

OKOA TOTO  
CHILDREN'S HOME

Inspired by Compassion. Rooted in Community.  
LUMAKANDA, KENYA

To create a future for Kenyan Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances by providing a safe, nurturing, sustainable home environment that is rooted in community and inspired by compassion. With a nurturing home, nutrition and education, 12 children have the opportunity to grow into contributing members of the community.



Okoa Toto boys:  
(l to r): Brightson, Michael, Jian, Wesley, Gabriel, Ramsey

Okoa Toto girls:  
(l to r): Joy, Faith, Mary, Melvin, Abigail

In Their Own Words...  
Reflections from Sponsors and Supporters

"I taught preschool for 35 years and know that brain development is greatest in the young. An education is the best thing a person can have. Education is not lost. Keep up the good work!"  
~ Lois Schreiter  
(Lois & Steve Schreiter)

"We were always so very proud of the work that our son, Kyle, did with the Jirani Project along with Doug. It was such a delight to see the children laughing, smiling and learning while doing the work and activities with the group. We always talked about doing something, and when the opportunity came along to sponsor a child with Okoa Toto we jumped at it. We love getting the updates and follow Facebook for pictures and info on all the kids. It's truly our pleasure to help."  
~ Chuck & Carol Weck



Ramsey reading a letter from his sponsor.

Welcome New Board Members

We're thrilled to welcome two new Board members: Constance Hunt and Patsy Bjorling!



A native of Chicago, Constance has a passion for protection of the environment, which requires caring for the people who depend on it. After completing a degree in Wildlife Biology, she interned for the National Wildlife Federation in Washington, DC, where she stayed on as a research associate and wrote her first book, before returning to Chicago to get a Master's degree in Public Policy. She then went on to work in senior positions for the World Wildlife Fund and the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP). The UNEP job brought her to Kenya where she founded her own NGO, called KWENCH (Kenya Water, ENergy, Cleanliness and Health) Project. In this capacity, and as a volunteer for an educational organization dedicated to improving the lives of disadvantaged children in Nairobi, she strives to improve life for people and wildlife in Kenya.



Patsy's entire life has been dedicated to service in not-for-profit environments. Recently, she served as a staff member for an organization in the United States which supported residential homes/schools in Honduras. At that time, she learned a lot about the issues related to the problems of children in countries we in privileged countries often refer to as "Third World." She believes it is important to engage with those in other countries as partners and equals, a philosophy shared by Okoa Toto.

Currently retired, Patsy has been privileged to serve on various Boards over her lifetime, ranging from a private school in Hawaii, to church councils, local theater groups, Rotary, food co-ops and as the state Vice President of the American Association of University Women in Nebraska. Often times, she was the driving force behind the organizations' public relations and marketing strategies.

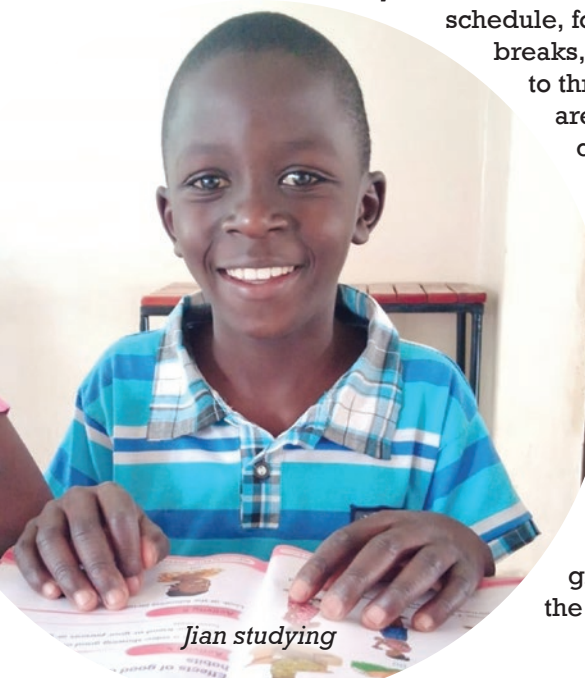
As we welcome Constance and Patsy we extend a fond farewell to former Board members Terri May and Beth Fecht with gratitude for their years of dedicated service. Thank you Terri and Beth!

