



Ewuaso Kedong Baraka Catholic Kindergarten

**Nutritious Meals and Educational
Support for Poor Children**

— Ewuaso Kedong, Kenya —



For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

JEREMIAH 29:11



We are a Catholic ministry

that mobilizes the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Rather than create new institutions to distribute aid, we support existing ministries and churches already serving the poor. In addition to being the most cost-effective way of helping the poor, empowering these ministries allows us to support the Church's spiritual mission and its important position of leadership in poor communities.

We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach.

We invite you to join with us as we seek to transform the lives of the poor materially and spiritually — ways that please the Father and glorify him in Heaven and on earth.



Project Synopsis

Description

This project provides impoverished kindergartners with an inspiring Catholic education and nourishing daily meals.

Purpose

To prevent malnutrition and help boys and girls discover the joys of learning, praying and loving their neighbor.

Our Partners

Baraka Catholic Kindergarten and the Seikeri Kindergarten, which are outreach ministries of Grace of God Parish.

Location

Ewuaso Kedong, Kenya.

Cost

\$32,400 enables the Catholic community to provide a wholesome daily meal for 263 children and cover additional school costs that aren't included in the school fees.

Highlights

- This rural region is home to the Maasai, nomadic people who survive by raising small herds of animals.
- Father John Fortune, a priest from Ireland, formed Grace of God Parish at the request of a local bishop because traveling priests only visit twice a year.
- Catholic parents founded Baraka Catholic Kindergarten, which was so popular that a second school in Seikeri recently opened.
- The kindergarten now enables boys and girls from seminomadic families to catch up academically before enrolling in primary school.
- Malnutrition is a constant threat to Maasai children, so a daily lunch and snack are provided.
- In such an impoverished region, this ministry can continue only with our support!



James Letipat, a student at the preschool, stands outside his home with his family.



The Need



Tirzah Rimas has suffered too much already. She is only 5 years old, but she has already felt the sting of poverty, hunger, HIV and other painful medical conditions. Her daily struggle breaks our hearts, particularly when we have children or grandchildren of the same age. We can't imagine them going through such hardships.

Like many of the Maasai people who live throughout the region, Tirzah's parents are struggling with few resources to help their youngest daughter. Without land or animals, her father searches for work each day, offering to repair fences or driving horse-drawn wagons. When he is lucky enough to get work, the family enjoys a meal that day. If not, Tirzah and her siblings are more likely to go to bed hungry.

Because she is undernourished more often than not, Tirzah is small and underweight for her age. In addition, she is still struggling to overcome a virus she's had since infancy.

Is Tirzah a special case? Hardly. She is one of many Maasai children whose parents are trapped in a cycle of poverty. Lacking an education,

most of these men and women try to live off the land, but most don't have adequate grazing for animals. The region has also been impacted by droughts and locust swarms in recent years, compounding their challenges.

Fortunately, there is hope!

The Maasai children may be hungry, but they are not starved for love. Their parents are truly devoted to them, and are eager to do more for them. This has put them in contact with the Grace of God Parish where they can find help in many ways. This support includes access to the Baraka Catholic Kindergarten and Seikeri Kindergarten. There, parents can see their children educated and properly fed.

