



Global Connections

Spring 2026 Magazine

**Building Hope For
Five Families in Kenya**

**Allowing God to
Go Before Me**

**A Legacy of Compassion
That Changes Lives**



Serving and learning from the orphaned,
widowed, poor and oppressed.

Building Hope

Five Homes for Families in Kenya in 2026



In 2026, Global Connections has set an exciting and meaningful goal: to build five homes for families or homebound in Kenya who are currently living in unsafe or unstable conditions. Through our work with local partners, we meet incredible people every year who are working hard to provide for their children but simply do not have the resources to build a safe place to live.

The beautiful part of this goal is how achievable it is together. In Kenya, a safe, simple home can be built for about \$3,000. That means it only takes about 25 people giving \$120 each to provide an entire house for a family. When people come together, something that seems big becomes very possible.

But a house is about far more than walls and a roof.

A home provides dignity. Families no longer have to feel ashamed of the conditions they live in or worry about where their children sleep each night.

A home provides security. Solid walls and a secure door protect families and homebound people from weather, theft, and danger. Parents can rest easier knowing their children are safe.

A home provides stability. Children are able to focus on school, families can build routines, and parents can pursue work without the constant stress of housing insecurity.

Most importantly, a home creates a safe and healthy environment where families can begin to dream about a better future.

At Global Connections, we believe that every person deserves a safe place to live. But we cannot do this alone.

We are currently looking for partners who want to help make these five homes possible. Maybe your business or company would like to sponsor an entire house. Maybe a group of friends, a church group, or a small group would like to come together and build one. When people pool their resources, lives truly change.

Your partnership can help provide safety, dignity, and hope for families who desperately need a place to call home.

If you would like to be part of building one of these homes in 2026, we would love to partner with you.

Together, we can build more than houses. We can build hope.

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Allowing God to Go Before Me

By Maddy Baboian

Serving alongside Julius with the Empower to Transform program, we witnessed firsthand how God goes before us, especially halfway around the world.

Empower to Transform walks with families, most whom I met were single mothers, who are working tirelessly to provide for their children but are often unable to find steady work. When income is inconsistent, mothers must choose between feeding their families or sending their children to school.

As Julius explained, "Someone may think we are creating dependency, but we are not. If there is no dad, there is no one to provide. These mothers are hardworking. This program helps their children return to school, keeps them strong enough to work, and gives families a chance to stand on their own." Over time, families have weaned off of the program once they are able to get on their feet.





What began as a simple visit became a moment of deep connection, orchestrated and intentional by God.

While visiting one neighborhood, we spent time playing with the local children—laughing, guessing ages, simply sharing life. After a few home visits, I felt a growing pull to support a family on the program's waitlist and asked Julius if we could visit one, without letting them know my interest. We drove across the village, only to receive a call from Beatrice: there is a family on the waitlist living on the very block where we had just been. The children we had played with were part of that family.

We turned around immediately.

Their mother, Mary (name changed for privacy), welcomed us into their home. Through tears, she shared how heavy life had been. Three of her children were currently out of school because they couldn't afford the fees. Her 11-year-old son had been sent home recently. When I asked him his prayer request, his prayer was simply that he could return to school and that his mother would feel less sad. Mary also showed us their "bed," a splitting wooden frame topped with rocks. Julius, who has seen many heartbreaking situations, said this family was among those with the greatest needs.

We prayed together, reminding Mary that God sees her, knows her, and promises to wipe away every tear. It was a special moment, affirming that God had led us to build relationship with this family.

Two days later, on our final day in Kenya, we returned with mattresses and blankets for Mary's family. Mary shared that earlier that morning, she had been praying for provision and reading her Bible with the children when she received word that we would be visiting again. We spent time with her children, including the two older siblings who had been in school during our first visit. Her eldest daughter, Ruth (name changed for privacy), dreams of becoming a teacher. She prayed over their home before we left, welcoming us back anytime.



What began as a simple visit became a moment of deep connection, orchestrated and intentional by God. I am excited to continue to partner with Julius and the Empower to Transform program. Since leaving Kenya, I have even received a photo of Mary at the Community Centre, getting involved.

