

CHARIOTS
FOR
HOPE
ANNUAL
REPORT
2017



INSTRUMENTS OF CHANGE

Dear Friend of Chariots for Hope,

Most of the children who come to a Chariots for Hope children's home arrive with a story that has started badly, even tragically. Their lives seem to be without opportunity and without hope. But we believe that our God is a Father to the fatherless, a restorer, a healer, and the God of all hope. We have great confidence that He wants to do His transformational work in the children that come to us. We know He wants to change their stories! That is why we seek to give them opportunity and hope so that they develop into exemplary citizens, leaders, and follower of Jesus Christ.

You, our supporters, are the instruments God is using to change the stories of the more than 800 children in our care. Thank you for changing their stories by your gifts and prayers! We are so pleased to present this 2017 Annual Report to you. In its pages, we hope you will see the transformational impact your gifts and prayers are having in the lives of our children in Kenya. Their stories are literally being rewritten as a result of the love they are experiencing and all they are learning in our children's homes. We are therefore filled with optimism for their futures.

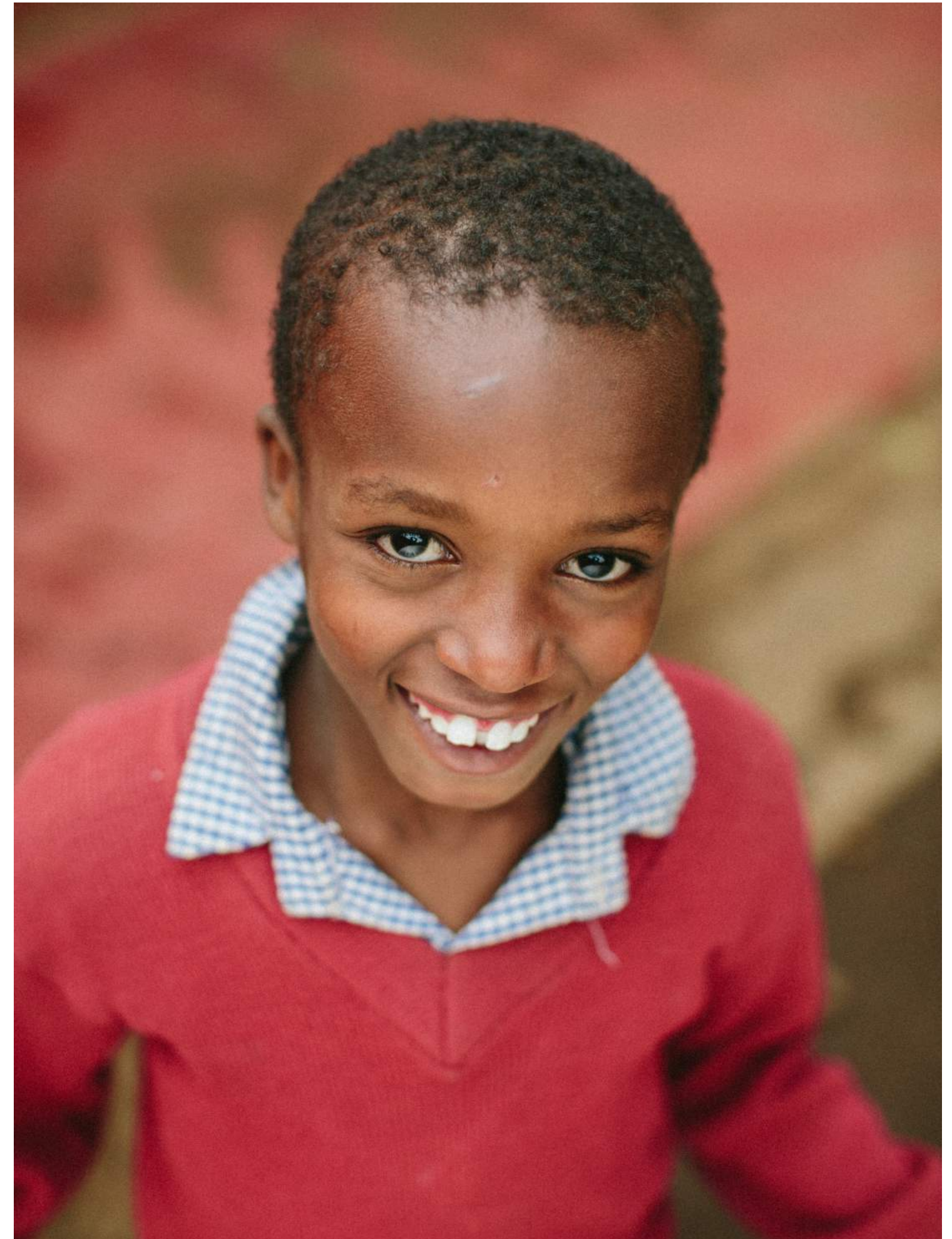
With great hope,

Robert A. Feller

Bob Feller
President & CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Teresa Castronuovo
Sherri DeWalt, Chair
Bob Feller
Kelly Griffith
Paul Keisling
Jim Kulp
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CHANGE THEIR STORY

Chariots for Hope desires to do more than just provide for the immediate practical and physical needs of the children at our homes. It is our heart to go deep with every child, giving them opportunity and hope through education, emotional support, and spiritual guidance so that their story is changed in powerful ways.

We do not want to see them return to the cycle of poverty from which they came.

CELEBRATE CHANGE



We met Charles when he was just 9 years old. Both of his parents had passed away, and his older siblings were unemployed and living in poverty. Charles was a child who had no one to care for him. He came to live at Ogada Children's home where he surrendered his life to Jesus. An elder in the local church helped to mentor him as he worked through the trauma of his past.



Now at 21, Charles is in Bible college studying to be a pastor so he can help introduce others to the hope of Jesus.



