

## Read about past Matanya's Hope Mission Trips

Since the birth of Matanya's Hope in 2005, our non-profit has been able to lead consecutive humanitarian adventures into Kenya and Tanzania each year. We have touched thousands of lives and they have touched ours beyond compare.

Mission participants travel with Matanya's Hope for a two-week life changing humanitarian experience in Kenya. We hit the ground running, traveling from the big city of Nairobi to the small, rural communities nestled in a mixture of sage brush and mountainous terrains. We visit schools, orphanages, hospitals, clinics and rural family homes, each inviting one to experience life as it is in Kenya. Of course, a visit to this famous country would never be complete without a journey into the wilderness. Mission participants enjoy as elephants, rhinos, buffalo, lions, wildebeest and other animals unfold like living pictures before their eyes.

In the following document, you will find photos and words uncovering the beauty of our journey together.

**KIBERA:** Kibera is located in Nairobi and is one of the world's largest slums. Almost completely void of electricity, toilets and running water, Kibera is tormented by an overwhelming number of bacteria associated with human and animal waste running through its streets and walkways. Matanya's Hope has been working closely with Raila Primary School in Kibera to provide safe water catchment systems. To date, our donors have funded two rainwater storage tanks at a total of 15,000 liters in capacity. The clean, safe drinking water will directly serve the children of Kibera. Prior to these donations, the children were forced to rely almost solely upon fecal infested waters for everything from consumption to washing clothes, utensils, classrooms and even personal bathing. With the school population near 1,000 students, Matanya's Hope believes that the provision of 2 additional 10,000-liter rainwater storage tanks could serve the students fully.



LEFT: Student collecting water from nearby stream. This same water is filled with animal waste and detergents from household chores.

**RAINWATER STORAGE TANKS:** People living in remote areas of Kenya must walk miles to reach their nearest water source. It is not always guaranteed that they will find water once they arrive; much of the land is afflicted by drought and riverbeds are frequently bone dry.

Riverbeds are the only source of water for thousands of Kenyans. All too often they are dried up by the arid equatorial conditions. Farms dry up; food becomes scarce and cost prohibitive to buy. Children's rich brown skin now appears ashy in color; their hair tinted with orange as signs of malnutrition and dehydration become more evident.

When water is available, children as young as 9 years old carry 2 dirt stained, plastic containers to the water source several times each day. When full of any water they can find, these containers weigh 44 pounds each.

The water inside of these containers is brown, muddy and contaminated with deadly bacteria such as typhoid and cholera. Contracting these diseases can sometimes cause death.

How Rainwater Tanks work: As it rains, the fresh rainwater travels down corrugated iron sheet rooves into specially placed gutters. From there, it pours through a filtering screen to sift out the debris and travels into the storage tank. The water which fills the container is clear and can remain in the tanks for many months. Matanya's hope has placed over 75 10,000-liter Rainwater Storage Tanks in arid areas serving: schools, orphanages, medical clinics, maternity wards, churches and homesteads. It is reported that student health, school attendance and academic performance have all improved as a direct result of placing these tanks where safe water has been desperately needed.



School boy collecting dirty river water for drinking



Clean drinking water harvested from a Rainwater Storage Tank

**PORRIDGE PROGRAM:** Since 2009, Matanya's Hope has been feeding hot, nutritious porridge to hungry students every day of school. We started by offering this program to 250 students at one school and are now feeding more than 2,230 students at 5 separate locations. In additions, Matanya's Hope has offered its first lunch program to a deeply impoverished orphanage located outside of Nairobi.

Prior to this program, many of these same children have gone as long as 4 days without any food at all. The porridge is made from locally grown and harvested maize, amaranth, millet, finger millet and sorghum. It is cooked daily at each of the 5 locations. Reportedly, the porridge has increased school attendance, academic performance and the esteem of the children.



Many students in 5 primary schools & 1 orphanage receive their only meal of the day through the Matanya's Hope Porridge Program



**DONATIONS:** Imagine school life without a single pencil. Imagine walking miles across rocky terrain without a pair of shoes. Imagine ending your day hungry and starting it without a single bite to eat. This hardship is a struggle our kids face daily.

