

The Wright Family's Experience with Child Sponsorship

For many years, my late wife, Lil, and I sponsored a Tanzanian child, Raita, through a major agency which most Canadians know. The picture of Raita on the fridge drew our attention to injustice in the world. We used it to encourage compassion in our children and to motivate them to strive for social justice, internationally. It **contributed to their enthusiasm and support in founding Sauti Moja**, which provides a better way for parents to help their children become responsible global citizens.

— *Tim Wright, Founding Director of Sauti Moja*

Kids4Kids — a better way from Sauti Moja!



Sauti Moja offers an efficient and effective system in support of the healthy development of African children. Concurrently, we will provide donors with learning resources that help educate your children about the challenges other children face around the world, and how they can become a responsible global citizens.

You provide only \$15.00/month for a Maasai child living in a remote village to attend pre-school.

This support covers all educational costs for a child to attend 2-3 years of pre-school, receive a nutritious meal each day, and have their growth and health monitored each term. It also covers most medical expenses in case of injury and illness. Administrative and reporting costs are included in this donation.

Sauti Moja will mail a story to your child, grandchild, or class bi-monthly.

Real-life stories about children in our LECHE Program are designed to enhance curiosity about cultural differences and similarities. Further, we aim to heighten awareness in your child about the challenges facing

children in other cultures, as well as foster critical understanding of his/her good fortune, child rights, and the value of helping others. (Two introductory stories to share with your child are attached.)

Join Kids4Kids — an affordable, effective child development project

For more information:

- Review the details of the LECHE Program at <http://www.sautimoja.org/leche.html>.
- If you wish to contribute to this program and enhance your child's understanding of the world, we invite you to contribute by mail or electronically at <http://www.sautimoja.org/Donations.html>.

When making your contribution, please provide Sauti Moja with the name and address of the person to whom we should send our monthly story. If you would like stories sent electronically instead, please provide an email address.

A School for the Children of Oltepesi Village

The Maasai people are **pastoralists**: people who rely on livestock like sheep, goats, and cattle for food (milk and meat). They also sell livestock to earn money, which is used to pay for clothing, school fees, medical bills, and travel costs.

Because the workload required for family survival is so heavy, **many children are unable to go to school**. Their parents need them to help the family. Young boys are responsible for taking the sheep and goats to pasture and to the watering hole. Sometimes girls will also herd livestock, but they are most often responsible for caring for little brothers and sisters while their mothers fetch water or gather firewood to cook meals for the family.

Although the family needs the help of many children, some children are allowed to go to school. In Oltepesi village, there was no school until a retired Maasai teacher named Sara decided to help the community by starting a pre-school. At first there was no classroom, but, as in other villages, the **teachers taught children in the sand under the trees**. They were taught using the Montessori method, and learned in the same way as children living in many other countries.

Soon, the community leaders decided that they wanted a classroom for their children, but they did not have enough money to build one. They asked Sauti Moja for help, and we agreed to work together. The community built a mud and stick building with a grass thatch roof, using local materials. Sauti Moja provided cement for a concrete floor and materials for toilets and a shelter to cook nutritious lunches for the children.

The children are now enjoying learning in a comfortable classroom located under the trees. When building repairs are needed, parents come to the school and use local materials to protect their children from the sun and rain.

This classroom has been very successful. There are too many children for just one class each day, so one group meets earlier and the other meets later. The first group of children have graduated, and now walk 3-4 kilometers to a primary school in Longido. The teachers in Longido are pleased that the children from Oltepesi are performing better than ever before.



Many young boys must herd goats.



If there is no school, children learn outdoors.



The village built a school from local materials.



Why is it important for children to learn to read and write?

Serewa, Head Teacher of Oltepesi Pre-School



Head Teacher Serewa.

Sauti Moja is excited to introduce you to a Maasai man, Serewa, who teaches young children in a northern Tanzanian village. We are proud to be part of his success, and of the wonderful example he is to others.

Before he became a teacher, Serewa was a warrior, known as a **moran** (sounds like *more-an*) in Maasai language. Morans are the equivalent of police and army in Maasai culture. They are responsible for protecting their village from livestock raiders and wild animals, like lions, that attack sheep, goats, cattle and donkeys.

Because they are considered brave and trustworthy, many go away to work as security guards in the cities. Maasai men retain their moran status for 14 years, after which a new group of young men graduate to that role. During this stage of life, morans are unmarried and have no responsibilities in the home. **They traditionally have no role in the care of children**, which is normally the job of girls and women.

Serewa was an unusual moran. Like the others, he had only a little education, but decided to assist in setting up a pre-school for the children in his remote village, where there was no school. He became a teaching assistant. Because he was so dedicated and kind to the pre-

schoolers, Sauti Moja helped him get **two years of Montessori teacher training**. This year, Serewa graduated and is now the Head Teacher for Oltepesi school.

Serewa has many responsibilities. He is not only the teacher, but is responsible for ensuring that hungry children are provided with a nutritious lunch each day. Every term, he helps weigh the children to monitor their growth, and has a medical doctor check on the health of the children. The parents of children who have health problems are contacted and advised on how to address health concerns. If children miss a few days of school, he walks to their home, which could be three kilometers away, and talks to the parents to find out why their child is absent.

Sauti Moja and the Oltepesi community respect Serewa, as he is working hard to ensure that young children are healthy and getting a good start to their education. With his support, more of the young Maasai children will do well in Longido primary school. Serewa is an example to other young men that they, too, can become involved in education and care for village children.

How is Serewa like your teacher?

How is his job different?



Maasai morans (warriors).



Serewa with his students.