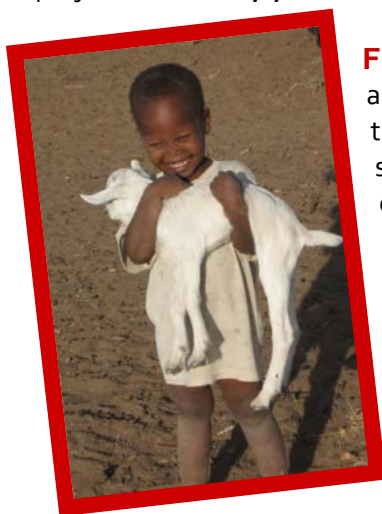
# JOURNEY

The Ed Colina Foundation

P.O. Box 199 Burlington, Kentucky 41005 USA

Dear Friends,

I am home from Kenya and am so happy to visit with friends and family until I return to Africa in September. I wanted to write and share with you some great success stories and also tell you about some of our upcoming projects **funded by you** and the Ed Colina Foundation!



**First the good word - SUSTAINABILITY!** We continue to move all of our projects onto a sustainable path. In other words, we would like all of our projects to pay for themselves in the future. (See our project updates on the back of this letter.) Here is a good example of sustainability. We are involved in four schools, two which we initiated ourselves. To operate these schools we need the parents of our students to pay small school fees. To enable them to pay these fees we created three income-generating activities, namely a **goat cooperative, sales of beadwork** and recently an **agriculture project**. We now have eighty goats in the cooperative and purchased twenty cows which will be sold for a profit. New markets for our beadwork are opening up in a well-known hotel complex in Nairobi. You can find our Maasai necklaces, earrings and sandals at the plush **Safari Park Hotel Resort**, outside of Nairobi! All of our projects are being directed by local leadership . . . not me! Sustainability is the key to good stewardship of your donations!

## What's next? BUILDING SOMETHING GREAT!

Currently we have no place to hold adult education classes for 75 women; no place for instruction on HIV/AIDS and FGM; no place to hold health screenings and pre/post natal instruction. And so we would like to construct an **Adult Literacy Center** on property near the 2000 Maasai with whom we work. The stone building will replace my bedroom as the office for of our Foundation in Kenya! It will house two adult education classrooms, office for the director of our projects and for those working with sustainability. We will also have some living space as well as an outdoor "demo-garden" for holding agriculture classes. We already have the building design, blueprints drawn up, and a price tag. We will be able to purchase the land, construct the building (*drawing shown*) and do the programming we need for a price tag of under \$50,000. We are now actively searching out grant possibilities!



## What can you do? You have done so much but there are so many things that can still be done.

- Pray for those whom we serve and for all those who are working for those in need in Kenya.
- Sign up for our monthly eNewsletter or forward it to friends and family.
- Host a gathering of friends at your home and allow fifteen minutes for the Foundation story to be told.
- Donate a cow for \$150 or a goat for \$30.
- Make a donation on a regular basis – monthly or quarterly.
- Donate toward our projects or to our building fund.

The Ed Colina Foundation is a  
501c3 tax-exempt Public Charity!

**We need and appreciate your financial support and thank you for all that you have done and will do. The programs we have initiated in Kenya, the many women and children we have helped and the sharing of our message could not occur without your contribution. Thank you!**

Ed



*Journey: The Ed Colina Foundation was founded in 2008 and is dedicated to improving the lives of impoverished men, women and children living in and around Nairobi, Kenya. Our purpose is to provide meaningful interventions that respect cultural belief and historical experience, but still help to combat the incidence of hygiene-related disease, HIV/AIDS, child prostitution, pregnancy complications, hunger, poverty, and lack of education.*

#### ESARUNOTO ECDE (PRESCHOOL) & FEEDING PROGRAM

Close to ninety-five young Maasai preschool students walk from their mud huts to the three cement buildings that have been modified as classrooms and to the one classroom made of iron sheets. Four classes of students; one a Nursery Class, one a "Baby" Class, a Toddler's Class and a First Grade help to prepare these little Maasai children. Education has not been a priority for the Maasai tribe. Children (especially girls) are typically charged with "looking after" the herds each day and few are able to attend school. Girls are even less frequently permitted to attend school because of the fear that education will serve to make them more marriage-able and they will move away from their parents and the herds. Our preschool in Athi River is named "Esarunoto" which is a Maasai word meaning "refuge". The school is a safe place, a shelter, a means of improving their future. The 10:00 a.m. porridge at the preschool is enriched with ground nuts and seeds and is really a meal in itself. For some, this is the only meal of the day. The first graders stay until 3pm so they are served lunch of rice and beans.

#### ST. TIMOTHY SCHOOL & FEEDING PROGRAM

St. Timothy's is a preschool through 4<sup>th</sup> grade school located in a slum nearby where I am living. We initiated a school feeding program that serves morning porridge and a hot lunch to the school's 162 students. We continue to provide funds for the rental of three additional classrooms, a water tank and gutter system, and provide textbooks, classroom materials and school fees.

#### NAMAYIAN ECDE (PRESCHOOL) & FEEDING PROGRAM

Namayian is a Maasai word meaning "blessings". Before the Foundation came to Bisil, these young Maasai students did not go to school until 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. By that time, many of the girls simply never went. We renovated a small church structure and now serve children in two preschool classes. They are given a meal of enriched porridge and take water from a new tank and gutter system. This school, along with Esarunoto, was begun by the Foundation but continues to move towards being managed by Maasai leadership.

#### JITAHIDI SCHOOL (KIBERA) PROJECT

The Ed Colina Foundation provides sweaters for a small

school of 65 students in the Kibera slum. The Foundation constructed a latrine located just outside the small classroom. Recently we also purchased chairs for the tiny classroom. Kibera is one of the largest slums in the world; home to over a million inhabitants living on one square mile of land.

STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PROJECT - We assist Maasai children in our own schools but also those in others schools. We provide fees, uniforms and textbooks.

MAASAI ADULT EDUCATION PROJECT – The Ed Colina Foundation conducts Adult Education Classes for Maasai women. English, Swahili and Mathematics classes as well as HIV/AIDS awareness sessions are conducted for over 75 Maasai adults. In addition, a group of TOTs (Trainers of Trainers) meet regularly to learn about issues of hygiene, the changing culture, Female Genital Mutilation and HIV/AIDS awareness.

MAASAI YOUTH ACTIVITY DAYS - During the three yearly school breaks, The Ed Colina Foundation provides Youth Activity Days for nearly 200 students. These days are designed to encourage the students to remain in school, do their best and study hard. Dancing, drama, food and drinks are all part of these fun-filled days. They are planned and carried out by Maasai young adults.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS SCREENINGS – We have begun providing regular medical screenings and health workshops to the Maasai community, especially to children and pregnant women. In addition to serving our Maasai manyattas, local nurses also visit five additional tribal villages around Athi River.

INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES – Maasai women are skilled at beadwork and raising goats. The Foundation provides seed money for the purchase of beads to make traditional belts, necklaces and bracelets. Our beadwork is on sale at a variety of locations in Kenya, the UK and the USA. We are also raising 80 goats! The sale of milk and kids (baby goats) will help the women purchase food, and pay school fees. We also recently purchased chickens for a cooperative of Kamba (tribe) widows where, at one time, we only delivered relief food. SUSTAINABILITY!