

THE GREAT HERDS
OF KENYA
AND TANZANIA



East Africa

To depart on a safari is not only a physical act, it is also a gesture. You leave behind the worries, the strains, the irritations of life among people under pressure, and enter the world of creatures who are pressed into no moulds, but have only to be themselves; bonds loosen, anxiety fades, the mind closes against the world you left behind like a folding sea anemone.

—Elsbeth Huxley, *The Flame Trees of Thika*



Dear Friends,

We recently won our tenth first-place *Travel+Leisure* award for World's Best Safari Outfitter (I'm proud to say that no other company has more than three wins), but among all our many accolades, perhaps the most heartening is also from *Travel+Leisure*: "The Pintos treat their guests like well-loved, out-of-town relatives."

Micato's dedication to expert, familial service is the legacy of our founders, my parents Felix and Jane (pictured below in Nairobi). Willingness to go many extra miles to ensure that a Micato safari is the trip of a lifetime—as it is for so many of our guests—is the rock on which Felix and Jane built our family-owned, family-operated company, and why every member of the Micato team will become your welcoming family—from the Safari Director who will be with you from touchdown to takeoff, to our large staffs in the U.S. and East and Southern Africa.

And so, I hope you'll enjoy an armchair safari with this brochure, and that you'll consider joining us for hilltop sundowners overlooking the guileless and gorgeous African game lands.

We'll clink our glasses in celebration of the safari life Isak Dinesen said "makes you forget all your sorrows and feel as if you had drunk half a bottle of champagne—bubbling over with heartfelt gratitude for being alive."

Sincerely,



Dennis Pinto
Managing Director



Micato's founders, Felix and Jane Pinto (and a friend) pictured near their suburban Nairobi home



Your Safari Team in the Bush

Safari Directors: Guides, Helpers, Friends

And they're with you every step of the way. Safari Directors meet you upon landing in Africa and are with you until the moment you depart, always nearby and on prompt call around the clock—not just during business hours.

In addition to a thorough education in the theory and on-the-savannah practice of our state-of-the-science safety protocols, every Micato Safari Director in Kenya has earned prestigious Gold or Silver certifications from the Kenya Professional Safari Guides Association. Seasoned professionals, most

of whom have been with us their entire careers, graduates of Kenya Utalii College or Tanzania's College of Wildlife Management, they're creative choreographers of safari: guiding flexible, always-on-the-lookout forays into the bush, lecturing on flora and fauna, deftly handling logistics, and imparting fascinating nuggets of African history and local folklore. They will also become dear friends.

And the same highest standards and credentials—and affable, unstinting service—apply to Micato Safari Directors in all the East and Southern African countries in which we safari.

From the minute we stepped off the airplane in Nairobi, to the moment we said good-bye to our Safari Director Henry the trip far exceeded our expectations. He delighted us with his enthusiasm, his knowledge and love for the animals. Throughout the trip we experienced many instances of his caring, charming, witty and humble personality. He gracefully took care of all travel needs - airport check-ins, boarding passes, border crossings, hotel check-in/out, many wonderful surprises, and overall hand holding. — Elisabeth Brown





The Pintos treat their guests like well-loved, out-of-town relatives.

—Travel+Leisure

The Many Micato Differences

How does a safari company amaze and excel for 60 years? By a cheerfully relentless dedication to service and innovation. With painstaking discernment, profound expertise, and the generosity of spirit that arises from a family's bedrock commitment to hospitality.

- *Travel+Leisure* has named us #1 World's Best Safari Outfitter ten times. No other company comes remotely close.
- Micato's full time, safari-expert staff—their average tenure is 11 years—is ready to address questions, make recommendations, go over every detail.
- Itineraries perfected by our large in-country staff's generations of experience and the generational knowledge that comes from living in Africa.
- Small-group, non-groupy safaris averaging 12 guests, and as few as two. And on Custom Safaris, sky's the limit.
- All tips included, even to Safari Directors and Driver Guides.
- 100% guaranteed departures on our more than 400-a-year scheduled Classic Safaris, even for parties of two.
- Safari Directors—all Silver and Gold certified—accompany every Micato safari from beginning to end.
- A wonder-working Concierge Team, at your beck and call every moment of the day and night.
- Luxurious camps and lodges—obsessively, continually curated.
- Free valet laundry service, everywhere, every day (and complimentary, custom-designed luggage to put it in).
- All meals included. And we unhesitatingly pick up the tab for meals in any local restaurant on all Custom Safaris.
- At mealtimes, regional wines, beer, and bottled water are included. In Southern Africa, spirits are often included, too.
- The finest, well-stocked safari vehicles, Wi-Fi equipped, with guaranteed window seats for all.
- Exclusive access to people, places, and experiences available only through the Pinto family's longtime connections.
- And this could go to the top of the list: We pay for an African child's education for every safari we sell.



