



GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

RETHINKING HUMANITARIAN AID



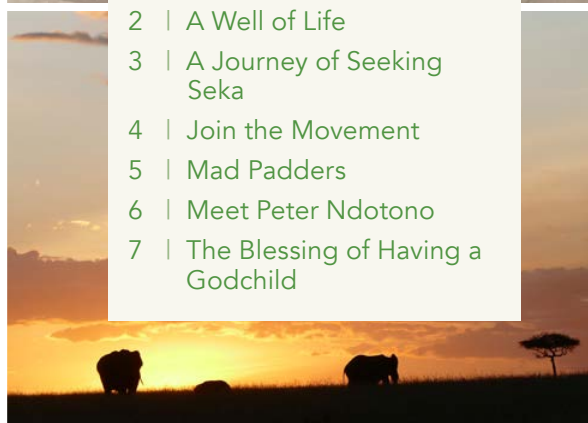
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Serving & Learning

from the

orphaned, widowed, poor & oppressed





A WELL OF LIFE

A JOURNEY OF PRAYER, PARTNERSHIP, AND CELEBRATION IN KAJIADO

In July, after two long years of prayer, partnership, and perseverance, we stood alongside the Kajiado community in Kenya, celebrating something truly transformative: water. Our entire family had the privilege of experiencing the joyous dedication of a well—a source of living water that has already begun to change lives. It was a beautiful day, not just for the land, but for the hearts of everyone present.

The celebration was filled with warmth and gratitude, from the lovingly prepared feast to the incredible moment when the matriarch of a local family handed over the deed to the land where the well now stands. The generosity of this family has ensured that this well will serve generations to come. As the water began to flow, the significance of this day became clear—water has become life for the Kajiado community.

This well is far more than just a source of clean water. It represents growth, health, and education. Thanks to the well, Kajiado's school has seen a remarkable increase in attendance. With the school's new feeding program, made possible by the well, children are receiving the nourishment they need to focus on their education. The reduction in waterborne diseases has been equally impactful, allowing students to remain healthy and attend school regularly.

Moreover, this well has empowered a generation of young girls, offering them a future free from

the traditional pressures of early marriage. With access to education, these girls are now on a path to fulfilling their dreams, contributing to a brighter future for themselves and their community. Women, too, have been empowered, finding their voices and playing leadership roles in the transformation of Kajiado.



We are immensely grateful to **Global Connections** and **Fikia Dada**, whose tireless work alongside us and the Kajiado community made this well a reality. Their dedication, along with the many partnerships formed along the way, has been instrumental in this success. From organizing resources to fostering relationships,

their contributions have been crucial in seeing this vision through to completion. The support of these organizations, combined with the strength of our partnership in prayer, has brought life-giving water to a place where it was desperately needed.

This well represents more than just clean water—it symbolizes the power of community and partnership to create lasting change. Health, education, empowerment, and peace are now flourishing in Kajiado. The fellowship and worship shared on that day have united our two communities, forming a bond that transcends distance. Together, we have built not just a well, but a future filled with hope.

As we reflect on the journey, one quote resonates deeply: **“Water is the driving force of all nature”** - Leonardo da Vinci. This well has indeed proven that water is a driving force not just for survival, but for community, for empowerment, and for transformation. The work we've accomplished, in partnership with Global Connections, Fikia Dada, and the Kajiado community, is a testament to the lasting impact that faith, prayer, and unity can have.

This well will continue to nurture not only the land but the spirit of Kajiado for years to come, a legacy of love and partnership.

- Hattie McCrary



A JOURNEY OF HEALING + SEKA

A Journey of Healing: Empowering LCC Alumni

The transition of LCC Alumni from institutional care to community life has yielded mixed outcomes. While some have successfully adapted and flourished, others continue to face significant challenges, struggling to navigate the complexities of life beyond the LCC. This sense of vulnerability has impeded their ability to fully realize their potential and build a better future.

For any caregiver, the ultimate goal is to see their children grow into responsible and respected members of society.

Over the years, various forms of support have been extended to the Alumni to promote self-sustainability, yet obstacles remain. These ongoing challenges prompted collaborative discussions between Limuru Children's Centre (LCC) and Global Connections (GC), leading to a reevaluation of our approach to youth care. Our objective is to craft a strategy that empowers the Alumni to seize the opportunities ahead, free from the burdens of their past, thereby fostering self-sufficiency and personal fulfillment.