BREAKING THE CYCLE

Mutheu's mother gave birth to her at just 16 years old. Her grandmother also had her mother at a very young age. None of their fathers are known. Mutheu was forced to help in the illegal production of beer, putting her at a significant risk of being raped and abused. Now Mutheu lives at Mulango Children's Home. Her story has changed from that of her mother and grandmother. Mutheu gets to be a child! She is now thriving in her education, beginning her senior year in high school in 2018. Mutheu has set her sights high, desiring to be a surgeon one day.



Gerald, age 10

These siblings came to live at Mahiga Children's Home this year after being abandoned by their mother. She was not able to pay rent. To compel her to pay, the landlord removed the door locks and part of the roof. This left the children vulnerable, exposed to the elements, and in great danger.



Esther, age 6

Soon after, the siblings' mother abandoned them and has not been seen again. The children lived alone for months under these conditions before being brought to the children's home. Their stories have been changed already. They are safe!



Salome, age 11



HEALING FROM TRAUMA

830 children.
830 different stories.
830 uniquely created
individuals.

Some children's lives were enmeshed in trauma since birth. Poverty, malnutrition, abuse, and neglect. For others it was an instance of trauma. An accident, an illness, the loss of parents or protectors took away life as they had imagined. Whatever the cause, it is our desire to help these children heal.

We believe that true healing from such severe trauma only comes through Jesus. In August we hosted the largest staff training we have ever held. Staff members and leaders from all 6 of our children's homes gathered together for 6 days to focus on learning the tools that will help them walk through the trauma experienced by the children in their care.

We chose a curriculum created by The American Bible Society's Trauma Healing Institute. A facilitator from the Kenya Bible Society spent 4 days with our staff, training them to run Healing Trauma Camps at each home. Working with the Kenya Bible Society allowed all of the training to be done in Swahili. Our staff members walked through understanding how to facilitate conversations, using art and drama to help children understand their feelings, and learning how caregivers can deal with trauma in their own lives.