A Typical Day on Safari

Early Morning Game Drive

The sun rises early and eagerly on the savannahs, and after some tea, coffee, and pre-breakfast snacks, we and our Safari Director hop into our uniquely designed safari vehicles for an exploration of what the great lover of Africa Peter Beard called “a paradise caressed by light and air in their most special forms.”

The multitude of free-ranging animals, going about their ancient and immediate business, untroubled by our presence, is astounding. Our Safari Director knows the hangouts and comings and goings of the animals, where that big lion pride is getting ready to go to work, the daily routes of the elephant clans, the two cheetah siblings who’re having a territorial dispute with a grumpy leopard.

Back at the lodge, we tuck into an English-style breakfast, or perhaps we enjoy an acacia-shaded picnic in the bush.



At the Lodge

One of safari’s subtle charms is the opportunity to mix the excitements of game drives with the pleasures of relaxation—by the lodge’s pool, reading that book we don’t have time for at home on the veranda of our tent, taking a comfy nap, or, if we’re in an active mood, choosing from

one of the many activities our Safari Director will brief us on and arrange (and which vary from camp to camp): guided mountain biking; jogging with a Maasai, or taking a specially-arranged helicopter jaunt over the game lands.



Afternoon Game Drive and Sundowners

After a festive lunch, with talk of sightings and amazements (high on the list of safari surprises: the fresh and tasty food), we take an afternoon game drive, on the lookout for what seems a never-ending cavalcade of magnificent animals found nowhere else on earth. And as the sun lowers, we’ll suddenly come across a serene clearing or a hilltop overlooking guileless infinity, and enjoy classic sundowner cocktails and snacks before heading back to a lovely dinner at camp and some time around the campfire before heading off to bed.



Flying Over Africa

You may remember—it's hard to forget—the scene in the film version of *Out of Africa* when Denys Finch Hatton (played by Robert Redford) lands his Gipsy Moth near Karen Blixen's (Meryl Streep's) farm. She rushes out to the spiffy little biplane, and Finch Hatton doesn't take off his flying goggles, he barely throttles back his engine, he just says, "Get in," and thus begins one of cinema's great moments: a heart-firing poem of a swooping flight over the incomparably eloquent landscapes of East Africa.*

Isak Dinesen, Blixen's nom de plume, remembered her many African flights as "the most transporting pleasure of my life. . . . Every time I have gone up in an aeroplane and looking down have realized that I was free of the ground, I have had the consciousness of a great new discovery. 'I see,' I have thought, 'This was the idea. And now I understand everything.'"

It's as true today as it was in the 1920s: flying low and easily over the continent in small planes

is a matchlessly intimate way to appreciate its subtle and dramatic colours, its tectonic dramas, and its cavalcade of creatures. We fly over villages, waving to their residents, and in a few moments, we're on the ground, shaking their hands. One of our guests said it well: "For me, flying over Africa is about as *flying* as flying gets."

Our Custom Safaris offer as many flights as your personalized itinerary calls for, and we—and our guests over the years—think the flights that link lodges and camps on our Classic Safaris (six on *The Micato Grand Safari*, for instance, and five on *The Stanley Wing*) are safari highlights, airy dalliances with Africa's incomparable landscapes.

* Before she climbs into the plane, Blixen asks Finch Hatton, "When did you learn to fly?" And he answers with a Redfordian grin, "Yesterday." Rest assured our pilots have hundreds upon hundreds of times more experience than that—and many of them have movie-star smiles.