In August, LCC launched the inaugural **Healing Group Initiative** for its Alumni, generously supported by our sponsors. This initiative proved to be a transformative

experience, offering much-needed hope and healing to young adults grappling with trauma. Over the course of three days, participants engaged in a secure and supportive environment, gaining the confidence to confront and share their past traumas—an essential step on their healing journey.



The success of these sessions highlights the crucial importance of mental health programs for young adults. Many participants expressed that being seen and heard during these sessions was vital to their healing, with several expressing interest

in continued counseling to further process their experiences.

Given the success of this initial Healing Group, we strongly advocate for ongoing mental health support for the LCC Alumni. Investing in such programs is not only valuable but also essential for fostering long-term healing and personal growth within this community. With sustained support, we can create enduring opportunities that will positively impact the mental and emotional well-being of the Alumni. We invite you to consider investing in the LCC Healing Initiative to further support the transformation and growth of these young individuals.

Access to Water Brings New Life to the Seka Community



In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Seka community witnessed a transformative change with the drilling of a borehole that now provides clean water to three different clans. This simple yet vital resource has sparked remarkable physical and spiritual revitalization throughout the village.

With the arrival of this newfound lifeline, community leaders recognized an urgent need for education. They decided to build a school to provide quality education to the children of Seka. Construction began, and though the building was incomplete by December 20, 2023, the community's determination led them to start the school regardless. The old church was dismantled, iron sheets were put up in its place, and by January, the school welcomed its first 30 students. Today, that number has grown to 180, with some of the region's top teachers onboard.

The school, certified under the new curriculum, has become a beacon of hope for the community. It also runs a feeding program that ensures the children, many of whom may only have access to one meal a day, receive nourishment. Despite the remarkable progress, the school remains unfinished. Two floors and key facilities like labs still need to be completed, though the school already boasts running water, toilets on each floor, electricity, and developing science labs. By 2026, the community hopes to expand into a high school, with grades 5-9 set to be added by January 2025.

The leaders estimate that completing the building will require \$260,000. The community is moving forward in faith, with parents and leaders already preparing for the future of their children's education.

In addition to its educational impact, the borehole has become a hub of community life. The water kiosk not only serves the villagers but also provides water to surrounding areas and even a local hotel, creating an income-generating opportunity for the community. This sustainable source of water has not only brought health and growth but has also become a cornerstone for economic development.

The Seka community stands as an inspiring example of how access to clean water can transform lives, offering hope for both the present and the future.



JOIN THE MOVEMENT

YOUR ROLE

Join the Global Connections Movement: Your Role in a World of Change

In an increasingly interconnected world, the power to make a difference no longer lies solely in the hands of governments or large organizations. Today, individuals have the unique opportunity to shape the future of our planet by becoming active participants in global networks. This is where Global Connections comes into play—a vibrant movement dedicated to fostering cross-cultural understanding, collaboration, and positive change across borders.

Why Global Connections Matter

The challenges we face today, from climate change to social inequality, are global in nature. They transcend national boundaries and require collective action. Global Connections is built on the idea that by bringing together people from diverse backgrounds, we can create innovative solutions to these complex problems. When we collaborate globally, we draw on a wider range of perspectives, experiences, and expertise, leading to more effective and sustainable outcomes.

Moreover, Global Connections empower individuals. Involvement in this movement allows you to expand your horizons, build new skills, and contribute to something bigger than yourself. It's not just about making a difference in the world; it's also about personal growth and fulfillment.

The Power of Community

One of the core principles of Global Connections is the belief in the power of community. When people come together with a shared purpose, incredible things can happen. By joining this movement, you become part of a global community of like-minded

individuals who are passionate about making the world a better place.

This community offers a supportive environment where you can learn from others, share your own knowledge, and collaborate on projects that have a real impact. Whether it's through online forums, local meetups, or international conferences, Global Connections provides countless opportunities to connect with others who share your vision for a better world.

How You Can Get Involved

Getting involved with Global Connections is easier than you might think. Here are some ways you can start making a difference today:

1. Support a Global Partner: Global partners need your help with everything from spreading the word, prayer, or supporting financially. Find a project that aligns with your interests and skills, and get involved. Visit www.globalconnectionsonline.org to see all our partners or email info@globalconnectionsonline.org to get more information.

