

OUR 2025 NEWSLETTER



BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Dear Supporters and Friends of Amara Charitable Trust,

As we come to the end of 2025, we are both humbled and deeply grateful for the journey that has brought us here. The past year has been one of growth, resilience, and shared purpose — and none of it would have been possible without you.

At Amara Charitable Trust, our mission remains grounded in the belief that access to education and opportunity can transform lives. With your continued support, we have been able to extend that belief into action — building stronger communities, supporting bright young minds, and providing vital resources to those who need them most.

In this edition of our newsletter, you will read about the milestones we have achieved together, from student success stories to the tangible impact of your contributions in some of Kenya's most under served areas. These stories are

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

reminders of what compassion and collaboration can accomplish.

2025 also saw a growing wave of grassroots fundraising efforts, led by passionate individuals committed to our cause. Their creativity and dedication have been truly inspiring, and we hope their stories will encourage more champions to join our mission in the year ahead.

Looking forward, 2026 presents new opportunities and challenges but with your partnership, we are confident that we will continue to uplift, inspire, and empower even more lives with dignity and hope.

With heartfelt thanks and blessings
The Amara Charitable Trust Team

Changes to our Team

We would like to extend our thanks to Manisha Dave, who stepped down as a trustee in May this year. As a founding trustee since 2008, Manisha played a key role in leading our fundraising efforts and setting up the Education Fund Program, our scholarship initiative that continues to impact the lives of disadvantaged youth in rural Kenya. We remain grateful to her for the 17 years of dedicated service and contributions to Amara Charitable Trust.



Looking Ahead with Purpose

As we mark another year of service, we also embrace change and growth. With the recent transition in our board, we move forward with deep gratitude and renewed purpose. Our commitment to the communities we serve remains as strong as ever, and we look ahead with optimism, ready to continue building on the foundation of our history.



New Projects in 2025

Kitchens

In 2024 we set ourselves an ambitious target for infrastructure projects we wanted to accomplish in 2025 and with the incredible support of our donors, we achieved three of the projects.



We completed two fully equipped kitchen facilities at Inkito and Ololokitikoshi Primary Schools. Each kitchen includes: storeroom for secure food storage; covered shelter to protect learners and staff from the elements; and energy-efficient stoves designed to reduce firewood use and improve cooking efficiency and safety.



These new facilities represent a major improvement to the daily operations of the schools' feeding program. They ensure safer, more efficient, and hygienic meal preparation, directly benefiting the students and staff alike.

These projects were made possible thanks to the generous support of **Hena Sawjani** for the Inkito Project, and **Reena and Rupen Shah** for the Ololokitikoshi Project. We are deeply grateful for their commitment to improving the lives of our students.

Playgrounds

We are excited to share the successful installation of five new playgrounds across rural schools, creating vibrant and safe spaces where children can play, interact, and grow. In areas where access to recreational facilities is often limited, these playgrounds offer more than just a place for fun. They provide essential opportunities for **social development, emotional well-being, and physical health.**

Through play, students learn to collaborate, resolve conflicts, express themselves, and build confidence, all skills that are just as vital as academic achievement. By integrating play into the school experience, we support a more holistic approach to education.

Playgrounds using up-cycled tyres were installed at MtView, Mathatani, Kwa Kalusya, and Ngalalya Primary Schools. Additionally, we installed and revamped the existing playground at Kyangoma Special Needs School, ensuring inclusive access to play for all children.



Utangwa Youth Polytechnic

The technical institute, received a major upgrade thanks to the generous support of **Endeavour Africa Limited.** Improvements included **floor repairs in classrooms, a kitchen upgrade with a charcoal oven and energy efficient stoves, renovation of the girls' dormitory, and repainting of both interior and exterior walls.**

We also secured funding to equip the **Hairdressing, Tailoring, and Carpentry departments with modern tools and equipment,** significantly enhancing the quality of hands-on training.

Amara has 11 scholarship students enrolled at the college pursuing various technical courses that will prepare them for employment. Equally inspiring are our **8 special needs students,** who have completed a three-year program at a mainstream college. What makes this even more remarkable is the way they have been **fully integrated,** supported, and empowered to succeed alongside their peers



Education Fund Program

This year, our program took a bold step forward to include young adults from rescue homes, expanding beyond students from Amara supported secondary schools. Many of these youth have spent their formative years in institutional care. However, when they turn 18, they are required by law to leave the only place they call home, often with no family support, no financial resources, and no clear path forward. Without intervention, their dreams of further education end abruptly, and they face an uncertain future, vulnerable to exploitation, poverty, and negative influences.

We are excited to share that 10 young adults from various rescue centres are now enrolled in technical colleges, pursuing a range of courses, including one student who will be embarking on a three-year nursing program.

This year marks an incredible milestone, our highest student intake ever! A total of 45 young adults have joined technical colleges, gaining practical skills to shape meaningful and independent futures.

