

# the promise





### **Drew Friedrich**

Director of Marketing

**Anytime I get the chance to travel and visit our projects, I'm always energized and encouraged, and my commitment to making a difference in the lives of children is renewed. Traveling to another part of the world is like stepping through a portal into a different universe, and when you step from that portal into third-world conditions, it's even more eye-opening.**

I recently had the opportunity to spend a couple of weeks visiting our projects in Kenya and meeting so many of the children you are supporting. I heard stories of heartbreak and victory, meeting children who are struggling and those who have experienced incredible healing because of your investment in their lives. Kenya is a truly beautiful country, but very few things compare to the beauty of the Kenyan people, and the children are absolutely precious. When you are in Kenya, you easily forget about the stresses of home and quickly realize how much our western lives are affected by the constant onslaught of media and current events.

giving hope.  
promising love.

# a portal to the nations






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These kids, despite their desperately poor living situations, are no different than our children. I was reminded of my 5-year-old son waiting for me at home and how he often just wants to run and jump into his daddy's arms at the end of a long day. These kids want the very same thing, though often their home lives are broken and unpredictable, and so they come to our projects hungry for affection and affirmation. Because of your generosity and support, every time the children show up, their need for affection is fulfilled by our incredible staff and in-country partners.

**One of the most impressive visits I made was to one of our partners that is reaching over 18,000 children through schools located in more than 25 communities throughout Kenya. Children attending these schools receive much more than an education. Every day they get a whopping serving of hope in the form of Christian discipleship, a warm meal, and the opportunity to form bonds with friends and teachers who truly care about them.**

## LIFE THROUGH ANOTHER LENS

Life is simpler in Kenya—which was certainly a nice change of pace for my American taste—but it's simple because there is a contentment in the people that comes from not knowing any other life. We spent some time in Nairobi, where we have a number of projects, including education programs and a children's home. It's fun to see a sense of wonder in the eyes of young Kenyan children when they catch sight of a tall, white, American man, perhaps for the first time. They giggle to one another and smile, and within seconds they want to be hugged and held, and they line up for shoulder rides.





When I visited the children's home we support in Nairobi, I was blown away, once again, at the level of maturity and sincerity in the 50 children you are supporting there. I witnessed children as young as 5 and 6 share about their dreams to become teachers, lawyers, doctors, or "futbol" players someday. Before coming to the home, these dreams were the furthest thing from reality, but because of you, these children have a chance to achieve those dreams and so much more! There is a deep, passionate love for God in these children, who know that despite their difficult beginnings, God has a beautiful future in store for each of them.

*Now that I'm home, I can look back on my time in Kenya and say with absolute confidence that the work we're doing there together, the work you're supporting, is going to change the face of that nation. With your help, we are raising up a generation of young Christian leaders who love their people and their country but have no plans to repeat the cycles of poverty, brokenness, and illiteracy that have been modeled for them since birth. The children in our programs demonstrate a fierce determination to overcome obstacles—a determination that belies the sweet, innocent smiles on their faces.*

I hope you're encouraged to know that you are sowing seed into fertile ground in Kenya and around the world. We have hundreds of other projects just like these in more than 60 countries, and everywhere we go we bring your love and support with us. These are your kids, and you're changing their lives. Thank you for all that you do!

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