This experience reminded me that transformation happens one family at a time—and that God often leads us to exactly the people He intends for us to build connection.

A U.S. Health Consultant's Perspective on Healthcare in East Africa

By Maddy Baboian

Health and life are connected and carried by relationships. And while many need to come through our doors to receive the best healing or care, many more need us to walk through their door and meet them where they are. "It takes a village" isn't just a passing phrase.

This fall I had the privilege to come back to Kenya, after not having been back since 2018, with Global Connections. As a healthcare consultant "by day" focused on Healthcare Transformation, Patient Experience, and Patient Access my brain was spinning each night equally burdened, yet amazed by the lack of healthcare, but local grass roots efforts diligently at work to overcome this obstacle.



Through Global Connections partners, I observed healthcare initiatives at every stage of life. From Limuru Children Center providing occupational therapy for children as needed once per week, to Empower to Transform Community Centre acting as a centralized location for healthcare evaluation and transport, to Francis's Homebound Elderly Care program conducting home visits to those that might not be able to walk through a hospital door. Each meeting a specific healthcare gap, yet all working together.

One afternoon stood out to me in specific. We joined Francis for home visits to the elderly and homebound in the village of Misiri. Each visit offered a window into both the immense needs and deep faith present in the community. A grandmother, Shosho, shared that she is facing an aggressive tumor spreading from her neck and face toward her brain. Her village is organizing to try to raise money needed for surgery and chemotherapy through a WhatsApp group chat. Another elderly man showed us his worn legs and his "medical record": a single handwritten page tracking blood pressure and glucose levels.

I am excited to continue to get to partner with Global Connections to advance Healthcare in Kenya.

They, and we, all work together.

Local Locker

Serving Students in Lowndes County, Mississippi



Local Locker is a project sponsored by Global Connections that began in 2020 with the simple goal of helping meet basic clothing needs of students in the public school system. The project started by providing clothing for one elementary school in Columbus, MS and has steadily expanded as awareness and support have grown.

Many students in Lowndes County face economic challenges that affect their daily lives at school. According to U.S. Census data, 37.2% of children under age 18 in the Columbus Municipal School District live below the poverty level, compared to 25.8% in Lowndes County and 26% across Mississippi. For many families, this means limited access to basic necessities, including properly fitting school uniforms and other essential items.

Through partnerships with school nurses, Local Locker provides supply lockers inside schools stocked with uniform tops and bottoms, belts, jackets, shoes, socks, underwear, and basic toiletry items. This allows school staff to discreetly provide students with what they need so they can feel comfortable and confident in the classroom. The project currently serves four public schools in Lowndes County: Fairview Elementary, Sale Elementary, Stokes-Beard Elementary, and West Lowndes Elementary.

What began as a small effort has grown significantly. Over the past year alone, more than 1,500 clothing and essential items were donated to students in need. Local Locker has also helped install a washer and dryer in one school so uniforms can be washed and reused when necessary. As the project has expanded, a central distribution center has been established at Allegro Family Clinic in North Columbus, allowing donated items to be sorted, stored, and distributed more efficiently to schools and families throughout the community.

Local Locker's outreach continues beyond the school year through its annual Christmas sponsorship program. Each year, several local families are adopted through the project. Children receive toys from their wish lists, three winter outfits, a winter coat, and tennis shoes, while parents are provided grocery gift cards to help ensure their families have food during the holiday season. During the delivery process, volunteers also distribute numerous additional gifts to other children in the community, extending the impact of the program beyond the sponsored families.

Local Locker continues to grow through the generosity of donors and volunteers who believe that meeting practical needs can make a meaningful difference in a child's confidence, dignity, and opportunity to learn.

A Legacy of Compassion That Continues to Change Lives

Pat's Feeding Program

In many communities across Kenya, daily life can be incredibly difficult for the most vulnerable—especially elderly women and men living alone, many of whom are HIV positive and have little to no reliable support system. For these women and men, something as basic as a consistent meal can be life-changing. That is why Pat's Feeding Program has become such an important source of hope and stability.