Since 2020, a total of 180 students have joined technical training programs through Amara's support, a significant achievement that reflects both growth and deepening impact. Even more encouraging is our 93% student

180 STUDENTS

Joined technical training programmes

retention rate, a strong indicator that when given the opportunity, these young people show remarkable resilience and commitment.

This year marked our third annual graduation celebration, where we recognized 29 graduates who completed their training and are now well-prepared to pursue gainful employment and economic self-reliance.

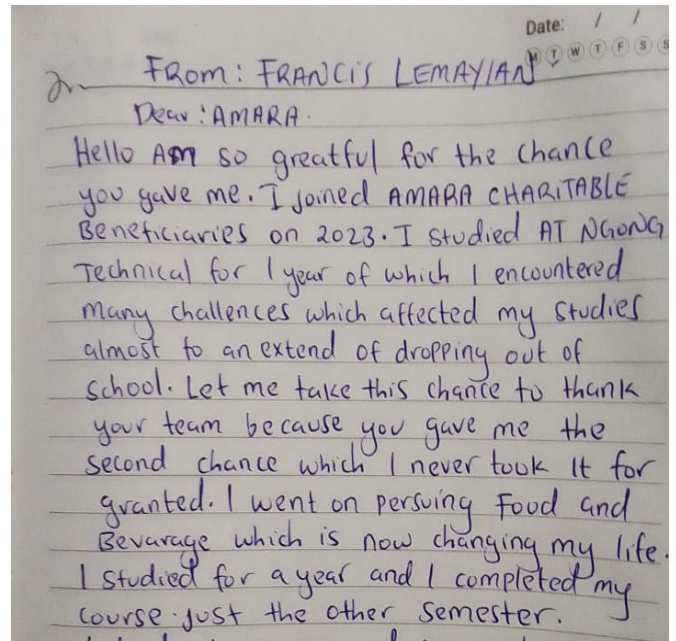
Attending four college graduations this year was a true privilege and a powerful reminder of the courage, resilience and determination our students show on their paths toward financial independence, growth, and dignity.

Their journeys inspire us every day to keep pushing forward, creating more pathways for young people to transform their futures.



Listening to their stories of resilience and transformation was deeply moving. Some students, like Francis Lemayia, faced personal challenges along the way. Francis initially enrolled in a General Agriculture diploma but had to drop out due to family issues. We gave him a second chance in a

one-year Culinary Arts course, where he thrived, balancing work and studies. Today, he is successfully employed and building a brighter future for himself. He enjoys baking and making pizzas. In fact, he believes he is quite the expert



As we continue to grow our Education Fund Program, we are exploring new ways to support graduating students who wish to become entrepreneurs. This year, we introduced a pilot initiative designed to empower students to transition confidently into self-employment. As part of this effort, two students from the Hairdressing and Beauty

Therapy program were provided with professional starter toolkits to help them launch their mobile personal-care services and begin building sustainable livelihoods. In 2026 we hope to build on this initiative.



Fundraisers - A year of Impactful Events

It has been an exciting and action-packed year as we organized a series of events to raise both funds and awareness for Amara's programs and our work in under served communities. From sports to cultural fairs, each event brought us closer to our mission of supporting disadvantaged youth.



3rd Bowling Fundraiser

In March 2025, we returned to PINS Bowling for our third bowling fundraiser. Held over two lively evenings, the event offered corporate sponsors a fun way to engage their teams while contributing to our scholarship program. The energy, friendly competition, and generosity made it a memorable event and resounding success!



12th Golf Fundraiser

On **6th June 2025**, we hosted our **12th Golf Fundraiser** at the prestigious **Muthaiga Golf Club**. With the continued support of our loyal donors and their teams, we raised an impressive **KShs 2.1 million**, funds that will go directly towards providing **full scholarships** to disadvantaged youth.



Diwali Fair

As part of our efforts to raise awareness, we took part in the vibrant VOC Diwali Fair this year. Spanning three days, the fair was a fantastic platform to connect with the community, showcase our work, and raise funds through the sale of handmade crafts and merchandise. The response was heart-warming and reaffirmed the community's interest in and support for our mission.



Music Fundraiser – Bhavik Haria Live in Concert

To close out 2025 on a high note, we hosted a vibrant music concert headlined by the incredibly talented Bhavik Haria, who was joined by a line-up of local artists. Each performer brought their own unique style of music and dance, creating an unforgettable fusion of sounds and cultures that had the audience fully immersed and energized.

This special evening's fundraiser was held to raise funds for infrastructure development at Nado Enterit Primary School in Kajiado. The event brought together community, culture, and generosity in a truly memorable way.