2. Spread the Word: Use your social media platforms to raise awareness about global issues and the importance of collaboration. Encourage others to get involved and be part of the solution. Make sure to follow us on all social media platforms and share our posts.

3. Prayer: Prayer is the backbone of the GC family. It is our first step for all projects and ministries. Join us in prayer and be a part of being the hands and feet of Christ.



The Future Is in Our Hands

The world is facing unprecedented challenges, but with these challenges come incredible opportunities. By getting involved with Global Connections, you can play a crucial role in shaping a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world.

Imagine the impact we can have if people from every corner of the globe come together, united by a common purpose. Each of us has a unique contribution to make, and together, we can create a future that we can all be proud of.

Now is the time to step up and take action. Join Global Connections and be part of a global movement that is changing the world for the better. The future is in our hands—let's make it one we're proud to pass on to future generations.



In Memory

The LCC planted a tree in honor of the late Dr. Cherie Labat. Dr. Labat's visit to the LCC was very impactful and her love for children and education will be her legacy.

THE MAD PADDERS

EMPOWERING YOUNG GIRLS IN KENYA

In 2017, Linda Holden, a close friend and a dedicated member of Global Connections, returned home from her annual Kenya trip deeply troubled. She shared with us, her friends in Amory, Mississippi, the heartbreaking reality she had witnessed: many young girls in Kenya were missing critical school time because they lacked access to feminine hygiene products. As a result, they were unable to attend school for a week each month during their menstrual cycles, which hindered their ability to test into higher grade levels.

Linda felt strongly that this situation was unacceptable and challenged us to take action on behalf of these girls. Inspired by her call to help, we gathered at our local church in 2017 with our sewing machines, determined to make a difference. We found a pattern to create washable sanitary pads and, after refining it multiple times, began producing reusable pads for the Global Connections mission team to deliver to Kenya.

Initially, our efforts were modest but well-intentioned. Our goal was to produce 400 pads and accompanying hygiene kit bags, enough to serve 200 girls. We raised funds, contributed from our own pockets, and purchased the necessary materials, including flannel, plastic snaps, and flannel-backed tablecloths. We also called on our community to donate used bath towels for the interior layers of the pads. Each hygiene kit included not only the pads but also a bar of soap, enabling the girls to wash and reuse the pads.

To our delight, we surpassed our initial goal. We then applied for and received a start-up grant from the **Sisters of Charity** in New Jersey, allowing us to purchase more cloth and additional sewing machines.

As the project grew, we outgrew our initial sewing space at the Catholic church. In 2019, a local Presbyterian church graciously offered us a permanent sewing room where we could store our supplies and work freely. That same year, our group expanded to eight women, and we affectionately named ourselves



THE MAD PADDERS, reflecting our passionate commitment to helping the girls in Kenya.

By the second year, we increased our production to 700 pads. Through our partnership with Global Connections, we were able to send the pads to Kenya, where they were distributed by mission teams. As the project evolved, so did our commitment. Today, we operate two separate sewing groups, each meeting twice a month for full-day sewing sessions. Our ranks have grown to about 24 women, and many of us even take supplies home to work on the pads in our spare time.

In 2024, our efforts reached a new milestone as the mission team delivered 2,500 pads to Kenya—enough to create 1,250 hygiene kits. Through our collaboration with **Fikia Dada**, a Kenyan organization, we ensure that the pads are distributed to the girls who need them most. This year, the pads were delivered to three high schools in Limuru, one in Seka, and an additional 100 kits were provided to women working in the tea fields. We also distributed 135 hygiene kits during a gathering in the Mesri village slum, where the girls received education on their bodies alongside the kits.

The past year has not been without challenges. In 2023, our community of Amory was devastated by a tornado, making it difficult to raise funds for the **MAD PADDERS** as local needs for food and shelter took precedence. However, the Sisters of Charity once again stepped in, awarding us a grant that allowed us to continue our work.

Our group of women prays for each girl who receives the pads, hoping they can reach their full potential and feel supported from afar. We also pray for the Global Connections mission teams who work tirelessly to serve the people of Kenya. It is an honor and a privilege to be part of this important ministry. We are continually enriched and blessed by the opportunity to contribute to the well-being and future of these young girls.

Chris Wilson



MEET PETER NDOTONO

OUR NEW LCC DIRECTOR!

