

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES
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NAKURU, KENYA

GRANT APPLICATION

A PROPOSAL FOR THE ARIEMET-KULEA GIRL'S RESCUE CENTER KENYA, AFRICA



The Children's officer, Josephine Kulea and ten rescued girls.

MARCH 2010

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES

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1. ORGANIZATION'S PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

PURPOSE

Expanding Opportunities is a public 501c3 non-profit organization in the USA and a Registered NGO in Kenya with the mission of increasing self-sufficiency through educational and charitable projects both nationally and internationally.

OBJECTIVES

- To provide homes for homeless, destitute or endangered children
- To provide literacy materials to schools
- To establish rural learning centers
- To encourage cultural exchange through educational and cultural tours
- To support children in school
- To increase markets for African artists through retail businesses
- To provide educational and cultural opportunities to honor and preserve primitive skills from around the world through a camping experience.
- To develop future projects in keeping with the mission

Currently, the focus of service is in the developing country of Kenya, Africa.

2. BRIEF HISTORY

In 1997, a personal endeavor was undertaken to assist the many street children in Kericho, Kenya. Twenty children began receiving one meal per day. This personal project grew into the Street Children Fund and from it; Expanding Opportunities was founded as a 501c3 organization and a registered NGO. Since then, the organization has been raising funds to continue and develop the projects.

3. GIRL'S RESCUE CENTER NEEDS STATEMENT

NEEDS STATEMENT

“The practice of early marriage is prevalent throughout the world, especially in Africa and South Asia. This is a form of sexual violence, since young girls are often forced into the marriage and into sexual relations, which jeopardizes their health, raises their risk of exposure to HIV/AIDS and limits their chance of attending school.” *United Nations, 2007*

Though the government of Kenya outlawed the practice of FGM and early marriage, there remain many isolated areas that continue harmful practices as part of their traditional life.

“But throughout the region, it is East Africa's women who suffer disproportionately; illiteracy and poverty combine with deeply entrenched social and traditional customs and practices to severely damage women's health and well being; restrict their ability to move freely in society and to take a full, active part in their own lives and those of their families, their communities and their countries.” ...

“Defined as marriage 'under the age of 18', early marriage has significant implications both for women's development and for the social and economic development of the whole region. All too many East African women are faced with responsibilities as wives and mothers at too young an age, responsibilities for which they are ill-equipped physically, emotionally and economically. Traditional practices which see young women marrying men significantly older than themselves add to the inequalities, limiting their ability to negotiate with their partner as equals. Early marriage and restricted education impacts on women economically, condemning them to a life of servitude and poverty, and socially many are excluded from decision-making at all levels, locally, provincially and nationally.”

Whether anyone has a “right” to dictate that these traditional practices should end is not in question here. It is the law of Kenya and it is the community in the Isiolo region who desire to see change. Let the words of the community speak to the need.

We are a group of churches working in the above mentioned area. We have been helping the communities around spiritually and also tried economically to build their capacity but in vain. The worst practice is especially Turkana and Samburu of the region in neglect and abuse of girl child. The girl child is very much disadvantaged by female Genital mutilation, early marriage, Pastoralism way of life, Traditional belief of a girl as a source of wealth, orphaned situation and other vices, name it. Isiolo West Churches Fellowship

Girls are not given a choice over who and when they marry or whether they are excised despite laws against both practices.

When Josephine Kulka mobilised police and rescued a 10-year-old girl on the eve of her marriage, she had a reason to sit back and celebrate the timely intervention. The nurse at Kipsing dispensary in Isiolo District, and security officers had snatched away the minor a few hours before a 55-year-old man could take her away as a fourth wife.In a bizarre turn of events, the father of the rescued girl had decided to give out his other daughter, aged only six years, to the same suitor in an effort to ensure that the planned marriage went on. <http://www.allafrica.com>, 2008

Challenges of Pastoralist Children (Girl Child)

FGM, early forced marriage, killing of unwanted children, beading, lack of access to education, child labour, child neglect, insecurity (early deaths), discriminative policy on girl child, beliefs of norms. *List from the minutes of November 18th, 2009 meeting of Girl's Rescue Center and Committee Proposal*

“In the villages of Kipsing location, Ol Donyiro Division, 100 kilometres from Isiolo Town, four-year-old Itoms is on the run; first from her own parents, who want her circumcised before marrying her off for 10 cattle, and from Samburu morans (Maasai warriors), who for a beaded necklace called saen, are free to have sex with a girl barely out of her diapers. Itoms turns five this year.” - Please read the article <http://www.nation.co.ke/News/regional/-/1070/850622/-/8pe6rd/-/index.html>

The needs of rescued girls are different from other needs of the girl child. There are no rescue centers for these girls in this area.

4. THE ARIEMET-KULEA GIRL'S RESCUE CENTER

THE ARIEMET-KULEA GIRL'S RESCUE CENTER

In 1997, the Street Children Fund began feeding twenty children on the streets of Kericho, Kenya. This project established relationships with the children and fed them one meal per day. In 2001, a home was rented in Nakuru for five of the street boys. In 2003, the construction for a permanent home to house these five boys and more was begun. Since 2001, twenty-one boys have lived in the Joseph Waweru Home School for at least one year. In 2010, the Joseph Waweru Home School feeds, houses, clothes and educates its capacity of 16 former destitute boys. As boys were more prevalent and the founders were convinced that mixing boys and girls from the street might create other problems, especially for the girls, the home was established for boys.

