

OKOA TOTO

CHILDREN'S HOME

Inspired by Compassion. Rooted in Community.

LUMAKANDA, KENYA

To create a future for Kenyan Children from Especially Difficult Circumstances by providing a quality education and a safe, nurturing, sustainable home environment that is rooted in community and inspired by compassion.



Front from left: Michael, Jian, Rebecca, Faith, Joy, Mary, Abigael.
Mid from left: Melvin, Gabriel, Wesley, Brightson, Ramsey.
Back row from left – Staff: Erick, Christine, Kevina, Edith, Joshua.

CHILDREN EXCELLING WITH QUALITY EDUCATION

By Ann Shurte and Laura Faust
Okoa Toto Board Members

When dreams of Okoa Toto began to take root, we knew that a quality education would be the vehicle for each child to reach their full potential and realize their dreams. As our children have grown, we continue to watch them flourish in school.

Kenyan education requires students to take a national exam at the end of junior high. Their scores on this exam determine which high school they will attend. We are excited to share that Ramsey joined Brightson this year at St. Peter's Mumias Boys High School! This is one of the top high schools in the larger Kakamega County. We couldn't be more proud of both boys for their hard work and dedication!

In January, after a short break from school, the children began their new school year. Abigael, Mary, Melvin, and Joy continue to study at Lumakanda Junior High. Gabriel, Wesley, Rebecca, Jian, Michael, and Faith continue at Springs of Hope.

The children now have six computers in their home, thanks to a generous donation. This has provided them with greater access to continue their studies and increase practice opportunities at home, enhancing their education and learning. Your generosity continues to allow each of the children the opportunity to work toward achieving their dreams.

If you would like to donate funding to purchase an additional computer (\$250.00), please send your donation in the enclosed envelope with the specific donation request.



Jian, Wesley, Rebecca, Faith, Gabriel, Michael



Ramsey and Brightson now proudly attend the same high school.



Faith



Jian



Michael



Rebecca

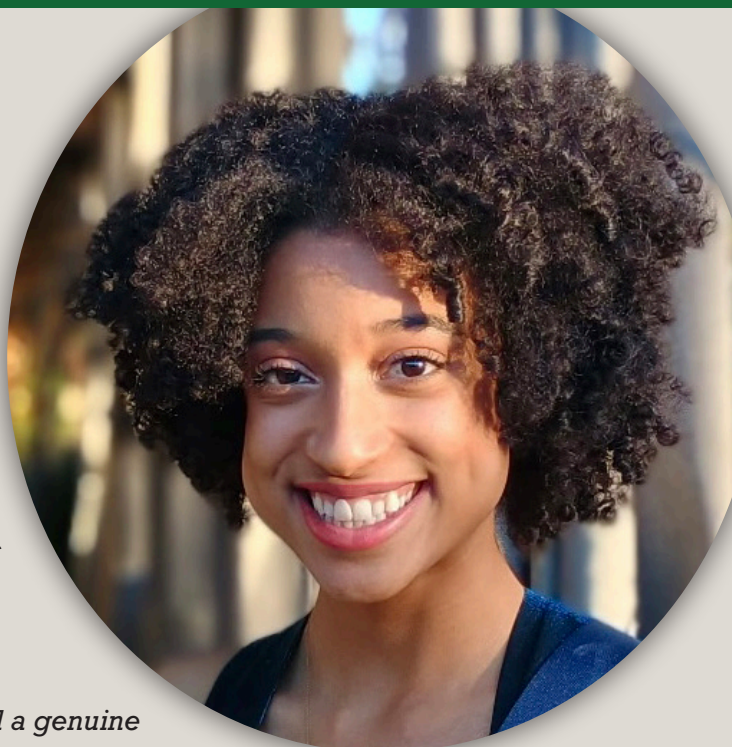


Mary, Abigael, Melvin, and Joy enjoying their studies.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER MARTHA OLEJNICZAK

Martha was born and raised in Brainerd, Minnesota, where her lifelong commitment to compassion and service first took shape. Her journey eventually led her to Eagle River, Wisconsin, after meeting her husband, Luke, whose deep roots in the Northwoods brought her to the community she now proudly calls home.

In Eagle River, Martha has devoted much of her career to serving residents in assisted living, offering empathy and a genuine heart for people. Her passion for mission-driven service extends well beyond her professional work. She is especially honored to serve on the Board of Okoa Toto where she contributes to a mission that aligns deeply with her values of dignity, hope, compassion, and education.



“I feel deeply called to support Okoa Toto because I have always carried a genuine love for people and a desire to serve wherever I am able. There is something profoundly meaningful to me about showing up for others, especially in ways that can create lasting impact. I believe that even small acts of service, when done with sincerity and compassion, can ripple outward and change lives. Being part of something that uplifts and empowers others aligns closely with who I am and how I want to move through the world.

I also have a strong love and passion for Africa as a whole—its people, cultures, and resilience inspire me deeply. Supporting a children’s project like Okoa Toto feels like a meaningful way to honor that connection while contributing to something tangible. I firmly believe in the power of education as a foundation for opportunity, growth, and long-term change. Education not only opens doors for individuals but strengthens entire communities. Being able to play even a small role in that process is something I find incredibly important and fulfilling.”

Outside of her service roles, Martha finds joy in singing and spending time outdoors.

OKOA TOTO ADVISORY COUNCIL 2026

The Okoa Toto Advisory Council in Kenya is pleased to welcome four new members: Pastor Dennis (replacing Pastor Titus); Shadrack Odera, Education Officer; Emily Likoko, a Teacher; and, Jackline Makambi, a Business Entrepreneur.

Front Row: Teacher Martin Onesmas; Home Manager Kevina Ngitia; Pastor Dennis; Jackline Makambi; Back Row: Emily Likoko; Project Facilitator Mark Okello; Everline; Judith Indenche, Early Childhood Development. Not pictured: Clinical Nurse Dorine Ayuma.



Funding Requests: Can You Help?

Okoa Toto currently has two immediate needs that directly support the children. First, one of our long-time sponsors—who has generously supported two children—can now continue with only one. We’re hoping to find a new sponsor so the second child continues to feel the stability and care they’ve come to rely on. Second, as our 12 children grow in their studies, access to technology is becoming essential. We have six donated computers, but we need at least one or more to ensure every child has the chance to keep up with schoolwork and online learning.

If you would like to sponsor an Okoa Toto child, please reach out to Board President Doug Pierce for more information: dmpier0632@gmail.com. If you would like to donate funds for a computer, please contact Board Treasurer Ann Shurte: ashurte@yahoo.com.

Thank you for your consideration, kindness and generosity.

YOUR DONATION MATTERS!

Please consider a donation today by sending a check to:
Okoa Toto, Inc
1228 Summit Avenue
Waukesha, WI 53188

or donate online at:
www.okoatoto.org

Okoa Toto is a registered 501c3 non-profit in the State of Wisconsin.

Thank you!