THE WORLD'S Most Awarded SAFARI COMPANY

**TRAVEL+
LEISURE**

World's Best
Value Winner

**TRAVEL+
LEISURE**

Trips of
a Lifetime

**PORTHOLE
CRUISE MAGAZINE**

Best African Safari
Tour Operator



Legacy in Travel
Philanthropy Award

**TRAVEL+
LEISURE**

Global Vision Award

Development, Youth Education
Micato One for One
Commitment

**TRAVELAGE
WEST** *wave*
EDITOR'S PICK

Best Tour Operator
Africa / Middle East

**WORLD
TOURISM
AWARD**

Micato-AmericaShare

For philanthropic
work that has
improved many
thousands of lives



Virtuoso Winner

Best Sustainable Leadership
Best VAST (Active) Operator
Best Escorted Tour Operator
Best Destinations & Experiences
Custom Tour Partner
Family and Celebration Partner
Virtuoso Performance Award
Luminary Award Winner

**1,000
PLACES
TO SEE
BEFORE
YOU DIE**

#1 New York Times
Travel Guide
Preferred East Africa

THE GREAT HERDS OF KENYA AND TANZANIA

Kenya's Maasai Mara · Tanzania's Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater & Lake Manyara

13 days door-to-door Includes days en route to/from Nairobi

The splendours we encounter on this brilliantly focussed safari—the Maasai Mara, the Serengeti, and the Ngorongoro Crater—are matchless in their African and planetary magnificence, quintessentially African in their wealth of wildlife and their stunning landscapes, planetary because their likes are found precisely nowhere else on Earth.

We begin in Hemingways, a serene hotel in Nairobi's verdant suburbs before heading to Sir Richard Branson's innovative Mahali Mzuri, an ideal outpost for our forays into the river forests and golden plains of the Maasai Mara. Then, based from the soothingly luxe Four Seasons, we delve into the sea of life that is the Serengeti. Our last stop before heading back to Nairobi is the Ngorongoro Crater, a 100-square mile caldera populated by the Big Five and just about every glorious African animal from antelopes to zebras. And while ensconced in the Manor at Ngorongoro, we'll visit Lake Manyara, whose lyrical flight of flamingos you may remember from *Out of Africa*.

There is no feeling like being absolutely alone with creation... with nothing spoiled or sullied or abused.... A whole world revolves in balance with itself more perfect than the finest symphony.

—Elspeth Huxley





DAY 1 *Depart home*

DAYS 2 & 3 *Nairobi*

Arriving in Nairobi, we're met by our Micato Safari Director and staff and drive to serene, stately, and history-honouring **Hemingways**, tucked in the greenery of the capital city's suburb of Karen, named for Baroness Karen Blixen, author (writing as Isak Dinesen) of *Out of Africa*. We might remember that classic's famous opening lines: "I had a farm in Africa, at the foot of the Ngong Hills." Those hills rise just to the southwest of Hemingways, and it was in their shadows that Micato's Pinto family has long had its home.

During our time in Nairobi and environs, we'll commune with the endangered, but quite friendly Rothschild giraffes at the Giraffe Centre and visit Karen Blixen's home, now a museum. We'll lunch at one Nairobi's cosmopolitan restaurants, and visit Micato-AmericaShare's Harambee Centre (see pages 46-49 for more about this deeply cheering place).

DAYS 4-6 *The Maasai Mara*

And now we fly to the game lands of the Maasai Mara (see page 41 [Flying Over Africa] for a tribute to these revelatory trips through African airs).

The Mara and the Serengeti, magic names synonymous with African safari, are the northern and southern regions of a naturally defined ecosystem more than twice the size of Jamaica. Here in the north, the landscapes are greener than in the south, thanks largely to somewhat more seasonal rain. Wildlife teems and thrives in the Mara, and the Big Five rule their respective roosts with regal aplomb. Our camp is Sir Richard Branson's **Mahali Mzuri**, situated on one of the Mara's major migration routes. The camp's uniquely designed tents

* As Beryl Markham wrote in her marvelous *West with the Night*, "In the season of drought the Serengeti Plains are as dry and tawny as the coats of the lion that prowl them, and during the rains they provide the benison of soft grass to all the animals in a child's picture book. They are endless and they are empty, but they are as warm with life as the waters of a tropic sea."