Peter Ndotono Njuguna was recently named Limuru Children Center's new director as of April of this year. After three months of learning the ropes of the center, Ndotono is optimistic about his future at LCC.

Ndotono himself grew up as an orphan, with his father being murdered and mother dying of typhoid. It was during this time that he and his siblings relied on the help of the Missionaries of Charity Mother Teresa Home in Nairobi to support their family. Here, Peter learned the importance of volunteering within his own community and to him, his career pathway was clear.

"Having been here, I think there's that team spirit from the people. They're trying their level best to take care of the children like a family situation."

Peter also has many new ideas for LCC, explaining that his background in seeing adoption success stories is what propels him.

"What I'm trying to bring on board is to put more emphasis on changing how we, or the LCC, has been caring about the children. I'm trying to bring more expertise with regards to how we ensure that these children receive the right care, especially to those who can get adopted. Let them get adopted. Those who can get fostered, let them get fostered. Those who can be reintegrated or what we are calling family visitation, let them go back to their families."

Peter is extremely grateful for Global Connection's support to LCC and is eager to continue working towards the best future possible for the children at Limuru Children's Center.

"I have embraced the organization, I've embraced the community, I've embraced everything that this environment has to offer, all geared towards ensuring that the life of the children that you are taking care of are going to be accorded the proper care for their future."

– Hannah Hoang

"When I finished my form four, it was not hard for me to know what I wanted to pursue. I did not struggle in knowing what I wanted to do. I got my diploma in social work and community development," he explained.

He went back to work at his former safe haven, the Missionaries Home, as a parasocial worker for a year and a half. Peter decided he needed new exposure and took a job at Kenya Children's Home in Nairobi, working in their adoption and foster care department. He eventually worked his way up to Adoption Program Officer after a 14 year tenure at the Home.

Although the work was fulfilling, Peter felt called to more of a challenge, and he prayed for an opportunity. LCC was that open door.

"God works in mysterious ways, and when I heard about the opportunity I said 'Why not?'"

His first three months have been spent acclimating to not only the cooler Limuru environment, but also the environment at LCC.

"Things have been so far, so good with regard to the reception that I've had here at LCC, and I'm praying and looking forward to how we can continue working together through the support of the GC team," he said.

Peter was born in Kiambu County but raised in Mathare, a small neighborhood of Nairobi.



THE BLESSING OF HAVING A GODCHILD

When I was in the third grade, I remember my mom asking me what I thought about adopting a little girl in Kenya. As someone who only had a little brother, I was elated at the thought of having a little girl to have as my own personal baby doll. After my mom explained how the Global Connections and Limuru Childrens Centre partnership worked, I realized that Phoebe Hope would never be able to come home to us in Mississippi, and I wondered if I would ever be able to meet her at all. It wasn't long until we also adopted Kelvin, and we watched in photos as they grew up and learned about their school updates through emails.

When I got the chance to first travel to Kenya with Global Connections three years ago, I was beyond nervous to meet my two siblings. I had only seen pictures of them, received handmade letters from them, and sent them our pictures and well-wishes in return. I was worried that I wouldn't live up to the ideas of me they had created in their heads or that I would fall short of all of their dreams of meeting their American sibling.

The joy and blessings that I received from meeting them during my first trip far surpassed all of my expectations. I learned that they were both naturally shy children, but throughout all three of my trips, I have been able to form a relationship with them and watch them grow in real time. They show me things they have learned in their lessons and talk about their dreams and aspirations. Seeing them grow and mature in real time has been extremely special to me, and I am so grateful for it. I realized during this trip that they have both now surpassed me in height (I guess it's only fitting that all my siblings have), and they are such respectful, loving, and intentional young adults. I am so grateful for my time with them, and I cannot wait to watch them grow in the Lord even more!

The Godparent program through Global Connections is so special to me and my family. Being a part of Phoebe and Kelvin's journey has truly blessed us. Yes, we are sponsoring them financially, and through prayer and encouragement, but by being a part of their lives, we are the ones who received the blessing!

– Hannah Hoang





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*“We underestimate ourselves, but God never does.
He knows exactly what we are capable of
in collaboration with him.
Allow God to raise up the saint in you.”*

MATTHEW KELLY
Rediscover the Saints



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All donations are tax-deductible and 100% of the funds are used for the program YOU designate. There is no deduction for administrative costs.