

The EnCOWment Fund

Building Hope Academy



endowment

(noun)

- a gift of money that will provide an income for a college, university, hospital or other organization.

Cambridge Dictionary

enCOWment

(noun)

- a gift of money that will create a herd of cows to provide a sustainable income for an awesome school full of awesome kids.

The Dictionary of Rick

We already have our first 3 cows!

Thanks for taking a few minutes to have a look at what we are doing with this 'enCOWment' project for our little school near Ewaso Ngiro, Kenya. We - friends, school supporters, safari clients, neighbours, relatives – are creating a long-term, community managed funding source to help Building Hope Academy to help keep kids in the classrooms.

The enCOWment fund is a small but growing herd of Maasai cows that the children of Building Hope Academy and their families are raising. (And the Maasai really know how to raise cows!) As the herd grows, some of the 'growth' will be used to help with the schools finances – things like books, food for the kids, teachers salaries. The enCOWment idea grew out of a conversation I was having, at the school one day with my dear friends Barclay and Robyn Bailey of Perth, Australia. We were brainstorming ideas on how the school could move closer to self-sustainability. We ran it by David ole Nkuito who is the founder of the Nairoshi Foundation and the manager/director of the school. He loved the idea – and the enCOWment fund was born!

The Bailey Family purchased our first 3 cows and a couple more, being purchase by Canadian friends are coming soon!

A little background:

The Building Hope Academy was created, a little over 7 years ago, by generous donors, primarily from Southern Alberta. We started a little charity called The Building Hope Society. It is a partnership with a rural community in Western Kenya, that was in need of a school for children that couldn't walk the long distance to a poorly equipped government school in the town of Ewaso Ngiro.

The school has been a remarkable success in terms of providing a top notch education for children in the surrounding area and in bringing their families together, as a community, to keep it operating. We started as a Kindergarten school and are now up to Grade (Class) 6! Hopefully we can find space and money to expand to Grade 7 next year!

Our supporters now come from all over Canada, the US and Europe, and our biggest challenge is still funding for teachers salaries, books, food, buildings. With the COVID 19 pandemic turning our world upside, down funding has become even more difficult. The enCOWment fund is one way to contribute to a sustainable funding source that the community and its international friends can build.

Here's the deal – if you would like to help us to grow 'the herd' you can send a donation to me (Rick Castiglione) and I will get you a charitable (Canada) receipt, from the Building Hope Society, for anything over \$25 CAD. If you'd like to buy a cow for the school, the current average price at the Ewaso Ngiro market is \$275 USD. That's about \$350 Canadian. I'll send you a receipt AND a photo of your cow after David has negotiated a purchase at the local Maasai Market! Who do you know that needs a Kenya cow for Christmas? ☺

You can etransfer the donation to me at cielopictures@gmail.com (please also send an email with your address etc. in it so I can send the receipt) or you can mail a cheque to me at my home address:

178022 – 144 street west, Foothills, Alberta, T1S 0Y1

I am starting to resume planning safaris to Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda in the new year, so if you'd like, I can even take you and your family or some friends to see your cow, meet the kids and teachers at the school and go on an amazing private safari guided by me!

If you want to know a little more about how it started – you can watch an older documentary that I created called "Dreaming Out loud" which tells the story of how the school began. You can find it on the spiffy new Cielo Pictures and Expeditions website at cielopictures.com Under the heading 'Video and Documentaries', look for "Dreaming Out Loud".

Ashe Oleng for your support and kindness!

Rick Castiglione