



You can change the life of a girl in Africa:

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We give God ALL the glory...

We are all safely back home after a successful three-week mission trip to Kenya (January 24-February 15). This year, I was accompanied by two mission partners,



Jill Oosterman (USA) and Nelly Vanderveen (Netherlands). We linked up with Rahab Esiromo (Kenya), and together visited Ole Tipis Girls' Secondary School in Narok where 37 of our girls go to school. Jill and Nelly returned home after our Narok visit while Rahab and I completed the rest of

the visits to Kolanya Girls' Secondary School (52 girls) and Cardinal Otunga Girls' Secondary School (12 girls).

Thank you so much to all our amazing mission partners and prayer warriors who took time to write to the girls. Their excitement at receiving your letters was palpable. Some of you will be receiving their replies along with this letter. You made the young girls feel **very, very special**. Many of these girls had never received a letter in their lives. **This was a wonderful experience for them.**



One teacher told me, that they are so proud of their Esther's Hope identity, it does not take much to call them together for a meeting, because they come running. They are also **beginning to work together and are sharing resources and supporting one another as close family members do.**

It is difficult to adequately capture all the life and faith transformations that have happened over the past year, but suffice it to say, the girls are blossoming into confident young women with clear life goals, a disciplined work ethic and spades and spades of gratitude and hope in their hearts.

God showed up for Esther's Hope Ministries on this trip in more ways than I can capture in this letter. However, allow me to share a few anecdotes that I hope will encourage you. We asked the girls and teachers a very simple question: "What difference has this scholarship made in your life?" There were 101 responses; here are three of them:



"I don't even know where to begin," Patricia says, tearing up with emotion, "God has used Esther's Hope Ministries to completely change my life. I was broken and had no hope, but I kept praying, and then you visited my school and selected me to enter this program. Now I am confident I am heading somewhere, and I thank God every day for this precious opportunity." (Cardinal Otunga)



"You have completely changed my family's life. My parents were always struggling financially but now they are even able to educate my siblings because of the support from Esther's Hope Ministries. We gather as a family to pray for you and for the sponsors who support this ministry. Thank you for helping me experience the love of God (Kolanya).

And then Mr. Dismas Kiboi, the Esther's Hope Ministries Coordinator at Kolanya chimes in, *"Rev. Joan, this ministry is touching so many people. Last year, a grandfather who had been struggling to educate his grand-daughter came to the office to deposit a little money so she would not be sent home. I showed him the Esther's Hope receipt for the deposit you paid into the student's account, he fell to his knees and broke down in tears. The unexpected financial support completely overwhelmed him."*



Cardinal Basketball Team



Ole Tipis Girls examining their letters and gifts



Kolanya Dormitory



Kolanya New Esther's Hope Students-2019



Rev. Joan, Christine and Jacinta Omuuki



Kolanya Dining Hall



Kolanya Girls in Class

All the students thank you most sincerely for giving them the opportunity to receive a high school education. They are all praying for you.