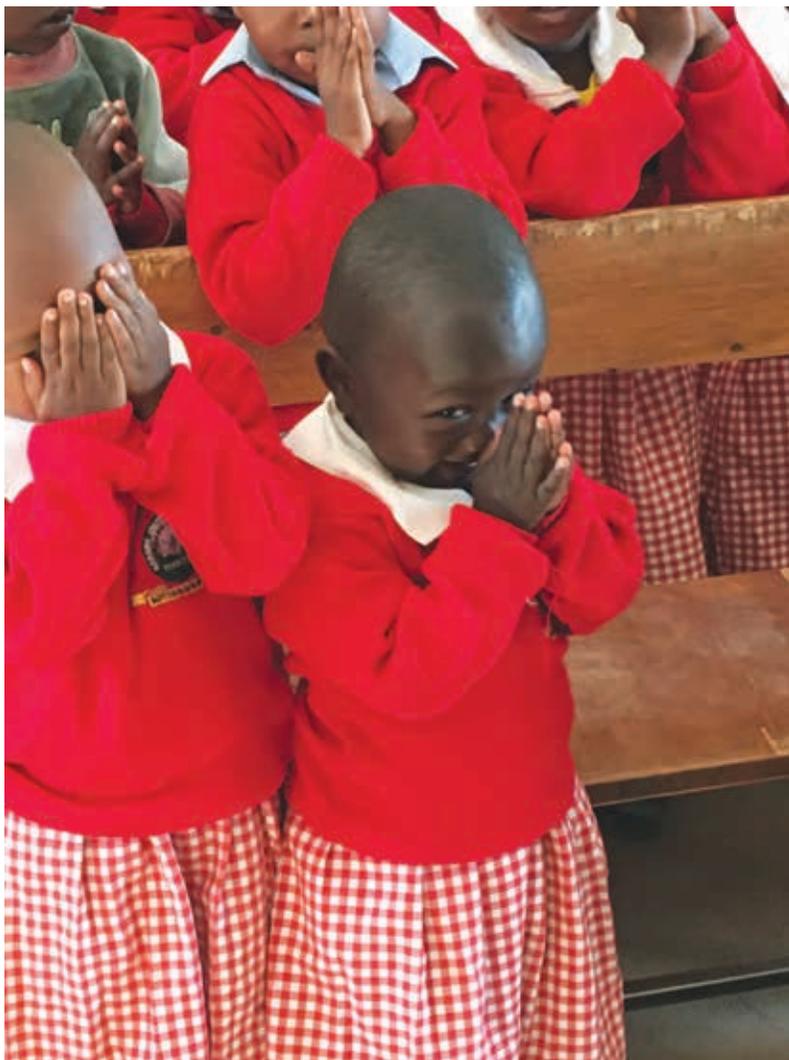
Today, we ask you to join Cross Catholic Outreach in empowering this Church mission by addressing its urgent needs for food and funding! Your gift will ensure that these Spirit-filled schools can provide Tirzah and other impoverished children with an opportunity to overcome the obstacles of their daily life.



Ministry Description

In Swahili, *baraka* means blessing, and your gift to Baraka Catholic Kindergarten certainly will bless these children. This blessing will come as:

- **Food for Undernourished Children:** Maasai families often cannot feed their children consistently, so children can be below normal weights. In response, the kindergarten conducts health checks on all students and provides a wholesome meal for each student every day.
- **Education for Developing Minds:** Parents often have not completed high school and can't help prepare their children for learning, putting the children at risk for dropping out. Baraka Catholic Kindergarten is a kindergarten with three age groups that provides stimulating, age-appropriate learning activities. Students consistently receive high scores in national rankings.
- **Nourishment for Young Souls:** Joy is everywhere. Students eagerly lead prayer services, and teachers help them build relationships with God. In three sessions each week, students learn about the Christian faith and what Jesus is doing for them. Students take their enthusiasm home, with families adopting devotions and prayer before meals. Most children arrive at school early so they can participate in daily Mass.



Little ones learn to pray at Baraka Catholic Kindergarten.

Bringing these blessings to poor children can continue only with our help. In such an impoverished region, the school charges families only \$30 per term. It is not enough. Your support will allow Cross Catholic Outreach to provide the rest so children can be nourished, educated and inspired.

A Catholic Response of Love

Not long ago, there was no Catholic parish in Ewuaso Kedong. The region was so hard to reach that priests traveled here for Masses only a couple of times a year. That all changed in 2004 when Fr. John, an Irish priest who enjoys ministering in Africa, spoke to the local bishop.

Fr. John quickly agreed to become the first priest assigned to the region, and the people responded enthusiastically. Today, local Catholics form the vibrant Grace of God Parish, a community of faith that cares deeply about the needs of the poorest among them. Parents asked for a kindergarten so children could learn more about the faith and be better prepared for primary school. Baraka Catholic Kindergarten began in a simple hut with just 30 students but today is a significant ministry serving 270 students at two locations.



Help Now!



Our Lord is bringing wonderful blessings to this remote region of Kenya. He inspired Fr. John to minister there and called on Catholics of his parish to create Baraka Catholic Kindergarten for destitute children. He assembled compassionate and dedicated teachers to serve the children and brought in cooks to provide nourishing food to children who otherwise went hungry.

Today, we believe God is calling us to join in and support this important mission of mercy.

Your help is needed now more than ever. This ministry has created a second kindergarten in Seikeri to broaden its outreach and make education more accessible. But without your assistance, their team will not be able to keep costs low enough so even the poorest children can attend.

Please — give generously! Through that sacrifice, the Lord will bless boys and girls who are hungry for food and the sustenance an inspired Catholic education can provide.

**“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me,
and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”**

MARK 9:37

Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2023, the close of our ministry’s fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.

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