



## Provide a Bright Future for a Child Mother

### *Are you a compassionate woman, who recognizes her good fortune?*

Some communities have an ultra-conservative response to child pregnancy, even though the girl has little ability to negotiate sexual relations, especially with those more powerful – older men, teachers, men promising marriage, etc. Nevertheless, due to social stigma and shame, a pregnant girl may be cast out of the family and the community – a classical case of the victim being victimized. In all cases, she must drop out of the local school, and usually, moves to an urban center where she will beg for support from others and get occasional work as a day laborer. In many cases, she must exchange sexual favors for economic benefit in a desperate attempt to support herself and her child. Her downward spiral continues, especially if she faces further pregnancies, and though she may marry, he is unlikely to be someone respected or respectful – not to someone likely to provide a supportive relationship for her and her child.

### *One Canadian woman provided an alternate script for Gail!*



At 14 years of age, Gail (not her real name) was impregnated by her teacher. When the community discovered her pregnancy, she was chased from home and forced to reside in Marsabit town. She suffered greatly, nearly losing her life due to pregnancy complications and depression. Her dreams had been shattered - no more education, a child to support, and no work.

Upon hearing her plight, Clara and Martha, our public health volunteers, contacted Gail and provided counsel and support. They learned that her dream was to return to school. There was no opportunity, as the schools said that she was “a bad example to the other girls”. Fortunately, they eventually found a head mistress willing to admit her to boarding school. And, thankfully, by then, an aged woman agreed to provide loving care for Ada, her baby.

This year, Gail completed Form 1, placing #4 among 90 students. She is a charming, positive young woman – a far cry from the hopeless young woman Clara and Martha first met. She is breaking new ground for other child mothers with a history of abandonment, abuse and hopelessness. Now, we can assure her of support to complete her education, as we have a donor for her.

### *You, too, can help restore a young girl's dreams by becoming a sponsor*

**Sauti Moja's volunteers** will provide support for stigmatized child mothers by:

- lobbying schools to accept them and ensure that other girls have the same opportunity;
- managing payment of school fees, transport costs, and support costs for them and their child;
- facilitating counseling and peer support from other child mothers; and
- ensuring good childcare by regular monitoring and encouraging the guardian.

**You** will sponsor the child mother by contributing \$50/month for a girl in primary school, and \$80/month for a girl in secondary school. If this amount exceeds your financial ability, we suggest that you join with other friends or women in your community to give a child mother new hope. For further information, including information on building a relationship with your sponsored child mother, please contact us:

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