The program was founded by Pat Dixon, a British native of Kenya who developed a deep love for the people in the community where she lived. Pat recognized a growing need among elderly single women who were struggling to survive with limited income, poor health, and little access to consistent food. Rather than simply acknowledging the problem, Pat chose to act. She began a feeding program that would regularly provide food and support to those who needed it most.

What started as a compassionate response to need eventually grew into a program that now serves approximately 400 individuals. The program operates on a bi-monthly feeding schedule, ensuring that recipients have regular access to essential food supplies. For many of the women and men who attend, these meals help sustain them during extremely difficult circumstances.

The commitment shown by those who attend is remarkable. Many recipients walk long distances to reach the feeding program, often traveling miles on foot just to collect food and other supplies. Their dedication reflects just how vital this program has become in their daily lives.

Pat's compassion extended far beyond simply providing food. She worked diligently to gather clothing donations from friends and churches, making sure that those attending the feeding program could also receive clothing when available. If available, the staff of Pat's feeding program provides these extra items during the bi-monthly distribution.

During colder months, the program also distributes blankets and other basic necessities, helping protect vulnerable individuals from the harsh weather conditions that can be especially difficult for the elderly and those with compromised health.



One of the best parts of the program is how its staff connects participant's to medical providers when possible. When individuals are found to be in serious need of medical attention, the program is able to provide notes to physicians, allowing them to receive treatment free of charge. For many who have no access to healthcare, this simple step can mean the difference between suffering and receiving the care they desperately need.

Pat dedicated countless hours and tremendous energy to ensuring that the feeding program remained funded and operational. She believed deeply that caring for the vulnerable was not optional—it was a responsibility. Her commitment created a lasting impact in the community and established a foundation of compassion that continues to serve hundreds of people.

After Pat retired, her son Alan stepped forward to continue the work his mother began. Alan has faithfully carried forward her vision, ensuring that the feeding program continues to operate and reach those who depend on it. Through his leadership, Pat's generosity and care continues.

However, sustaining a program that serves hundreds of people requires ongoing support.

That is why we are inviting others to join in continuing this important mission. Our goal is to find 100 individuals who will commit to giving \$40 a month. With consistent monthly support, Pat's Feeding Program can continue providing food, clothing, blankets, and access to medical care for one of the most vulnerable populations in the community.

This program has already changed countless lives, and with the right support, it can continue to do so for years to come. By joining together, we can honor Pat's legacy and ensure that the compassion she started continues to reach those who need it most.



Hope in Action



YOU CAN HELP US PUT HOPE IN ACTION!

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Give today to support the programs at Global Connections. All donations are tax-deductable and 100% of the funds are used for the program YOU designate.

Helping Our Homebound Heroes!

We're so thankful for this amazing program that provides physical therapy sessions to our participants who are homebound. These visits bring renewed strength, mobility, and dignity to those who need it most.

A special thank-you to the sponsors who go the extra mile to fund this program—your compassion is changing lives in such a meaningful ways.



Our team recently had the joy of delivering mattresses to a precious family.

The mother, who is living with HIV, and her six children had been sleeping on the concrete floor of a small storage area. They were simply grateful that the roof above them was strong enough to keep out the rain.

When we arrived with new mattresses, they were shocked and overjoyed by this unexpected gift!



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We love seeing the pre-school kids love their Bible Study session on the new projector that they received as a gift from some amazing GC family. It's always a joy to watch them relax, laugh, and learn together.

The Empower Communities Outreach Center was excited to celebrate their second cohort of 20 youths who graduated with a certificate of Modern Digital Literacy after two months of training. Alongside them, 10 young adults completed the Restore Program through the Journey to Freedom book, while another 10 are still on the journey.



Each week, through our partnership with Empower to Transform, we are humbled to see children and teenagers reached with the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ. Lives are being shaped, hearts transformed, and seeds of faith planted in schools across Kenya.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Global Connections
70 Brickerton Street
Columbus, MS 39701

info@globalconnectionsonline.org



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globalconnectionsonline.org

