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Light of Hope provides refuge, restoration, and redirection for lost and homeless girls in Kenya by offering shelter, education, and counseling in a supportive family environment.

## What is Light of Hope (LOH)?



In a part of the world too often defined by poverty, there sits an oasis of optimism and faith.

Light of Hope (LOH), a home and school for girls, provides for the needs of more than 70 Kenyan girls. Located on 15 acres in Naivasha, Kenya, Light of Hope exists to end the cycles of poverty, abandonment and abuse for the young girls it serves.

Recognizing that education is the key to opportunity, Light of Hope offers quality schooling in a safe and secure, Christian environment where necessities such as food, medicine, and clothing are provided.

The essence of Light of Hope lies in healing hearts and minds. Caregivers who offer guidance and emotional support surround the residents, and teach important life skills like cooking, gardening, and self-care. These skills, in turn, enable the young girls at Light of Hope to embrace a future of self-sufficiency.

Refuge, Restoration, and Redirection: This is Light of Hope.

## Why This Mission?

### Why girls and not boys?

In Kenya, as in most developing countries, the education of girls is undervalued and therefore, fewer educational opportunities are available. Even when girls have the opportunity to be educated, they face overwhelming barriers to the completion of their studies. While virtually all Kenyan girls enroll in primary school, approximately 65% of them drop out before completing Standard 8 (source: Forum for African Women Educationalists). Many of the educational barriers that girls face are related to reproductive health, sexual behavior, and maturation. Other obstacles include poverty and disease, as young girls are expected to care for sick members of their family and take on household responsibilities.

The girls of Light of Hope come because they have no place to go and no opportunity for education. Many of the girls have been orphaned, abused and abandoned and would have otherwise become victims of society and destined to repeat a path of poverty and despair. LOH seeks to offer these girls an opportunity to heal from their past and are given a chance for refuge, restoration and redirection.

### Who started Light of Hope?

Together, as husband and wife, Boni and Sandy Karanja share a desire to bring hope and restoration to homeless and abandoned girls in Kenya. Motivated by their Christian faith, the Karanjas sought to stand in the gap, and to be the voice of those who've been forgotten. They have been privileged to witness the fruits of their labor, and of many others who've supported this mission, through the smiles on the faces of so many girls. From the birth of Light of Hope in their hearts, and through each amazing stage of its growth, Sandy and Boni pray that the home and school will leave a legacy for generations to come.

### Is Light of Hope a registered non-profit?

Yes. LOH is a project of Lighthouse Ministries International which is a registered 501(c)(3). All donations are tax deductible. Federal Tax ID 71-0886289.

## About Light of Hope

### How long does Light of Hope support the girls? What does this support look like?

When a child is brought in as a resident, Light of Hope becomes her legal guardian, meaning they are solely responsible for each girl's educational, medical, dental and emotional needs. LOH has committed to caring for each resident through her high school education and plans to support girls who seek university education as well. The secondary education (grade 9-university) of the girls has been provided for by an independent foundation called the Elimu Foundation.

### How does Light of Hope choose the girls that attend the school?

LOH seeks to offer support to those who are most in need. The girls come to Light of Hope from several sources:

- Family connections or personal requests
- Recommendations by the government or District Children's Officer
- From a local safe house

### How do you staff Light of Hope?

LOH employs teachers and staff from throughout Kenya. The teachers are all trained and educated with a degree in education. All potential staff members go through numerous interviews, and receive background checks prior to employment.

### Do the girls ever go home to their families?

Most of the girls consider LOH to be home, often because they have no living parents or family that are able to care for them. Some girls do have one living parent and siblings, or a non-parental care giver, in most cases a grandmother. Despite the difficult circumstances from which the girls come, Light of Hope assists the girls in staying connected with their families. The girls are encouraged to visit their families, in safe environments, during school breaks.

### What is the difference between a Day Scholar and a Resident Scholar?

A Resident Scholar lives and attends school on campus. Day Scholars live in the community or neighboring town and attend school at LOH. Some of the girls walk as many as 5 miles per day to receive their education at LOH. These students are also given a hot meal and snack/tea, a uniform, and school supplies.

## Missions Accomplished

Recently, the dream of building a school became a reality when Light of Hope opened the doors to its new classrooms and a modern kitchen, constructed by hand and built with love. For the young girls at Light of Hope, these new buildings represent more than just bricks and mortar. They represent permanence, strength, possibilities, growth and progress. But above all, they mean that the girls can be so bold as to dream about a future where opportunity is within their grasp.

## Power of Your Donation

### Why should I donate to or fundraise for Light of Hope?

The organization is supported 100% by voluntary donations. By supporting the home and school, your donation helps to cover the costs of employing teachers and staff, building and maintaining residence halls, expanding the campus and its facilities, and accepting more girls who desperately need the services of Light of Hope.

## Volunteer for Light of Hope

Our volunteers are the heart and hands of Light of Hope and make a big impact on the girls. Here's what you can do to make a difference:

- Pray for the safety and success of the girls at Light of Hope.
- Attend the annual Shine a Light of Hope Gala each spring.
- Organize a fundraiser.
- Host an open house to share Light of Hope with others.

Get involved and learn more about our volunteer opportunities at [www.lightofhopekenya.org](http://www.lightofhopekenya.org).

You can be a light of hope.