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Pearl S. Buck International Expands Child Sponsorship Program to Kenya In Partnership with Local Mission-Oriented Non-Profits

Pearl S. Buck International, in an effort to expand the cross-cultural and life-changing legacy of its humanitarian and activist founder Pearl Buck, is announcing the addition of Kenya to its International Programs child sponsorship opportunities, in partnership with two Montgomery County-based mission-oriented entities—the non-profit charity Chariots for Hope, which works in Kenya, and Bethlehem Baptist Church in Spring House, whose senior pastor, the Reverend Charles W. Quann, is a Pearl S. Buck International Board member. In an age when the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a greater humanitarian crisis for children in need around the world, Pearl S. Buck International is joining forces with these like-minded organizations to bring help and hope to even more children and families than ever before.

The children being afforded the opportunity to be sponsored live in the Ogada Children's Home, where Bethlehem Baptist Church has been the main sponsor of children and fundraiser for projects the past few years. The children living in the home, which is just outside the city of Kisumu, come from surrounding rural villages because either they no longer have an adult to care for them at home or because they are homeless.

Sponsorship of a child in Kenya provides the same support given to the children in Pearl S. Buck International's other country programs—nutritious meals and food security, a clean and safe place to live, and the ability to stay in school and complete their educations, which is the key to lifting themselves out of poverty and building a better life for themselves and future generations. Children in Kenya start nursery school at the age of 3 or 4 and continue up to 8th grade. Many children score high enough on placement exams to continue on to secondary school. For those kids who go to and complete high school, college or trade school are also options.

Pearl S. Buck was a Nobel and Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, activist, and humanitarian who devoted her life to advocating for marginalized people everywhere and whose groundbreaking words and work paved the way for greater international and intercultural understanding. They also provided life-changing aid for countless impoverished children. Historically, Pearl S. Buck International has supported impoverished and marginalized children in China, the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam through the generosity of child sponsors and project and program donors. Pearl S. Buck International is thrilled to add children in Kenya to its circle of support.

Chariots for Hope was founded in 2009 to provide for and nurture vulnerable and orphaned children in Kenya. What started as two children's homes has now grown to two babies' homes and six children's homes that serve and care for over 830 children. The staff at the homes not only care for the physical needs of the children but their emotional needs as well. Just like at Pearl S. Buck International, Chariots for Hope's goal is to help children break the cycle of poverty, with education the most important tool to make that happen.

"Pearl S. Buck International is very excited to expand our partnership with Chariots for Hope to include child sponsorship," noted Stephanie Saveriano, International Programs Director at Pearl S. Buck International. "Helping marginalized children was a passion of Pearl Buck's. We are thrilled to expand our work to Kenya to continue her legacy of helping children in need to be lifted from poverty by providing health, educational, and psycho-social support."

Gail Rittenhouse, CEO and President of Chariots for Hope, added, "Chariots for Hope is delighted to be working with Pearl S. Buck International to further expand the existing child sponsorship opportunities at our Kenya children's homes. Chariots for Hope exists to transform the lives of the children in our care with the support and education needed to move them from poverty to self-sufficiency. It is wonderful to be aligned with another agency working towards the same outcome for these most vulnerable children."

To find out more about the child sponsorship program in Kenya, go to <https://pearlsbuck.org/sponsor-a-child/>

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Pearl S. Buck International® provides opportunities to explore and appreciate other cultures, builds better lives for children around the globe and promotes the legacy of our founder by preserving and interpreting her National Historic Landmark Home.

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