



Ugali Youth ORGANIZATION

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Maisha Girls Safe House Nairobi - Newsletter and Support Appeal

In the United States, the stretch of time between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day is usually a flurry of activity. This year it has only been slightly muted by the global pandemic we are all enduring. Many of our dinners have downsized and our social gatherings have moved onto our screens, but we still gather, give thanks, and share gifts.



Gratitude is the foundation of our relationship with God. We give thanks to God that we are alive despite the challenges of the moment and the stress of these times. I sincerely thank you for supporting me on my ordination day by providing resources for Maisha Girls Safe House, you can see how joyful I am to be your co-worker. I appreciate you! I hope we continue supporting Maisha Girls Safe House together.



At Christmas Eve Mass, we hear these words proclaimed: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing." (Isaiah 9:1-2a)

The news we hear from Maisha involves challenges but like Isaiah's words, it is good news. In Nairobi, like in Bethlehem where Mary and Joseph found refuge after being turned away from the Inn, God is making a way out of no way!

The young women at the Maisha Girls Safe House are experiencing new life in this season of holidays and thanksgiving. Because of your generosity, a light has shone this Christmas season. Flo shared a few stories about how some simple resources have made a huge difference in the lives of all the young women at Maisha.



Back in October a young woman named Grace, who is only 13

years old, was undergoing a crisis pregnancy – a true crisis: she was pregnant with twins who were the result of continual molestation by her stepfather. Four months earlier, in June, Grace had thankfully moved into the Maisha Girls Safe House after her family threatened her safety and well-being.

During labor, Grace underwent life threatening complications and Flo was sick with worry when she wrote to ask us for prayers. As Grace's caregiver and advocate, Flo was able to activate Maisha's healthcare connections in Nairobi and deliver the lifesaving measures that Grace and her twins desperately needed. This Christmas we are celebrating the life of three beautiful people thanks to Flo and the Maisha Girls Safe House resources.

[Grace's Story](#)



And celebrate we did! Because of your generosity Flo was able to treat the girls to a Christmas to remember. Kenyan delights of roasted meat with all the fixings were served,

Flo stitched each girl a pair of shorts made from colorful Kenyan cloth, and the girls relaxed, danced, and enjoyed the Christmas feast.



The girls Christmas dinner was sponsored by Patrick Odongo the director of Ugali Youth in Memory of his late Host dad John Metz (Baba Ben) who passed away from Covid-19 at the age of 64. [When I die give what's left of me away to children.....](#) [Baba Ben's Obituary](#) - [John Metz Memorial Service -7 Nov 2020](#)

Flo was also able to give the Safe House kitchen some necessary upgrades: Santa Claus (Bill and Maureen Coleman) bought a new refrigerator, stove, and microwave on Christmas Day.



Additionally, with your contributions, Flo alleviated the stress that January's return to school brings all Kenyan families. Now, instead of worrying about school fees, uniforms, textbook purchases, and transportation costs Flo is focused on the next vulnerable girl, like Grace, who is in need of a new *Maisha* – a new life!

In 2020 Maisha Girls Safe House was also blessed with new mattresses bought by the help of your contribution to the center, you can all imagine the excitement on these girls.



“Florence Keya is the embodiment of life- Maisha in Kiswahili. Flo provides a new life of safety, care, and love for young women with nowhere positive to turn. I see new life and the joy it brings every single time I visit Maisha Safe House.

On one memorable visit, the girls were coming home from boarding schools all over Kenya for holidays and I witnessed their reunion at Maisha. There was a joy in that room that I have rarely beheld on this earth. They were beyond exhilarated to see one another and hug each other in their new safe home of love and life... MAISHA!"- Joshua Peters SJ

[Florence Keya](#)

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Please consider supporting Maisha Girls Safe House, your tax-deductible gift will help protect vulnerable girls in Kenya. Asante Sana!!

Patrick Odongo
Director

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