YEAR IN REVIEW 2020



RETOUCH







THE YEAR THE WORLD SLOWED DOWN

2020 was a hard year for everyone. Quarantine, social distancing, cancelled plans, lost jobs, the list goes on and on. We all struggled through disappointments and hardships.

With all the time at home, you might feel like you weren't able to accomplish much. We feel your pain.

In March of 2020, our two-week trip to the States turned into a year-long visit with no end in sight. For years we have lived in the place we ministered and now... we were Stateside with a toddler and a newborn wondering what we could do for the world. Despite geographical distance and worldwide quarantines, this year has been a beautiful and growing year for Retouch. Our Kenyan staff has worked tirelessly to distribute food, provide PPE, and even add buildings to the Birikani campus. Despite feeling like things slowed down, thanks to you our school in Kenya has continued to thrive. We hope these pages encourage you that even though it may have felt like a slow year, you still accomplished much.

With social-distancing love,

Chris & Jennifer

FOUNDERS, RETOUCH



We're in this together.

There's a sense of comradery knowing the whole world is experiencing the pandemic together. In the early days of 2020, Kenyans were kept home from work, schools stopped, and the borders were closed. The same sense of loneliness, fear about the future, and worry you may have felt were amplified among the poor. With no public safety net, no money in savings, and no way to get food, those who already had little worried how they would survive day to day.

This is where you came in.

From the isolation of quarantine and from behind homemade masks, you began to make a difference that you may not have realized. Your donations began to buy food en masse as you fed an entire village.

Every child, every family, every day.

For almost a year now, you have faithfully funded the distribution of essential food (and PPE) to the families of the students at our schools. You have been the life-saving difference.



1,500
Meals a Day

2,000
Bottles of Sanitizer

15,000
Pounds of Beans

Mentorship

Many of us can point to a person that came into our lives at just the right time. Perhaps it was a teacher, a minister, or a coach. At some point, a mentor appeared and made us the person we are today. They challenged us, loved us, and bit by bit changed our lives. We all want to be that person for someone else - to know that at the end of our lives we have made a difference for someone.

For the teenagers of Retouch in Mtwapa, Joy is that person.

She is the mentor, advocate, social worker and role model of 46 girls and boys spread over 5 different schools.

Joy travels to the boarding schools to visit the students, makes sure they have what they need, prays for them, texts them, and visits their families. Joy does what many of us wish we had time to do. But a person like Joy doesn't just happen, someone has to hire her, provide money for the uniforms she distributes, pay for the bibles, provide taxi fare and buy text credit. You've done that. Month after month your giving has, by proxy, mentored the sassiest group of teenagers this side of the Nile.







The Remodel.

Have you ever needed to do a kitchen remodel? Perhaps your cabinets are getting older or you need new counter-tops?

You're not the only one.

After 5 years of cooking in a smoke-filled mud building, the cooks of Birikani finally got their upgrade!

This year your generous giving helped to build a large block kitchen with proper ventilation and 3 new wood burning stoves. The new cooking system will burn clean, ventilate safely, and make cooking for 300 students much easier. School lunches are a vital part of the ministry of Retouch, as many of the students receive their only food for the day at school. So next time you're cooking at home you can take joy in knowing that your giving made a major difference in the life of a child, and a kitchen across the ocean.













Light in the darkness



Seven years ago, when we first wandered down the rocky road to Birikani, we never imagined a day when electricity would be possible. Most people take electricity for granted...until there's a bad storm and it goes out for a few days. In our village, the "norm" is paraffin candles and the occasional solar light. Not having electricity limited our ability to have late-night study sessions and church services. An old Honda generator would work for a light bulb or two, but never truly met our needs.

We needed electricity.

When we built the permanent school buildings a decision was made; we would wire the buildings and install lights in hope that one day the Kenyan Rural Electrification project would make their way down our rocky road.
We are happy to report that day has arrived and the Birikani School and Church now have electricity! The church has already begun meeting at night and the students are looking forward to staying late to study!

Thank you so much to the amazing donors that made this possible.



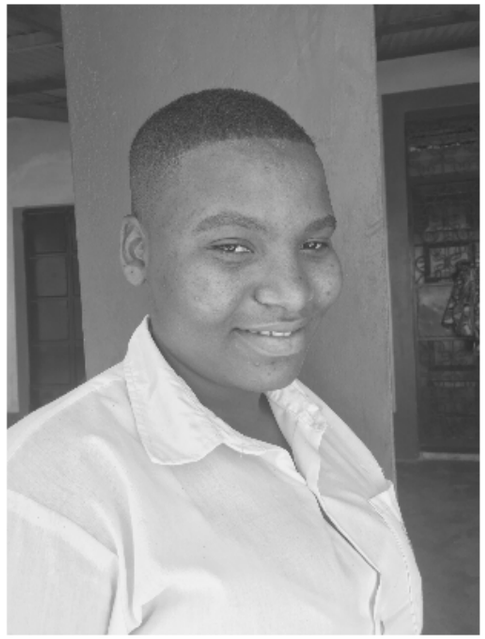
Do you remember when the only school in your area stopped at 8th grade? And when you couldn't complete high school, didn't have the chance to get a diploma, and then couldn't get a job to support your family? That might not have been the case for you growing up, but it is the exact situation the 300 students in our Birikani School find themselves in, so close and yet... so far.

That is, until we open a Secondary School.

This year, Retouch will begin construction on a Secondary School for grades 9-12. The school will have its own classrooms, teachers, offices, and administrative staff. It will have science labs, a library, and a computer-learning center. For the first time, the teenagers of Birikani will have a chance to go to High School, to graduate with a diploma, and then pursue a trade school, university or apprenticeship opportunity.

This development will transform the future of an entire village,
one student at a time.

Sponsorship is more than just education



Meet Janet.

She is the first person in her family to go to finish High School. She is the first in her village to go to college, and will graduate from Nursing School this year. Through sponsoring Janet, Kenya has now gained a knowledgeable and capable nurse, and her village will receive care they never dreamed of before.

In light of the pandemic, nurses like Janet are more important than ever before. Her medical knowledge, though basic, will be the first her area has known. She knows the importance of social distancing, hand-washing and basic healthcare. Her education will now be used to pour back into her village and teach them safe practices. By educating Janet this year, you helped stop the spread of disease and increased medical care for an entire village.



Without sponsorship, 300 students just like Janet would miss out on the opportunity to pursue their dreams and make a difference in the world around them. You can help, one student at a time, change their destiny by becoming a sponsor.

This year, we have 30 students that are in need. Could you share with your friends about the benefits of sponsorship?

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