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty...One Child At A Time

By Ann Shurte, Okoa Toto Vice President/Treasurer

Providing a strong education is a key aspect of our commitment to providing a better future for our children. While Covid disrupted the school year in Kenya, much like it did here in the US, the children were able to return to in person learning at the Lumakanda Sunrise Valley Academy and are on track to completing three school years within two years. Even with the rigorous schedule, foregoing school breaks, the children continue to thrive and learn! We are so proud of all of the children for their hard work and diligence toward their school work!

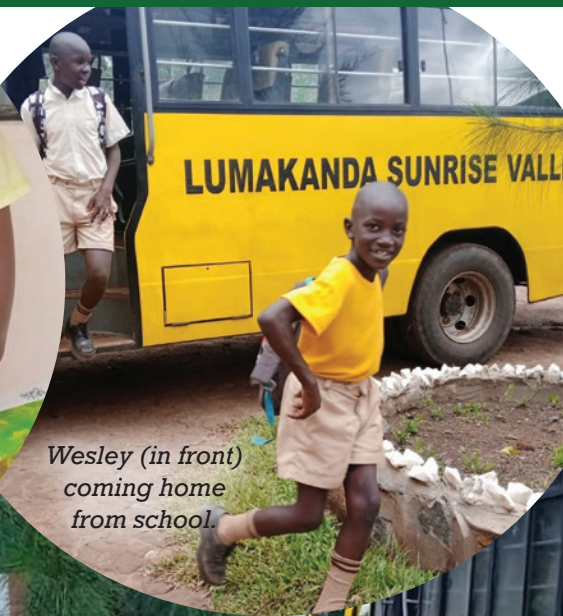
All of the children just completed their examinations in their individual grades. They are studying Math, English, Science, Kiswahili (Swahili), Environment, Art, Religion and Music. We are pleased to report that all of the children will be moving on to their next grade level. Almost all scored in the very top of their classes!



Jian studying



Edith reading with Faith



Wesley (in front) coming home from school.



Children heading to school.



Okoa Toto Summer Fundraiser a Success!

WALK, RUN, PEDAL, PADDLE!  
  
TO HELP SAVE A CHILD.

Okoa Toto's Walk, Run, Pedal, Paddle summer fundraiser June 1-15 was a success! Our goal was to raise \$1,000 and we exceeded that goal by \$150.00! A BIG THANKS to

everyone who donated and supported this event including those who sent in photos! Here a few! Together we are indeed saving one child at a time. Asante Sana!

For more information or to make a tax-deductible donation to Okoa Toto visit [www.okoatoto.org](http://www.okoatoto.org)

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Okoa Toto, Inc. is a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization, of which has been certified by the State of Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions to engage in business as a charitable organization.



Welcome Rebecca

We're delighted to welcome Rebecca, the newest child to the Okoa Toto family!

Rebecca, age seven, had lived with her mother and four sisters. She lost her father three years ago. Her mother, while trying to find work, was not able to care for the entire family. Ultimately, Rebecca was not able to attend school due to a lack of funds, and she would go for days without food.

With your support, we are working to create a bright future for Rebecca and all of our children.

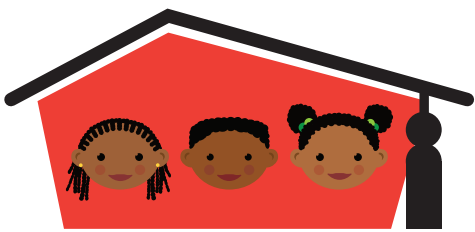


Rebecca arriving at Okoa Toto on May 8th, and starting her first day in school one week later.



Left: Ramsey Drying Beans

Below: Okoa Toto staff member Eric teaching (l to r) Wesley, Joy and Faith some duties and life skills in the vegetable garden.



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