

Date: November 28, 2016
To: All Staff
From: Arlene Ross, Executive Director
Re: **Upendo Early Childhood Education Centre – New Fundraising Campaign**
cc: Board of Directors

Greetings!

With the support of the Management Team and the Board of Directors, I am pleased to launch a new fundraising campaign for **Upendo Early Childhood Education Centre**, located in Sabaki Village, Kenya. The fundraising targets are modest: we hope to raise \$1,500 in each of the next three years, to fund - for starters - a reading program for the children, teacher training and exterior signage for the school.

For those of you who were already with our agency in June 2011, you are very familiar with the wonderful and gratifying fundraising journey we began together, a journey which culminated by the end of 2013 with the completion of what was originally called Upendo Nursery School. You already know that “Upendo” means “Love” in Swahili.

If you are new to Global, I would encourage you to visit our website, and read the section called *Global goes Global – Our Passion Project* and learn about our agency’s history and friendship with the Elimu Foundation and their incredible work supporting children’s education and wellbeing in Kenya. Check out our *News and Events* webpage as well, where you’ll find updates and heartwarming photos depicting Upendo’s progress, including a photo of the children seated at new desks made possible by money we raised here at Global, and inscribed with “GCCS”.



(Pssst: a little birdie revealed that we might also get honourable mention on the new exterior sign for the school!).

This three-year fundraising campaign is a tangible way we can maintain our connection with the children and teachers at Upendo Early Childhood Education Centre, and provide dollars to support the ongoing development of the school as a pillar in the community.

Remember, the school started out in a mud hut, with the children huddled on a dirt floor. With our assistance as the primary contributor to the project, it is now a large, bright, vibrant multi-room structure, with a separate building for toilets.

In the realm of “if you build it, they will come”, the construction of the school in a secure compound meant the community could qualify for a government program which allowed **electricity** to be delivered to the school in 2014. And more recently **water** has been installed in the compound – the children now have safe drinking water at their fingertips!



In the photo on the right, you can see the school in the background, with the roof extension they built to add an outdoor classroom for the oldest children.

The school is a source of pride in the community, and it has become the community’s gathering place. The future is bright, but they still need our help.

To that end, we’ll be kicking things off here at Head Office with a knitted toy raffle (courtesy of my mom, see attached pic), selling paper Upendo decorations for our Christmas tree, and Jeans Day donations.

With your help, in no time at all we will be able to raise the \$1,500 they are requesting for 2017. I look forward to hearing what activities will be planned at all our sites and will share that information with our friend Nina Chung of Elimu.

Attached you’ll find some information on Elimu’s various projects, including a brief one-page summary of the Upendo project. If you have any questions at all, please don’t hesitate to connect with me.

Thank you in advance for your kindness and for continuing to make a real difference in the lives of children and families.

Asante Sana! (*Thank you very much* in Swahili)

Arlene