Words are not adequate to describe the genuine attention to detail, down to the small gifts on the bed at night. Awaiting us on Valentine's Day was a pack of heart-shaped homemade cookies. That's class! —Leo P. Lavellee

are a marvelous introduction to the modern luxuries and timeless excitements of safari life.

DAYS 7 & 8 *The Serengeti*

A short flight takes us south into Tanzania and the Serengeti. We once wrote rather controversially that the Serengeti's skies make the Big Sky state of Montana's skies look like Manhattan's. But immense and extra-Montanian they are. Morning clouds so alive with sunlight that they're almost too bright to look at directly. Soaring afternoon cumulus that seem to brush up against the stratosphere. And, of course, the animals, who, when we're up close and personal with them, seem to be from some fabulous new planet. We'll reside for a



couple of nights at the superb **Four Seasons Safari Lodge Serengeti**, high on a bouldery ridge, basking in panoptic views of the prodigious, golden-hued plain.*

DAYS 9–11 *Lake Manyara and the Ngorongoro Crater*

Another flight—with textbook views of the Great Rift (more on that in a moment)—brings us to two more natural marvels. We land near one of them, Lake Manyara, and drive to the tranquil **Manor at Ngorongoro**, set in a coffee estate on the gentle first slopes of the other marvel, the Ngorongoro Crater. In the afternoon, we can enjoy one of safari's less-celebrated benefits—untroubled rest—or we can hop on one of the Manor's accommodating horses, do some mountain biking, or take a dip in its lovely pool, followed by traditional afternoon tea and dinner in its private dining room or expansive wine cellar.

On Day 10, we'll motor our way upslope to the Crater's 7,900-foot rim, then down 2,000 feet into





the halcyon, 100-square mile caldera, the remnant of a once-glaciated volcanic colossus that a planet-trembling blast decapitated millions of years ago. There are no giraffes among the Crater's 25,000 or so animals; it's said they're too gangly to climb the caldera's steep walls. But that doesn't explain the

Your Safari Director will discuss with you a variety of individualized activity choices at every safari location.

presence of the far less nimble hippos who nonchalantly bubble in its pools. We'll roam the Crater in the morning and afternoon, with a fine al fresco lunch at midday, then head back to the welcoming Manor.

Now, about Africa's Great Rift, a 4,000-mile-long, ever-widening slash, a slowly dramatic splitting of two tectonic plates that in 50 million years or so will become an ocean. Its highest volcanoes—Kilimanjaro, Mount Kenya,

Ngorongoro, and others—will become islands, and its epic Rift Lakes—Tanganyika, Malawi, Victoria, and Turkana and many more—are, like Manyara, the first waters of that ocean. But for many, including Ernest Hemingway, the smaller Lake Manyara is the brightest gem of them all.

We'll indulge in some relaxed (or active) time in the morning before setting out for the lake, where we'll delight in its famous tree-climbing lions (who lounge on trees in a number of East African places, but Manyara's seem to make a more satisfying habit of it). Flamingos in their thousands will be in brilliant pink evidence (we may remember the stunning scene of them wafting into the sky in *Out of Africa*). And after sundowners, we'll return to the Manor, rich in marvels seen and experienced.

I had time after time watched the progression across the plain of the Giraffe, in their queer, inimitable, vegetative gracefulness, as if it were not a herd of animals but a family of rare, long-stemmed, speckled gigantic flowers slowly advancing.