Matanya's Hope has delivered more than 11 tons of clothing, shoes, school supplies, books, bibles, teachers supplies, medical supplies, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, blankets, sheets, towels and more to the needy throughout much of Kenya. Without such items, many of these children sleep on dirt floors without a single blanket; they walk across thorn infested terrain barefooted, and more. Recipients often come to us barefooted or in the same threadbare shoes and clothes that they received from us the prior year. Children and their teachers tell us how much it means to be given gifts such as blankets, shoes and clothes... gifts that make their lives a little more bearable.

Each pencil/pen, notebook, etc. helps our children learn; soap helps them clean and feel unashamed; the clothes you bring keep them covered and warm. Through the generosity of our sponsors and donors, we have been able to purchase new uniforms, shoes and school supplies for countless children in desperate need.



School children each receive a notebook from mission participant (on behalf of a dear friend)



School boy is one of hundreds to receive new shoes and boots from mission donations

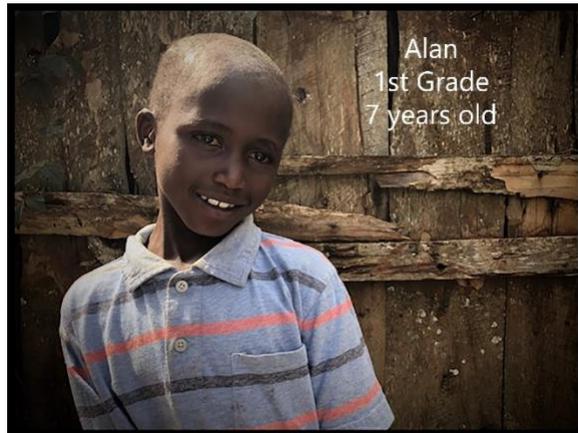
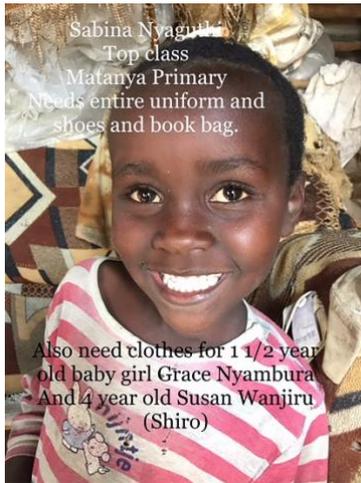
**\*\*Donations must be collected, sorted, packed, shipped, unpacked and finally delivered to those in need. Each year, mission participants have helped us collect and deliver exciting items such as soccer balls, uniforms, book bags, crayons, clothes, shoes and so much more!\*\***

**LAND FOR SCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S HOME:** Matanya's Hope has secured 11 acres of land in rural Kenya with the vision of building a school and children's home to serve those children in need.

**REACHING OUT TO THOSE IN NEED:** It is perhaps one of the most moving experiences to discover a child in need of food, clothes and education and then to offer them an academic scholarship providing all. Each year, our Matanya's Hope mission team impacts the lives of several new scholarship recipients. Your mission experience may be just the one which positively changes a child's life forever.

Matanya's Hope currently sponsors the education of approximately 250 students from 1<sup>st</sup> grade to University and master's degree levels. To date, we have approximately 45 university graduates. Many are working and providing financial, academic and emotional support to others in need.

If you are interested in sponsoring a child in need, Matanya's Hope has several desperate girls and boys waiting for a chance to join school.



**PLANTING TREES:** Much of central Kenya experiences severe droughts directly related to the cutting down of trees. Matanya's Hope created the FOREST OF HOPE at one of Laikipia district's primary schools where drought is at an all-time high. Mission participants have the opportunity to plant a tree in honor or, memory of loved ones... or just because... Through the Forest of Hope, we are teaching the next generation the importance of replacing the good that we take from the earth.

**TEACHING:** Each year, mission participants have the opportunity to help teach or mentor students in need.