



# It's All About the Kidz!

January 2019

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## Are you looking for an adventure of a lifetime?

Join a team to live in a Maasai community and love on the kidz. Go to [KenyasKidz.org](http://KenyasKidz.org) for more information.



*Visiting the elderly is always a favorite time*

## Visit us

[KenyasKidz.org](http://KenyasKidz.org)

## Contact us

[Gloria@KenyasKidz.org](mailto:Gloria@KenyasKidz.org)

## Asante! (Swahili) Ashe! (Maasai) Thank you!

As we begin our 7<sup>th</sup> year since taking in our first children at Namayiana Children's Home, we are reminded once again of all that we are grateful for. We are grateful for 25 terrific kids, and that they are all healthy and happy. We are grateful for our dedicated staff. We are grateful for the teams who are willing to sacrifice their time and resources to travel to Kenya to love on the kids. And we are grateful for YOU – our generous sponsors and supporters – for your ongoing generous support, encouragement, and prayers. The children continue to thrive, and we are forever grateful.

The number of kids at Namayiana has increased and they are growing up! Four more kids have been added to our Namayiana family, taking us to 25. Our two oldest children are about 15 years old and will soon be going to secondary (high) school. It's heartrending to watch our precious children grow into kind, responsible, and respectful people, who demonstrate a resiliency that belies their young age.

We made two trips to Kenya, in July and January, and while one was quite different from the other, a great deal was accomplished both times.

### July 2018

The summer team provided new experiences for the kids and adults alike. Since there were three teachers, a pastor, and an engineer on the team, we provided an inservice for the local teachers, the Sunday morning sermon, and a Bible study for the women of the community, as well as worked on various projects at the Home.



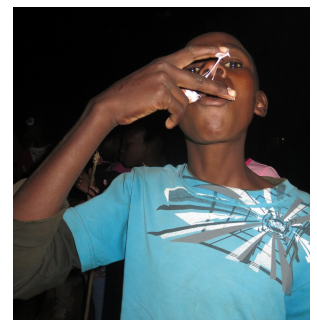
But as always, the highlight for the kids and team members alike was the annual birthday party. This year we added a twist, making it a swim party, a first for all of them. We had brought with us pool noodles, goggles, flip flops, and of course swimsuits (thanks to a very generous donor) for the kids, and they couldn't contain their excitement as we boarded the bus. Although the water was frigid, (it was winter in Kenya and pools aren't heated), the kids had a blast, despite blue lips and shivering bodies.



### January 2019

Arriving on January 1<sup>st</sup> was a wonderful welcome to the New Year. No team accompanied us this trip, as we had a lot business to complete.

Just as we arrived, we were notified that our dairy cow was about to give birth to a new calf. We had purchased the cow back in October, which has been a wonderful blessing to the kids. Morning porridge now has milk in it, as does the chai (tea). Our time included taking Jackson to a specialist (see "Immediate Need"), visiting several special needs schools, working on extending the pipe to the road (where a kiosk is being built to sell water, milk, and produce), and visiting the elderly of the community. Of course, there was our annual, albeit delayed, Christmas party, complete with a quite a feast, Kenyan style. And our time was brought to a perfect end by introducing the kids to a marshmallow roast on our last night. Sticky, but yummy!





Team member, Sandie, reading with Julius



Timothy writes to his sponsor



Some of the girls – BFF!



## Immediate need

Our oldest child, Jackson, who is approximately 15 years old, has been plagued with oozing holes in his neck since he arrived at Namayiana. We've taken him to various doctors, and he has endured many examinations and tests, only for us to be told nothing could be done. After bringing home pictures and consulting with U.S. doctors, a diagnosis was determined. Jackson has bilateral branchial cleft cyst/sinus, which is a birth defect. Armed with this new information, we were able to meet with a maxillofacial surgeon in Kenya. He agreed to perform the needed surgery and graciously offered to provide his services at no cost, but we will need to pay for the three day hospital stay and anesthesiologist fees.



It's our intent for Jackson to have this surgery when we are back in Kenya this summer. The estimated cost is approximately \$5000-6000. Of course, this is above and beyond any amount that we have budgeted for medical costs, so these funds need to be raised.

**To help Jackson receive this needed surgery, send a check to the address below or go to [KenyasKidz.org](http://KenyasKidz.org) to make an on-line donation. Contact us at [Gloria@KenyasKidz.org](mailto:Gloria@KenyasKidz.org) for more information. Please make a notation that it is for Jackson's surgery.**

## Child Sponsorship

Sponsors are the lifeline of Namayiana Children's Home, not only ensuring that each child receives food, clothing, medical care, and an education, but also that each child knows that someone cares enough to invest in his/her future. For \$40 a month, a sponsor ensures that a child's needs are met.

In the past 6 months, Namayiana has taken in four new children – three girls and one boy. They have all come from situations of extreme poverty and hardship. Would you consider making a difference by sponsoring a child?



Mary – about 10 years old

Please know that 100% of your support goes directly to care for your child. **For more information, go to [KenyasKidz.org](http://KenyasKidz.org) or contact us at [Gloria@KenyasKidz.org](mailto:Gloria@KenyasKidz.org).**

## Ready for high school?!

Secondary schools in Kenya (high school, grades 9-12) are tuition based and usually boarding situations, where students must pay school fees, room and board, as well as provide all of their supplies, uniforms, textbooks, bedding, and more.

Less than 50% of Kenyan children attend secondary school, generally due to the prohibitive expense to the family. We know that for our children, education is critical for ensuring their future success and well-being. Since we are so remote, our children will most likely attend school far away.

Two of our children, Jackson and Jackline, will complete grade 8 in November of this year, ready for secondary school in January. They are both working hard to do well on the tests that will determine the level of school they will qualify to attend. And we have more kids coming up after them every year thereafter.

Would you consider donating to our scholarship fund to assure that each child is able to attend high school? **To donate or get more information, go to [KenyasKidz.org](http://KenyasKidz.org) and select "scholarship" or contact us at [Gloria@KenyasKidz.org](mailto:Gloria@KenyasKidz.org).**



Jackline

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Kenya's Kidz

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