

November 17, 2011

Dear Friends,

At 7 a.m. on Wednesday morning, the 23rd of June, just as the sun began to rise behind Uhuru Peak's massive ice glacier, 16-year-old Francis Njorge slowly trekked the final 300 yards along the crater rim of Mt. Kilimanjaro. At an altitude of 19,300 ft., every step was a challenge. Francis and his group were exhausted, having left camp at midnight for their summit bid on the final day of their week-long challenge. Standing in silence at the top of the world's highest free-standing mountain, Francis had come a long way from the slums of Nairobi where he spent most of his childhood foraging for food and shelter. It is impossible to write about this teenager's journey without sounding overly-dramatic or sensationalized: Francis defies adversity.

Since joining the FK family and learning about our Adventure Challenge Series in December of 2010, Francis had dreamed of climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro. Last April, after being recognized as the top-achieving student in his school, Francis approached his headmaster and asked for permission to take five days off from classes for the endeavor. Several months later, thanks to the financial support of many sponsors, Francis applied for a passport and set off on his big adventure. Upon returning home, he was greeted with a hero's welcome. When nine-year-old Isaac asked Francis if it was "hard to reach the top", Francis replied, in his usual patient and thoughtful manner that "living alone on the streets with no dreams in your head is hard; climbing a mountain when you have a family? That was very easy."

Thank you for allowing Francis and all of the children at Flying Kites to experience the grace of family. Because of you, our family of supporters, it has been an incredible year for Flying Kites. We have welcomed new children and new staff members to our home in Kenya and have implemented an extensive extra-curricular tutoring program in our community. Our school is developing into a place of excellence and promise.

We were able to respond quickly and effectively to a drought that affected much of the country and tested all aspects of our community outreach activities. Our Nairobi-based orphanage advocacy efforts have brought websites, volunteers and training to sixteen homes eager to raise the standards of care they can provide to vulnerable children. The collaboration led to a national concert in June where children from different homes came together to tell their stories through dance, song and poetry. We were fortunate enough to receive funding to construct a much-needed clinic and Wellness Center, and we have created strong partnerships with inspiring organizations such as Community Collections, Pubslush, TRIBE Hotel, Senaca, Givology, The School Fund, FundGiving, The Temporary Tattoo Project, Goodmakers and Njabini Apparel.

Our New York office continues to be a place of immense growth and creative development, and we are excited to partner with Expedition Everest, a fundraising initiative to climb to the summit of Mt. Everest in 2014. Although this climb is closed to the general public, supporters can

purchase spots to trek to Base Camp with the team (which is set to include FK's Programs Director Toby Storie-Pugh and Adventure Challenge Director Michael Chambers, both experienced mountaineers undergoing extensive training).

As this transformative year comes to a close, we ask you to keep championing the lives of children by supporting our home and school in Kenya, participating in an Adventure Challenge trip, volunteering your time or sponsoring a child in need.

*The world needs dreamers and the world needs doers.
But above all, the world needs dreamers who do.*

-Sarah Ban Breathnach

Let's build this organization of ours together and accompany the world's poorest children on their most daring of dreams.

In gratitude,



Leila de Bruyne



Justine Axelsson



Toby Storie-Pugh

Please considering donating to Flying Kites

I would like to support Flying Kites with a one-time donation in the amount of _____.

I would like to sponsor a child at Flying Kites at the:

- Rafiki Level** 12 USD per month / 144 USD per year
- Wakili Level** 30 USD per month / 360 USD per year
- Championi Level** 84 USD per month / 1,000 USD per year
- Mlezi Level** 167 USD per month / 2,000 USD per year

Checks may be made out to Flying Kites and mailed to: **Flying Kites,**
Ste. 501, 61 Greenpoint Ave.,
Brooklyn, NY 11222, USA

Contributions can be made online: www.flyingkites.org/donate