



With Education: Lead Me from Poverty!

As a child growing up in America in the 1950's and 60's I never worried whether I would go to school. It was a time to enjoy the simplicity of life! My parents always seemed to be able to provide the monetary obligations for my education. Those were happy times! My needs were met with plenty to eat, clothes to wear, and a safe and warm bed to sleep in each night. Receiving my education was never a problem!

As a volunteer in the 21st century some 50+ years later, yes telling my age now... I have dedicated a portion of my income and time to helping children in Kenya find a way to attend school. Almost every child in Kenya knows the value of an education. Education is their way out of poverty, but many do not have the opportunity unless individuals like you and me step up and give a helping hand. Yes, the Kenyan government offers "free" education from 1-8 but the word free is misunderstood and for many living in the slum or rural areas of Kenya it is near impossible to go to school. Students must provide their own uniforms along with a decent pair of black shoes, plus school supplies such as pencils and workbooks, have a book bag, and a few schools have the parent provide the child's desk. Some school fees are high because the school will charge a book fee providing the books for the children to study from at school if they do not buy their own, which many cannot do. If these items are not possible the child is not allowed to attend. So once again the child loses.

If the child by the grace of God, happens to manage to get through a government "free" education the cost of high school, even though it has been said that secondary education is "free" it will loom over them like a lion waiting to pounce. When the student reaches the high school level most will not attend but instead need to go out and find food and monetary support to help the family survive. Most times the girls are used for housework, cooking, and caring for younger siblings. Some girls are sent away to marry or will engage in sexual favors to raise funds to put them in school. With these methods the girls will never go to school but instead end up pregnant and the cycle continues! The boys seek life on the streets hoping to find some way to raise extra money to feed the family.

High school education is not free! The Kenyan government gives to each school for each student \$220 to help pay for education. But schools still charge for school lunch programs, activity fees, school construction, school buses, and whatever else they can, making a parent or guardian still needing to pay for \$180-\$500 yearly. Some text books are included but each year the parent needs to pay out additional costs in exercise books, workbooks, and story books adding another \$75-\$100 to the price of education. It requires anywhere from \$300-400 a year in day school fees or \$500-\$900 in boarding school fees and these fees are associated with government schools and private schools both. Boarding schools are the best opportunities for the orphaned and vulnerable child.

Most family generated incomes stagger between \$360 to \$1000 *a year*, to understand better, let us say \$1-2 daily is normal and realistic. With this income it is near impossible to send their children to school. And with many children either orphaned or coming from a single parent home it is even tougher to maintain any education. It is no wonder that the cycle of poverty continues!

Every visit to Kenya reminds me of what is needed and what is necessary. Children are hungry, many with no proper clothes or shoes, and many are alone. Most all live without running water or proper sanitation and live in a one or two room iron sheet home with dirt floors. There are no food banks, daily soup kitchens, homeless shelters, or government subsidized benefits for starving children or families. The government does offer orphan pay at \$20 per month, elderly assistance at \$40 a month, and in some very few cases they will give \$50 per year for added benefits for education to a family living in extreme poverty. Although these amounts are available not many families or orphans are privileged enough to receive them. Even the aid sent from other foreign countries is not available but instead the sales of these subsidies line the pocket of politicians. It is not the fault of the child! They still need help anyway!

I know I cannot do this alone. I need help! I need your help, your friends help, anyone's help to continue with the success of our Education program. We have a 93% success rate with our students staying in school, graduating, moving into higher education or employment. In turn they are succeeding to help with their families and others within the communities they live! It is not our intent to move them to America, instead we want them to learn, grow, and benefit their own families.

Every contribution, small or large gives an opportunity to many. Hearts For Love Worldwide has 104 students currently enrolled with our Education program. We are pleased to say that all students now have a personal sponsor that give to their education each year. Our children are enrolled in 31 different schools throughout Kaijado County in Kenya. Those students with parents, help with finances when possible, so nothing is free. It is important to allow dignity and teach ethical and learned responsibility. We interact and work with the families, schools and teachers to ensure that what we are doing will be utilized properly and certainly make a difference. We share children to be sponsored periodically. My goal is to not see how many kids I can get sponsored but instead have good quality sponsors who are dedicated to the process of sponsorship and what it can offer a child and their family.

If someone is not interested in sponsoring & taking a personal role with one of the children and their educational needs, we understand this, and it is perfectly acceptable. Giving to our Education Program monthly is the best way to help us to maintain consistency with our student's education. And any small monthly donation can make a huge impact! If a one-time donation is best, we welcome this as well! The more funding available the more students we can enroll. Each one of these great kids look forward to breaking that cycle of poverty for themselves and their families through the gift of education!

We are consistently receiving requests for educational assistance but do not have enough money to help everyone....so how can you help? Simple....Become a sponsor or just give!

Sincerely grateful,

Lory Jacobs

Lory Jacobs

Founder/President

Hearts For Love Worldwide

All contributions are tax deductible in the United States.