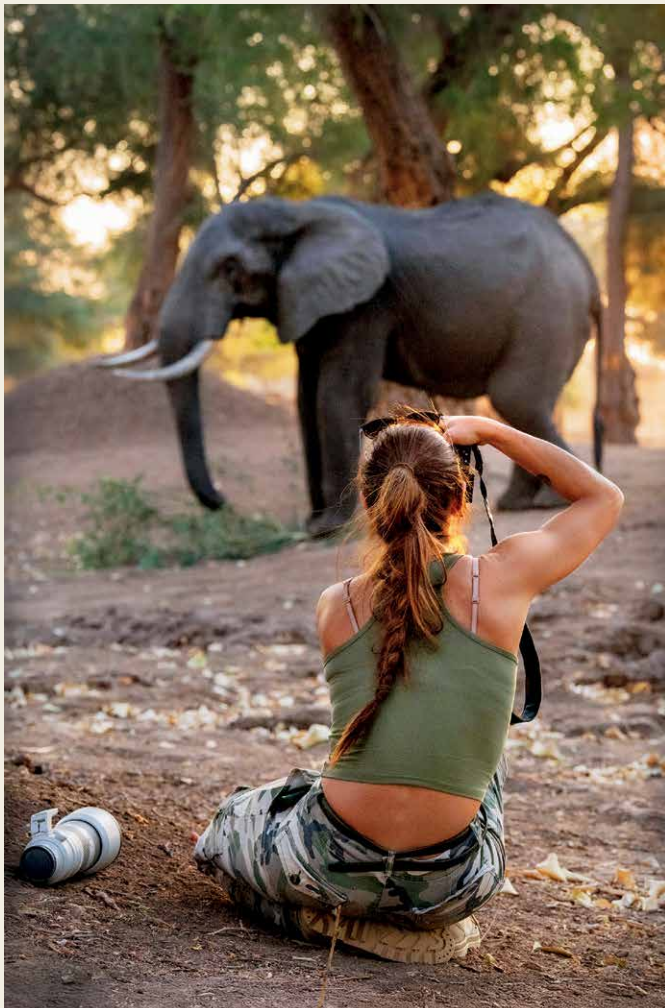
—Isak Dinesen, *Out of Africa*

DAYS 12 & 13 *Depart, arriving home Day 13*

We fly back to Nairobi, where we'll have a full-amenity day room at the **Four Points Nairobi Airport**, and after a quiet dinner, our Safari Director and staff will escort us to the airport for our late-evening flights home.

Make Your Safari a Private Classic

The Great Herds of Kenya and Tanzania can easily be transformed into a fully Private Classic Safari, with your friends or family group's own Safari Director, private vehicles, with the freedom to set your own schedules, to enjoy private meals in the bush, and many etceteras.



Micato seems to have a secret sauce that turns hospitality into something more like love. We were continually impressed and delighted by your team's ability to take every opportunity to make every moment more than special in very personal and meaningful ways.... Africa for me was a gauzy, far-away vision of a place where exotic animals roamed near places with names I could barely pronounce. Now, the places and people live in our hearts.

—Tom Lieberman

2026 Rates

Land arrangements, per person

	Nov, Jan-May	June-October	December
Double Occupancy	\$29,250	\$34,150	\$35,950
Single Supplement	5,450	7,550	7,850
Internal Flights	2,500	3,100	3,100

(Nairobi / Maasai Mara / Serengeti / Lake Manyara: Lake Manyara / Nairobi)
Connections may apply.

2026 Dates

Door-to-door from home, including days en route

Departs Wednesday, returns Monday | Every date is a guaranteed departure

Dec. 31 – Jan. 12	May 20 – June 01	Aug. 12 – Aug. 24	Nov. 04 – Nov. 16
Jan. 07 – Jan. 19	May 27 – June 08	Aug. 19 – Aug. 31	Nov. 11 – Nov. 23
Jan. 14 – Jan. 26	June 03 – June 15	Aug. 26 – Sept. 07	Nov. 18 – Nov. 30
Jan. 21 – Feb. 02	June 10 – June 22	Sept. 02 – Sept. 14	Nov. 25 – Dec. 07
Jan. 28 – Feb. 09	June 17 – June 29	Sept. 09 – Sept. 21	Dec. 02 – Dec. 14
Feb. 04 – Feb. 16	June 24 – July 06	Sept. 16 – Sept. 28	Dec. 09 – Dec. 21
Feb. 11 – Feb. 23	July 01 – July 13	Sept. 23 – Oct. 05	Dec. 16 – Dec. 28
Feb. 18 – Mar. 02	July 08 – July 20	Sept. 30 – Oct. 12	Dec. 23 – Jan. 04
Feb. 25 – Mar. 09	July 15 – July 27	Oct. 07 – Oct. 19	Dec. 30 – Jan. 11
Mar. 04 – Mar. 16	July 22 – Aug. 03	Oct. 14 – Oct. 26	
Mar. 11 – Mar. 23	July 29 – Aug. 10	Oct. 21 – Nov. 02	
May 13 – May 25	Aug. 05 – Aug. 17	Oct. 28 – Nov. 09	