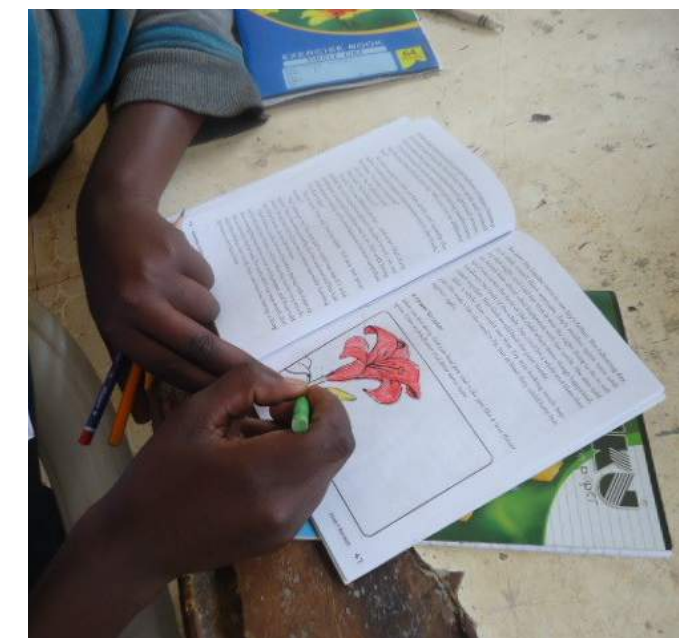
In 2017, successful Healing Trauma Camps were hosted at 3 of our 6 children's homes, and the remaining 3 homes will host camps during school breaks in 2018.

We have already seen how children and teenagers have benefitted from these camps opening the door to honest conversations about trauma, loss, and grief. They had the opportunity to share their stories using drama and music. They were given the space to share freely and also listen to their brothers and sisters share from their hearts

We know that a one-week camp does not wipe away the hurt of a child's past. But our prayer is that it begins a journey of healing where Jesus can heal wounds, and they can begin to see that there is hope ahead.



ONE THING EVERY
CHILD'S STORY
HAS IN COMMON IS
TRAUMA.



TEACHING
IS MORE THAN
IMPARTING
KNOWLEDGE;

it is inspiring change.

william arthur ward

EDUCATION

OUR
SUPPORT
DOES
NOT END AT
EIGHTEEN.

Think back to when you were nearing your high school graduation. How many times were you asked, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” For most children in Kenya, life is about survival, not dreams. But for the children in our homes, we want them to dream! To truly “change their story” there must be a way to break the cycle of poverty.

We believe education is the key to that pursuit.



The children in our care stay in our program until they are prepared to be on their own.

In 2017 our oldest students were 24 years old and working on college degrees.

We have committed to the children in our program that we will support them in every level of education for which they qualify.

EDUCATION SYSTEM KENYA

Primary School
Class 1 – Class 8

Secondary School
Form 1 – Form 4

Post-Secondary School
Polytechnic/College/University

In Kenya, the opportunity to go to high school must be earned. Eighth graders from across Kenya take exams to determine their eligibility to enter high school. Then again at the end of high school, national exams determine eligibility for college or university.

With an American lens, it is easy to look at polytechnic as just a fall back plan. It is not!

In Kenya, the skills that are learned through a polytechnic program meet a need in high demand. As a developing country, while there is a growing need for professional occupations, there is always a demand for trade skills.

Every village needs more than one great mechanic, tailor, carpenter, welder, hair dresser, and electrician as it is not common, or easy, to travel for these services.

It is our vision that our children have opportunity and hope to be exemplary citizens, leaders, and followers of Jesus. This vision is fulfilled through the mechanic who cares well for his family and community, and the teacher who challenges the next generation just as much as it would be if one of our children became president of Kenya. We desire for our children to be the person God has created them to be, using their own unique gifts and talents.

POLYTECHNIC
NOT
A FALLBACK PLAN



It’s most economical to have someone tailor make an outfit for you.



Roads receive very little maintenance, and cars need constant attention. Welders are needed to provide security though gates and fences



African hair is done every few weeks.

INVESTING IN LIVES

WHY DO YOU DO WHAT YOU DO? For our staff members in Kenya, it's a calling. They feel that God has placed them in their roles for a reason.

We sat down with 2 men who hold critical roles in our ministry to hear about their passion and calling to the children of Kenya.

Paul Mwaniki has been with us since Chariots began. He served as the manager of Maai Mahiu Children's home for many years before becoming the National Director of Chariots for Hope. His experience in leading a children's home gives him a depth of knowledge as he oversees all 8 children's homes.

Cosmas Lagat serves as our Program Manager. His experience as a social worker gives him the compassion and understanding necessary to work with children who have experienced trauma.