In 2007, Expanding Opportunities began researching the needs of the girl child and how to help meet those needs. During this research, Expanding Opportunities discovered Josephine Kulea. After talking with her in 2008, it was decided we would work with her to help girls in danger, especially those in danger of forced FGM and marriage as early as four years of age. In 2009, Josephine Kulea called a meeting of stakeholders and Expanding Opportunities began working with CBOs in the Isiolo area to begin a Girl's Rescue Center in Ariemet.

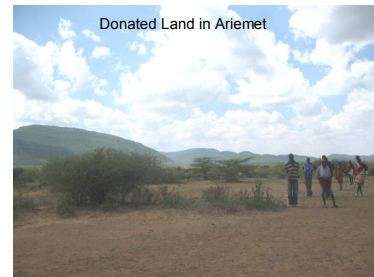
The Ariemet-Kulea Girl's Rescue Center is located in Ariemet, Kenya. Ariemet is a small Turkana village a few kilometers from Isiolo. Isiolo is a center for 5 different pastoralist tribes. Many of the individuals in these tribes are very isolated. Traditionally the girl child is seen as a family asset for her future dowry. Men of all ages are allowed to solicit the father for a girl of any age as a wife in his multiple wife family. The man will offer goats and cows for a dowry. Girls as young as 4 may be prepared for marriage to a man over 50 years old! Traditionally, to prepare a girl for marriage in some tribes is to perform a circumcision, FGM. This usually marks the end of a girl child's formal education. After the marriage, the girl now "belongs" to her husband's family and rarely returns to assist the birth family.

Kenya has outlawed FGM and marriage before the age of 18. The government of Kenya encourages education through at least high school. Isolated members of these tribes may not be aware of the law never mind totally understand the value of educating the girl child and the health danger of FGM.



Josephine Kulea, a Samburu nurse, was fortunate to have an educated mother and father who encouraged her to complete her education. She has a love for her people, especially the girls. She is the motivation behind this project. She mobilized the political and social figures in the community for the meeting in November 2009. At this meeting we were able to garner the support of the leaders in the area and receive an offer for 5 acres of land in a letter of assignment agreement.

The letter is being drafted and the Turkana men have offered to build a natural fence of acacia thorn for food as soon as the letter is finalized.



The building design has been sketched and a request for estimate is out. There is the possibility of a relatively shallow freshwater well very close to the property. The Turkana here are excited about this center. They have never performed FGM and wish to help their neighbors understand the dangers. The center will house girls sent from the children's department, village chiefs and those who arrive unannounced. It will also provide outreach in the form of workshops put on by successful women and influential men of their tribes to sensitize and educate the isolated fathers to the importance of educating the girl child in this century. Some girls will be able to be reunited with their family; others will stay at the center and attend local schools.

"Ariemet-Kulea Girls Rescue Centre to be situated in Ariemet area has really impressed the Isiolo people since the idea is one of its own. Isiolo district and the whole of Upper Eastern and Northern Kenya have no single Rescue centre at all. Due to the high demand of girl child rights violations, the community of Ariemet anonymously gave out 5 acres of land to build th

The benefits of the project are far-reaching. Implementation of the project has a direct impact on the lives of the girls in the home and in the villages. They will receive supervised housing, food, adequate clothing, preventative medical care, counseling and education. Because of this project, they will become healthy, educated, and confident adults with integrity, able to make individual choices and provide an appropriate home environment for their own children. Not only do they benefit from the project, but the members of their villages and future generations benefit as well.

5. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

PROJECT BUDGET AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Ariemet-Kulea Girl's Rescue Center is seeking start-up funds. It will work over the next 10 years for 100% sustainability.

Phase One of the building construction is roughly estimated to cost 1,500,000/= (\$20,000.00). Accurate estimates are being collected. The cost of some labor can be deducted for volunteers workers. It is projected to take 6 months to construct once construction has begun.

Expanding Opportunities will seek material and labor donations for construction and start up such as sand, stones, solar panels, cisterns, kitchen equipment, food, personal items and clothing.

Once the building is constructed the regular monthly budget will be approximately 135,000/= (\$1,800 per month) including funds for community education.

Working with Josephine Kulea to make it happen is Expanding Opportunities' challenge. Please join us to meet this challenge with a donation for the Ariemet-Kulea Girl's Rescue Center

6. PROJECT EVALUATION

PROJECT EVALUATION

During the first four years of operation, Expanding Opportunities will conduct monthly and semiannual evaluations. Expanding Opportunities will insure compliance with the laws of the government of Kenya as overseen by the children's department and the NGO Bureau. The project will be included in the annual report to the NGO Bureau.

All records for the children required by the Children's Department will be evaluated and adaptations or additions made. The day-to-day operations of the Center will be evaluated and adjustments to policies and procedures, staff changes and training and building assessments will be made.

Records will be kept of all contributions and expenses incurred. These will be submitted monthly to the accountant. There is an annual audit of the entire organization in both the USA and Kenya.

Each child will be casually or formally interviewed. Each staff member will receive an individual evaluation as well as discuss their successes and trials. During the annual evaluation, of no less than one month, each child will be personally observed and recommendations to the staff will be made.

Through this annual evaluation successes will be honored, and failures used to improve.