2027 Dates

Door-to-door from home, including days en route

Departs Wednesday, returns Monday | New rates and dates may apply

Jan. 06 – Jan. 18	May 19 – May 31	Aug. 04 – Aug. 16	Oct. 20 – Nov. 01
Jan. 13 – Jan. 25	May 26 – June 07	Aug. 11 – Aug. 23	Oct. 27 – Nov. 08
Jan. 20 – Feb. 01	June 02 – June 14	Aug. 18 – Aug. 30	Nov. 03 – Nov. 15
Jan. 27 – Feb. 08	June 09 – June 21	Aug. 25 – Sept. 06	Nov. 10 – Nov. 22
Feb. 03 – Feb. 15	June 16 – June 28	Sept. 01 – Sept. 13	Nov. 17 – Nov. 29
Feb. 10 – Feb. 22	June 23 – July 05	Sept. 08 – Sept. 20	Nov. 24 – Dec. 06
Feb. 17 – Mar. 01	June 30 – July 12	Sept. 15 – Sept. 27	Dec. 01 – Dec. 13
Feb. 24 – Mar. 08	July 07 – July 19	Sept. 22 – Oct. 04	Dec. 08 – Dec. 20
Mar. 03 – Mar. 15	July 14 – July 26	Sept. 29 – Oct. 11	Dec. 15 – Dec. 27
Mar. 10 – Mar. 22	July 21 – Aug. 02	Oct. 06 – Oct. 18	Dec. 22 – Jan. 03
May 12 – May 24	July 28 – Aug. 09	Oct. 13 – Oct. 25	Dec. 29 – Jan. 10

THE MICATO
One for One
COMMITMENT



FOR EVERY GUEST ON SAFARI
WE SEND A CHILD TO SCHOOL

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

—Nelson Mandela

Hundreds of thousands of Kenyan children don't attend school because their families are too poor to pay even the most nominal school fees. In principle, primary education is free in Kenya, but myriad fees often put it beyond reach: parents are obliged to buy their child's desk; to pay for term exams, the wood for cooking fires, and a portion of the cooks' salaries. Then there are schoolbooks, uniforms, writing supplies, and notebooks.



All this adds up to many, many thousands of eager and worthy children staying at home.

The Micato One for One Commitment

For almost 40 years, Micato-AmericaShare has been a passionate advocate for East African children and their families. Under the Micato One for One Commitment, simply by signing up for a Micato safari, every guest on every safari sends a child to school—year after year.

Thousands of Kenyan children are able to attend school thanks to our guests who join us in this commitment. Every child deserves an education, and we're overjoyed to be contributing to this unalienable right.

LEFT: A typically exuberant classroom, led by Peter Mithamo at a school near the Micato-AmericaShare Harambee Centre. Anastasia Pinto summed up the African ethos when she said, "African people will give away their last dollar or loaf of bread to someone who needs it more."

Micato-AmericaShare

For almost 40 years—Micato's tribute to our birth continent has been our nonprofit, Micato-AmericaShare. In the next six pages we'll tell you what AmericaShare does, but first, here's why:

It all began with one little boy, going from person to person in a Nairobi shopping centre with a note from his school headmaster. The note said that he was an orphan and needed to raise 700 shillings for a school uniform before he could come to class. He had only collected 100 shillings. The boy approached Micato's Lorna Macleod. She read the note and handed him the 600 shillings—the equivalent of \$15. Tears running down his face, the boy stood there for a moment, said "God bless you," and dashed away.

At that moment Lorna realized that Micato was an ideal bridge between some of the poorest people on the planet, and some of the wealthiest, our travellers. So we gave that bridge a name: AmericaShare, and have been helping to change lives for the better ever since.



School Sponsorship

It's not unusual for inspired safari guests to decide on the spot (or back home for that matter) to sponsor a child to attend a carefully vetted boarding school, and our School Scholarship Programme provides every resource necessary for many hundreds of children to graduate high school (and beyond, if the spirit is willing). Sponsors and students are kept in touch by letters, deep relationships are built, and many lives are changed. As one of our sponsors wrote, "You start out writing a check, but what you get back is the joy of seeing the impact, the happiness. Our sponsee George, getting ready to attend university, is a joyous human being."