When you see children all around you living in poverty, living with no hope, it breaks your heart. You know it could be better. This is at the core of Paul's passion for caring for these children, and caring for them well. Years ago, long before Chariots for Hope existed, Paul worked at a Kenyan orphanage. He watched as decisions were made without regard for the children. He saw that children went without shoes and some of the most basic necessities. Even things that did not require money were not being done. He knew this was wrong and has dedicated his life to making things different. We saw this in the way he led our Maai Mahiu Children's Home and the way he handles every situation. The care of the children comes first. Getting a front row seat to see how God is using these homes to change the lives of children who had never experienced hope before is a great privilege to him.



For Cosmas, his passion for this work began at a young age. He shared, "I chose to work with orphans and vulnerable children because my heart went out for them from an early age as I was growing up. I lived, played, and went to school with many children from my neighborhood who were living impoverished lives. My growing up was not without challenges, but I know many children who could not afford a meal for a day; I know others

whose families were either in chaos of domestic violence, suffering in poverty, or deep into alcoholism. And I also know many who never went beyond primary level of education because they were orphans and no one responsible was there to care for them. Living in this environment and witnessing all this shaped my desire of wanting to be of help to others. I became a social worker with an agenda to serve and make a change in the lives of children in suffering. And for as long as there are children in need of care and support, my heart is not at rest until I see them excelling well holistically in all spheres of their lives."

We believe our staff is critical to the success of our homes. Their passion to see these children's lives changed makes our vision possible. It is because of their dedication, through God's grace, that our children experience hope and opportunity to become exemplary citizens, leaders, and followers of Jesus.

6 CHILDREN'S HOMES
690 CHILDREN AND 62 STAFF
147 ONE-ON-ONES 150 JOURNALS
THOUSANDS OF MILES



Think back to a time when someone invested in you for no benefit of their own. They went out of their way, sacrificing their own time and comfort to invest in you. If you have been blessed by experiencing something like this, it is not something you ever forget.

This past summer, 147 of our teenagers experienced this kind of investment in their lives.

Leanne, a dear friend of our ministry, felt God calling her to invest in Kenya specifically in our teenage girls. God used Leanne's gifts to leave a deep and lasting impact on their lives.

IN HER OWN WORDS

"I went to Kenya with a mission to connect with the teenage girls and provide an opportunity for them to process the painful experiences about their past and set goals for a meaningful future. I did that through two different activities: 1) visiting one-on-one with girls who lived in boarding schools and 2) facilitating a journal project in the homes that would help the girls express their stories."

JOURNAL PROJECT: "With the help of family and friends, I put together a small decorated photo album for each of the girls to fill in and keep. The album pages were filled with a question for them to consider and a space for them to write their answer. The questions helped them think about their relationship with God, their strengths, their hopes and dreams for their futures, and traumatic experiences from their past like a death of a parent or going to bed hungry. Working together with the staff at the homes, the girls told their stories and wrote their answers in the journal."

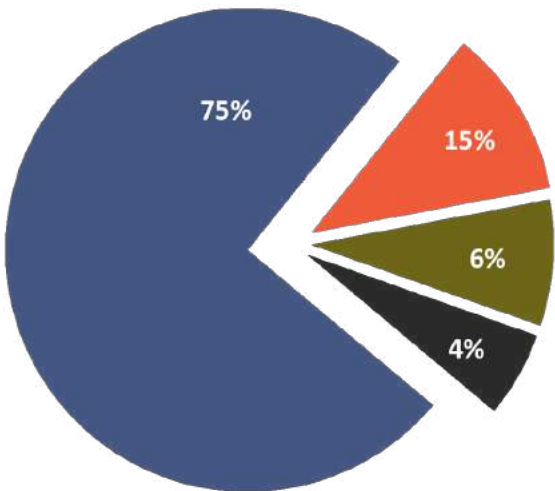
SCHOOL VISITS: "I really got to make some wonderful connections with the girls when I visited them at their schools. Oh how they love having visitors! As we sat and talked together, I shared my personal testimony about how God carried me through a very difficult time in my life. They responded in kind and opened up to me about painful and traumatic experiences they have had. So much healing takes place when we are able to share our stories with one another. I could feel the Lord bonding us together, and the result was a beautiful time of encouragement, healing and prayer."



