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Dear Friends:

These past two years have been incredibly difficult for so many people. Floods/fires, political turmoil, the pandemic and the economic fallout have all negatively impacted each one of us, our friends and family.

It is an awkward time for me to add to the numerous requests for help that fill our in-box and mailbox. Yet, I am going to do it anyway! This letter is being sent to you, friends and acquaintances in the hope that you will give just a little to help a former Kenyan student of mine who has assumed an enormous responsibility in her village. She has organized a community resource center, HOPE BLESSED ESTATE SELF HELP GROUP (HBESHG) that provides educational and vocational opportunities for over 35 children and youth, support for abandoned teenage mothers and their children, and assists several of the abandoned elderly. At this time, the community cares of 16 toddlers while the mothers attend school.

Though the villagers sell some farm produce to those in the nearby town of Kakamega, the needs in this community are great and the smallest amount of help creates enormous change. As a result of my recent small donation, the community was able to build a concrete wall around their very modest community center to help protect residents and a few chickens from intruders (thieves to mongoose!). I sent a small supply of over the counter drugs (such as Tylenol, Tums, and vitamins), wipes and masks because these items are unavailable or extraordinarily expensive in Kenya. Water purification tablets and two water filters were also included.

My goal is to help this community in a meaningful way. Some of their priorities include: help with tuition (*'public school' is not free in Kenya*), school supplies, books and uniforms; digging a well for all the villagers to have access to a clean water source and installing solar panels so that villagers have access to electricity. A longer term goal includes building additional housing units and providing ongoing assistance with much needed daily supplies. See attached photos.

A donation of \$5 or \$10 will go a very long way. It is my plan to send another package and a cash donation in 2022. I would appreciate any help that you are able to provide! Please send a check to KVEO at the above address and note on the check that the money is for the HOPE BLESSED ESTATE SELF HELP GROUP (HBESHG) or to our Venmo account: [@KVEO24](#)

Thank you in advance for your support of this cause that is very dear to my heart! I will be sure to update you on the progress and changes that we are able to help make in the lives of this wonderful community.

Wishing you Happy Holidays, health and joy.

Joyce