The Harambee Centre

The heart of Micato-AmericaShare's Kenya operation is Harambee Centre, a multi-building oasis of calm and purpose in the midst of Mukuru, one of Nairobi's largest informal settlements (the word slum doesn't do justice



I will never forget my first experience of visiting Harambee Centre! It surpassed my expectations; above all I felt very safe around that space despite the fact that everyone was a stranger when I got in but as I was leaving, I felt warm and I thought to myself this looks like a neat family that I would like to be part of.

—Aisha Omar



to the stubborn hope and vitality of those settlements). Harambee Centre serves Mukuru—where a staggering 60,000 children are unable to attend school—with a Community Centre; a beautiful 30,000-volume library (with more than 60,000 yearly visitors); a secondary, specialized library; and a Computer Centre with more than 70 computers and a 12-week programme in digital skills training.

The Red Hill Library and Community Centre

AmericaShare's Red Hill Library and Community Centre, on the seaward side of the glorious Old Cape Road, south of Cape Town, is joyful place considering it's a town with a single part-time clinic, 37 per cent unemployment, and no school for its more than 2,000 school-age kids, who, if they attend school, have to take long bus rides to state schools in the vicinity.

Red Hill's bright new library is staffed with trained librarians, a computer centre, and a welcoming community meeting place. Its Literacy and Numeracy Programme meets for two hours daily, kids are taught basic and advanced computer skills on its expanding bank of computers, and its beautiful, ocean-view Umbono Wempunelelo—View to Success Deck—has become an integral part of Red Hill's commitment

to meeting the needs of young, energetic minds by engaging the kids in outdoor learning activities.

More Milestones

The dynamic, 25,000-volume Harambee Centre Library is the proud recipient of the Best Community Library Award by the 50-year old Kenya Association of Library and Information Professionals.

To its post-graduates, Micato-AmericaShare offers scholarships that cover the cost of acquiring trade skills or semi-professional certifications or professional degrees.

We partner with Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity to bring eye clinics to the community. VOSH doctors examine and treat thousands of children and adults, and donate thousands of prescription eyeglasses.

Lacrosse, a game not played in Kenya, was introduced in Mukuru in June 2014 through an AmericaShare Project by teenager Ian Macleod with support from private donors, businesses, and the International Lacrosse Federation.

Learn More

At our website, AmericaShare.org, or email us at Inquiries@AmericaShare.org.



Huru Means Freedom

African girls who can't afford sanitary pads very often avoid school during their periods, losing as much as an entire month each school year. The consequences are significant: girls who miss school or work fall behind, drop out or quit, perpetuating a grim cycle of poverty and gender inequality.

Micato is a major donor and proud supporter of Huru, founded in 2008 by AmericaShare's co-founder Lorna Macleod. Huru manufactures reusable sanitary pads—more than 2,800,000 to date—which have been distributed in free Huru Kits to more than 460,000 girls in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Huru Kits have proven to be a simple, sustainable, and wonderfully practical way to alleviate this world-wide problem.

Each Huru Kit consists of a colourful drawstring backpack with six reusable pads; three pairs of underwear; detergent-grade soap for washing pads; two resealable waterproof bags for safe storage of used pads; and educational materials on HIV prevention and reproductive and sexual health.



Since Huru pads came we are comfortable and we do not feel left out. We are able to attend classes without fear or shame. It brings so much joy to know there are people on earth living far away from you who can rescue you.

— Charity, age 16

All Huru pads are locally produced by women and men from underserved communities, and are designed for the resilient girls and women who use them. Each pad lasts a minimum of 24 months, making them a cost-effective and environmentally friendly alternative to expensive disposables.

The crucial and heartening bottom line: Huru Kits have saved girls upward of 25,000,000 school days that otherwise would have been lost. Independent evaluation shows that girls who receive Huru Kits are three times less likely to miss school during their periods.

Huru also leverages its extensive network to reach girls most in need, through its menstruation and reproductive health app, and by sending Huru teams to schools, rescue centres, and community hubs, distributing essential supplies and providing

vital education to girls and young women, not only about menstruation, but sexual hygiene and awareness. Almost 900,000 girls have benefited from those distributions and education sessions, and the much-visited app.

