

Welcome to our

Matanya's Hope Newsletter



Website: www.matanyashope.org

MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER & PRESIDENT MICHELLE STARK



Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am thrilled to share that in mid-October, I returned from our most recent mission. The outcomes were truly remarkable, marking an inspiring journey of hope, compassion, and, most importantly, tangible change. Together, we built two homes, with a third in process - providing shelter and security to families in dire need. We delivered six 10,000-liter rainwater storage tanks, bringing the gift of safe, clean water to communities that have long endured inconsistent access to this vital resource. Thousands of hungry children were nourished through our Matanya's Hope Porridge Program, and hundreds received shoes, jackets, underwear and essential clothing.

We distributed sanitary pads to girls in need, enabling them to attend school comfortably during their menstrual cycles. At a very remote school, we created a library to foster a love of literature and learning.

We also gifted sports equipment and built a playground at a school completely lacking, thus creating a joyful space for children to play and grow. To promote overall well-being, we arranged a visit to a dentist to care for our children's oral hygiene, enhancing their health and confidence with brighter smiles. Additionally, we taught children how to bake cakes, empowering them with new skills and self-assurance. One of the most special outreaches this year was extending the gift of learning to a wheelchair bound boy unable to attend school due to his battle with muscular dystrophy. These acts of compassion and solidarity are more than aid—they are a testament to the strength and resilience of our team, made up of you—our generous donors—and our dedicated volunteers in Kenya. Together, we are building a brighter, healthier future for all.

Asante Sana!
Michelle Stark
President, Matanya's Hope

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MICHELLE STARK'S INTERVIEW

Michelle shared her life journey with Neil

Michelle Stark's childhood in Pennsylvania was filled with curiosity and nature. She grew up in a row house surrounded by family, spent summers with her horse, and winters skiing in a small Swiss village. Early challenges, like wearing a metal back brace in sixth grade, taught her courage and resilience, while her parents' dedication, integrity, and entrepreneurial spirit shaped her values. Inspired by her father's African travels, Michelle visited Kenya for the first time in 2005; after many safari adventures, she encountered children living in extreme poverty—barefooted, hungry, and unable to attend school. Seeing a bright young girl forced to leave class to work on a failing farm moved her profoundly. That moment sparked the birth of Matanya's Hope. What started as sponsoring a few children has grown into a life-changing organization providing meals, water, counseling, education, homes, and protection for girls at risk of FGM. Michelle dreams of creating a permanent safe house and school where every child can thrive and realize their unique potential



Learn more about Michelle's inspiring story, her journey with Matanya's Hope in the [link here](#) or QR code below.



This interview video features song written and sung by talented musician Wilfred Mutegi Mworja - an MH graduate.

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FEATURING SALOME WAIRIMU KARURU -- MH GRADUATE

SALOME - a story of one person's hope through rejection & illness to success

Salome's life is a story of resilience, faith, and the power of a positive mindset. Born with spina bifida and club feet, she underwent surgery as a newborn. Doctors informed her parents that she would likely never walk—or survive. She beat the odds, but spent her youth unable to control her bladder or bowels. Throughout primary school, Salome faced constant embarrassment, bullying, and loneliness as a result of her condition. Through it all, she remained a top student.

After class 8, Salome's education stopped for two years; her parents couldn't afford high school. Her life changed when her family met Michelle, founder of Matanya's Hope. The organization became the turning point in Salome's journey, sponsoring her full education at Joytown Secondary School and onward through teachers college. Matanya's Hope not only provided school fees but the organization treated Salome with dignity, support, and belief in her potential. This opened doors which Salome and her family never thought possible.

In high school, Salome endured multiple surgeries which addressed complications from club feet. She studied even from her hospital bed. Once she completed High school, Salome trained as a teacher, and slowly rebuilt her self-esteem through counseling and faith. In 2021, she married a supportive husband and is now a proud mother of two.

Today Salome teaches, mentors youth, and encourages them to value education, build confidence, and believe in their dreams—just as Matanya's Hope believes in hers. Salome is running for district office, whereby she plans to represent the disabled with dignity and hope



Learn about Salome's incredible journey through her own words in the [link](#) here or QR code below.



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POETRY BY KENNEDY MUTHOMI - STUDYING TO BECOME A HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER

Matanya's Hope

In fields where dreams once slept in
sand,
A whisper rose from tender hand;
She carried books, and hearts took
flight,
Through Matanya's Hope - came
morning light.

The wells now sing with water's grace,
Reflections shine on every face;
Where thirst once ruled and children
cried,
Now laughter blooms, where pain had
died.

A child in tattered clothes can dream
Of futures bright - a scholar's gleam;
Their hope reborn, their spirits grow,
Like rivers fed by love's soft flow.

Matanya's Hope, your name shall stay
In hearts you touched along the way;
For kindness sown in Kenya's land,
Will bloom forever - hand in hand.

INTERVIEW WITH MH STUDENTS ZOE AND KEVIN

Meet Zoe, an aspiring Engineer!



Meet Kevin, aspiring to improve
Kenya's Agricultural economy!



Kevin needs a sponsor: \$125 / month

**The [link here](#) or QR code below
features interview with Zoe and
Kevin.**



**This interview video features music by
talented musician Wilfred Mutegi
Mworia - an MH graduate.**

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PROGRAMS IN NEED:

More than anything, Matanya's Hope is driven by a profound vision—to leave a lasting legacy for our children, one that will bless and empower them for generations to come, far beyond our own lifetimes.

To continue this vital work, we urgently need your support:

Purchase of fertile land: \$87,000

One of our important goals is to purchase fertile land at approximately \$87,000, to secure a sustainable future for our community—providing food, income, and opportunity for years to come. While this may seem like a big goal, every donation, no matter the size, brings us closer to making it a reality. Together, your support can turn this vision into a lasting foundation for our children's future.



- **Matanya's Hope Safe House \$5,500 (annual rent)**

Without a safe place to call home, these orphaned and neglected children face the harsh reality of life on the streets. We are depending on your help—because these children are depending on us to keep them safe, sheltered, and cared for. Once we have land, we will build a permanent home.

- **Sponsorship of Kevin* (see video on page 4- \$125/month**
- **Sponsorship of siblings: Glory, Sharon, and Annrita - \$125/month each**
- **Laptops for university students: \$250 each**
- **Food for hungry families \$50 - \$100**

Any amount you give will help us continue this vital work.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF 2025 MISSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS! CONSTRUCTION OF PLAYGROUND AT NAIBOR PRIMARY SCHOOL.



DISTRIBUTING SCHOOL SUPPLIES, ESSENTIALS, SERVING HOT PORRIDGE AT MULTIPLE SCHOOLS & ESTABLISHING NEW LIBRARY AT NKASIKI PRIMARY SCHOOL



The [link](#) or QR code here shows new library at Nkasioki Primary school built - books donated by Sharon, MA library trustees and cottage street school



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HIGHLIGHTS OF 2025 MISSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS! BUILDING TWO HOMES & PROVIDING ESSENTIALS.



Link or QR code here captures our trip to Victor Edwin & Silvia home, providing essentials, doing repairs and building beds for the children



Link or QR code shows construction of new home for Charles and his family



VISIT TO JENNIFER'S HOME FOR YOUNG GIRLS ESCAPING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM) SECURING SPONSORSHIP & YEAR ROUND FOOD.

The link or QR code here highlights our visit to Jennifer's FGM safe house.



- All girls at Jennifer's house have now sponsors
- Secured \$1000 grant from Rotary Club of Sharon, Massachusetts for food program to support young girls.