2017 IN NUMBERS

EXPENDITURES	2017	2016	2015
● CHILDREN'S HOME	\$854,099.05	\$821,257.56	\$788,461.60
● OTHER PROGRAM	165,838.29	168,995.10	101,879.79
● ADMINISTRATIVE	72,265.56	69,255.19	81,636.50
● FUNDRAISING	49,432.84	45,563.81	44,445.04
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,141,635.74	\$1,105,071.66	1,016,422.93
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,139,870.29	\$1,173,561.92	\$954,786.98

2017 EXPENDITURES



Unaudited results. 2017 audit will be completed in the coming months.

Chariots for Hope is proud to be ECFA Certified. ECFA holds Christ-centered ministries and churches to the highest standards of fiscal responsibility, transparency and integrity.



2017 SUPPORT

.90¢

OF EVERY DOLLAR SPENT GOES DIRECTLY TO THE CARE OF OUR CHILDREN

→ 6 ←
CHILDREN'S
→ HOMES ←
2 BABY HOMES
830 CHILDREN



9 Home Partners
Providing relational and financial support to our homes

305 Child Sponsors
Giving hope to 449 children through relational and financial support

483 Supporters
Gave financial gifts to our ministry



TOGETHER, WE ARE CHANGING LIVES!

GOD PROVIDES

On the surface, these things may not feel like they have a direct correlation to our mission and vision...but they do!

God's provision of things that at times seem mundane are often great catalysts for ministry.

PROJECTS 2017



When a child is sick, getting them to the clinic as quickly as possible is vital.



Transportation in Kenya is challenging. For our homes, having a solid, reliable vehicle is essential. The daily need of running to town for supplies can take hours when using public transportation. When a child is sick, getting them to the clinic as quickly as possible is vital. Having a vehicle on hand is ideal for the care of our staff and children.

Two new vehicles were purchased this year for Chariots Kenyan staff and children's homes. When the funding need is met, two additional vehicles will be purchased, including one for our baby home which cares for over fifty infants and toddlers.



When you are near drought stage, imagine the fear a manager has wondering how to provide water for the children in their care.

Playground at Maai Mahiu- Supporting healthy development by encouraging children to run, play, be active, and have fun!

Red Cross Training- Ensuring our staff is prepared to keep our children safe and healthy is a top priority. Training has been completed at 3 homes; further funding is needed to provide training for our other 5 homes.

Healing Trauma Training- Caring well for our kids means going deeper than just meeting physical needs. Our Healing Trauma Training helps kids understand and begin to take steps to heal from the trauma of their past.

Water Tanks- When you are near drought stage, imagine the fear a manager has wondering how to provide water for the children in their care. Water storage tanks allow homes to preserve water in times of excess for when it is most needed. Tanks were installed at Maai Mahiu children's home. Ongoing work is needed to provide a long term solution to the water needs at this home. Funding is needed for water tanks at other Chariots homes.

Keyboard- On weekends music pours out of the dining hall as children sing and dance. Music enhances the children's worship at nightly devotions.

THANK YOU |

Our gratitude is far too great to put into words. The generous and faithful support of our partners, donors and prayer warriors pushes our work to new heights each year by the grace of God.

HOME PARTNERS

Home partners play a vital role in our homes. They are committed to providing significant resources and building deep, meaningful relationships with our children's home staff members and children.

58ten

Bethlehem Baptist Church

Chelten, a church of hope

Christ's Home

Cornerstone Church of Skippack

Friends of Mulango

Immanuel Leidy's Church

Integrity Foundation

Serang Dental

Sustained Acts

FRIENDS OF CHARIOTS

Friends of Chariots are businesses and organizations that generously contribute to the work of Chariots for Hope through donating finances, resources, or services.

Ambassador Advisors

Chelten Child Development Center

Dean Weaver, Inc.

Gwynedd Manufacturing

Heaven's Treasures

Lightify Creative

M. Hayner Productions

Mission Projects Fellowship

Pretty Bird Coffee Co.

Rotary International

Soapbox Soaps

Trinity Valley Community Church

Vitamin Angels

Thank You! We are so thankful for the hundreds of individuals and families who have faithfully and sacrificially given in 2017. Though we have chosen not to recognize individual donor names here, please know that we could not meet the needs of so many children in Kenya without your gifts.

WORKING
TOGETHER
FOR
ONE COMMON
GOAL





chariotsforhope
Defending the fatherless in Kenya

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