Learn More

About Huru's important and effective work. And about its highly successful Skills Transfer Program, a targeted, practical programme that addresses East Africa's huge problem of youth unemployment, which disproportionately impacts girls; 65 per cent of the Skills Transfer Program's trainees have no income whatsoever. Huru's informative website is accessible 525,600 minutes a year at HuruInternational.org.

We educate women because it is smart. We educate women because it changes the world.

—Drew Gilpin Faust, first female president of Harvard University





My Ambitions Were Given a Chance to Shine

Micato–AmericaShare and Huru Success Stories

From *The New York Times*

Not long ago, Pulitzer Prize-winner Nicholas Kristof and journalist Trisha Mukherjee travelled to Africa. The result: “The Shame That Keeps Millions of Girls Out of School,” a *Times* op-ed column in which Mukherjee writes: In Nairobi’s bustling settlement of Mukuru, Celestine Wanza, 18, used to tear off a piece of her mattress to use as a pad, a workaround common in Kenya. Ms. Wanza is charming, sharp and quick to speak up when her classmates are shy—the kind of student any teacher

would want. For years, she stayed home while menstruating. But once she had to attend school for an exam. Blood seeped through the cloth shred and onto her clothes, sending her running home. That day, Ms. Wanza decided she had had enough. Asking around, she learned of Huru International, a nonprofit that provides free kits of six thick, washable pads, along with panties, instructions and an odor-proof storage bag for when water is scarce. When I ask whether she still misses school because of her period—even one day a month—she proudly shakes her head no.

This collaboration with Micato-AmericaShare has brought light to our community. Scholars are able to do their homework and research in the library, which provides a great environment for their education and homework clubs. The Forum is also benefitting from having a productive space in which to meet. This project has uplifted the entire community by making resources available to everybody.

—Luyando Lombo, Red Hill Development Forum member

From Scholarship Sponsors

Caroline Wainaina [who was in university when this was written] has been our “adopted daughter” for six years now. The depth of her thankfulness, her gratitude and joy are sustaining for both of us, but we don’t want to take credit. All we did was give her some financial stability to use her considerable talents to shine. If truth be told, her success is really all about her, not us. We feel so lucky to be part of her life.

Juliet Walters and Geoffrey Knowles

I am fortunate to sponsor two children, Evalyne Lucinda, and Dennis Mburu. It was their letters that really made me feel connected to them. Their personalities shone. People would be surprised by the effect that being a sponsor has on one’s daily life. I want to thank them for adding to my life, and for widening my perspective.

Albert Herrera

Irene [Nduta Njuki] had been living in a ghetto with her grandmother and uncle. She is very bright and loves academics, so going to a boarding school offers her protection, good medical attention, direction, and most of all, hope. I want Irene in my family’s life. Her example is one of overcoming adversity and pressing on to succeed. It is women like her who will change the world.

Bonnie Scripps

From Micato-AmericaShare Scholarship Students

I am proud to say that Micato-AmericaShare has been nothing but a blessing to me.... Later this year I will begin my studies at Nairobi’s Multimedia University. If it were not for Micato-AmericaShare I surely could not have had a future to dream about. My ambitions were given a chance to shine.

Edwin Odwori

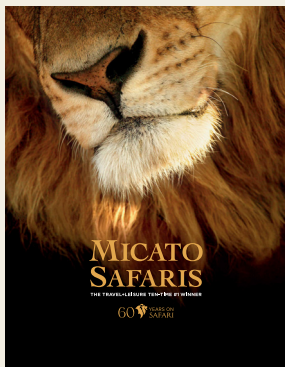
My mother died when I was two years old and my father died a year later. I lived with my Aunt in Nairobi, but she had seven children of her own and couldn’t afford to pay for my school fees, but I somehow got by. In the sixth grade, Micato-AmericaShare came looking for children from needy backgrounds, and I was enrolled in a boarding school near Nairobi, with all the tuitions and school items I need thanks to AmericaShare....[After graduating from high school] in 2013, I entered the Bachelor Degree of Medicine program at the University of Nairobi, again with AmericaShare’s full support.

Dr. Justus Omondi Okeyo

(At the time of this writing Justus is a resident Obstetrician Gynecologist at Kenyatta National Hospital, Kenya’s largest teaching and referral hospital. He’s also pursuing, with Micato-AmericaShare support, a Master of Medicine in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Nairobi.)



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