

Starfish build houses for needy, conquer Mt. Longonot

During the **April school holiday**, eighteen Starfish students, Board Members Michael Tibbetts and Carrie Kingston, and Field Officer David Omondi participated in a **Habitat for Humanity** project in the village of Kwangolia near Machakos, Kenya. The students worked to **build one house out of mud bricks and mortar** and worked to renovate another house in need of repair. The Starfish worked tirelessly to haul water and bricks, mix cement, and build and plaster walls. During the evenings, the students held **worship services and a talent show**. To top off the week, the Starfish **climbed Mount Longonot**, a volcanic crater that climbs to over 9,000 feet.

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John and Ebere carry water to the construction site

Student Spotlight: Ebere, Nairobi School, Grade 10



Ebere grew up in **Marsabit, a remote northern district of Kenya**. His family herds camels and goats and often must travel with the animals to find water. Growing up, **his school traveled with his family and was almost never in the same place**. Despite these challenges, Ebere performed exceptionally well on his KCPE exam and **through Starfish Africa, earned a place at the reputable Nairobi School**. Ebere was thrilled with the news and is excited to begin classes at his new school. Ebere enjoys running and football and is active in Christian activities. His best subjects are math and science. After secondary school, he hopes to enter medical school to become a doctor.

*"All week I was worried that I would not be able to do it, but I did it, and I feel proud."
(Regarding the Mt. Longonot climb)*

*-Bilha
Precious Blood Riruta*



Organizational Update

'Welcome,' to the **ten new Starfish students** who started classes at their new schools this term!

We are pleased to announce **new partnerships with Bahati Girls' School and the Lenana School**. Lenana and Bahati Girls are consistently **two of the highest ranked schools in Kenya**. We are grateful to kick off our partnerships with these excellent schools with the sponsorship of Kennedy in

Grade 9 at Lenana and Maree in Grade 9 at Bahati Girls.

A big Thank You is in order to sorority Pi Sigma Epsilon's Miami University chapter. In April, Board Member Brian Mickus's sister **Sarah Mickus** organized the sales, marketing, and management fraternal organization's **charity date auction**, which raised \$1,500 for Starfish Africa!

Starfish Africa is extremely grateful to **Anne Stoehr** for the time she has committed to bolster our financial oversight in Nairobi. Anne is a Certified Public Accountant from Falls Church, VA, who is currently living in Nairobi and working at the Akiba School. She has generously agreed to volunteer on a monthly basis to ensure that **Starfish Africa's financial oversight** continues to be above reproach.

The **mission** of Starfish Africa, as an organization motivated by **Christian** faith and desiring to answer the Biblical call to care for the less fortunate, is to **transform the lives** of talented African students by sponsoring their continued **academic excellence** at elite educational institutions, thereby equipping them with the skills required to **transform their home communities, their countries, and their continent**.