

LETTERS OF ENDEARMENT

A key component of the Project 24 program is letter writing. This is an opportunity for the students to write to their sponsors who live in the United States and for their sponsors to respond. Frequently, the letters touch upon topics such as the ongoing school year, the students' preferred activities, and cherished Bible verses. Sponsors, in turn, share details about their hometown, the climate in America, and often include pictures of their extended family. These small yet meaningful exchanges facilitate a connection between the sponsor and the Kenyan student, allowing them to learn about each other's lives across the globe. As time passes, this connection deepens, and the students express their gratitude for the uplifting words they consistently receive from their sponsors.



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Beyond 24 Youth Conference

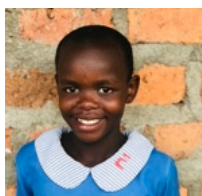


In early December, a youth conference was organized for all participants in the Beyond 24 program. These are Project 24 graduates who are continuing their education in secondary schools, vocational training institutes, colleges, or universities. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions over the past few years, the youth had been unable to gather in person. This marked the first occasion in three years that they were able to come together.

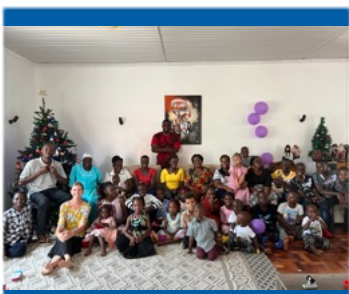
During the conference, the students had the opportunity to benefit from teachings presented by various pastors affiliated with the E.L.C.K. Topics included Christian mentoring, Lutheran perspectives on salvation,

youth life within the Lutheran church, and essential life skills. Notably, a few university students shared their experiences, offering valuable insights into campus life and serving as mentors to the younger participants.

Personally, it was a joyous moment for me to reconnect with one of the girls who initially joined the Project 24 program as a 5th grader but has now progressed to secondary school. During our time together, she shared how she had grown personally and how she values the program for its support in both her faith and education. I've attached a picture capturing her initial entry into the program and a recent snapshot of us together at the conference.



My Friends and Colleagues



Christmas with family in Kenya

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- the Project 24 students as they start a new school year this month
- for the youth of Kenya, that they continue to grow in their faith in God and find fellowship with other Christian youth

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- a successful youth conference for the Project 24 students
- time with my colleagues
- time with Micah's family over the holidays

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage and support us



The eight Project 24 site managers and me.

Attending Project 24 events feels like a return to a familiar place, a chance to reconnect with the wonderful local church members involved in the program. Seeing my friends and colleagues, the eight site managers responsible for the children's boarding facilities, always brings immense joy. During our private interactions, I take the opportunity to personally express my thanks for their dedicated efforts in ministering to the students under their care.

These committed managers play a crucial role in ensuring the children's well-being at the facilities. They oversee the provision of nutritious meals, clothing, and address various personal needs. Additionally, they coordinate medical care as necessary and manage the logistics of transporting the children back to their family clans during school holiday breaks.

These managers have assumed the role of second parents for these children, consistently imparting the love of God through their words and actions. Remarkably, many of them also have second vocations as deaconesses, evangelists, and one even serves as a pastor. We express gratitude for these devoted servants of God who have wholeheartedly responded to the call to serve the children within their communities and church.

"I thank my God for you every time I think of you; and every time I pray for you all, I pray with joy because of the way in which you have helped me in the work of the gospel from the very first day until now." Philippians 1:3-14

We thank God for all of you. Thank you for your support.

Love from Kenya, Britt, Micah, Rael and Silas



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at [lcms.org/service](https://www.lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

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