Other Activities

A Day of Wonder at the Giraffe Centre

In January young learners from Mathatani Primary School, Mua Hills were treated to a trip to the Giraffe Centre. For many of these children, it was not just their first time seeing giraffes up close, but also their first time leaving their village. The journey itself was an adventure — the roar of traffic, the endless stream of cars, the towering buildings and paved streets. The excitement was infectious. Wide-eyed and full of curiosity, the children marvelled at the towering giraffes, fed them by hand, asked questions and laughed with pure delight. For the Amara team, it was humbling. We paused to see the world through their eyes — where everything was new and magical.



When Giving Becomes Impact

Throughout the year, we have been deeply moved by the generosity of individuals who have chosen to support our work through both in-kind contributions and financial donations. These gifts, big and small, have helped us extend our reach, deepen our impact, and continue creating meaningful opportunities for the communities we serve.

- A long-time supporter of our work, **Jayen Patel** continues to show incredible generosity and commitment to our work in promoting education in rural Kenya. This year, he once again rallied support on our behalf, collecting essential items ranging from school stationery to water bottles and thoughtfully packed lunch kits, complete with plates, mugs, and carry cases. We were also grateful to receive a donation of mathematical sets and calculators which will be a valuable resource for students as they prepare for the new school year.

I&M Foundation Day

In August, we had the privilege of participating in the I&M Foundation Day celebrations. The meaningful event that brought together organizations making a difference across Kenya. It was a day of connection, learning, and inspiration as we met other partners supported by the Foundation and shared stories of impact. We are especially grateful to I&M Foundation for supporting our scholarship program and helping us open doors of opportunity for disadvantaged youth. As the philanthropic arm of I&M Bank, the Foundation is driving real, lasting change across key sectors including education, health, environment, and economic empowerment.



- **Paras** and his family brought smiles to thousands of young faces by donating delicious doughnuts to the seven primary schools we support. Thanks to their generosity, nearly 6,000 learners enjoyed a sweet treat delivered right to their schools.

6,000 learners
Enjoyed sweet treats



- **Mario Cup – Season 2:** This year, Mario Cup received an overwhelming response from participants and supporters, resulting in even greater impact. As one of the beneficiaries of their fundraising efforts, Amara will use the proceeds to support a disadvantaged youth with a full scholarship that will allow them to pursue a skill-based course. Part of the funds received will also support Amara Charitable Trust's ongoing efforts to raise funds for Nado Enterit Primary School. Through this ongoing support, the Mario Cup Cricket League continues to exemplify its commitment to community development.

- **Trekking for a Good Cause**
Mitul Shah, all the way from Portugal, took on the incredible challenge of trekking to **Annapurna Base Camp** in Nepal, not just for the adventure, but to raise funds for education. Through his inspiring journey, Mitul raised enough to support scholarships for **Ken** and **Samuel**, two young men from Merciful Redeemer, a rescue home that provides care and support to vulnerable youth. Thanks to his efforts, both are now pursuing technical training at **St. Kizito Vocational Training College**, equipping them with the skills they need for a brighter future. We are truly grateful to Mitul for turning his passion into purpose and making a life-changing impact.



- Kwetu Home of Peace: this year, we had the privilege of extending our support to a remarkable centre dedicated to rehabilitating rescued street boys. Run with compassion and tireless dedication by Catholic sisters, the home offers not just shelter, but a renewed sense of hope, dignity, and belonging to young boys who have faced unimaginable hardship.

To support their efforts, we provided donations of warm blankets and toys, small comforts that we hope bring a sense of care and joy to the children. We were also deeply moved to receive lovingly handmade scarves and caps from the Amazing Knitting and Crocheting Group, whose beautiful work added a personal, heartfelt touch to the donation.



- Maria Buytaert, from Germany, is not only a true friend but also a passionate ambassador of Amara Charitable Trust. Her unwavering commitment to our mission continues to inspire us.

This year, Maria once again mobilized her network of friends to raise funds for a new playground at Iyarat Primary School in Kajiado, giving children a safe and joyful space to play and grow. She also collected much-needed medical supplies and first aid kits, which were donated to Our Lady of Lourdes College, where some of our sponsored students are pursuing medical-related courses.

Always thinking of how to brighten the lives of young people in rural Kenya, Maria also raised funds to purchase Lego, which were donated to Kwetu Home of Peace, bringing creativity and joy into the lives of boys in rehabilitation.



- Kenya Quilt Guild: We are deeply touched by the extraordinary generosity of the Kenya Quilt Guild, whose members hand-stitched 68 beautiful bedcovers and donated them to us. Each quilt carries hours of care, patience, and artistry and next year, when these handmade treasures are placed in students' rooms, they will bring not only colour and comfort, but a powerful message: someone cared enough to make this just for you.



Looking to the future

Our Education Fund Program:

Looking ahead to **2026**, we aim to enrol **40 young adults** into technical and vocational training programs. By the end of **2025**, **25 students**, whom we have supported through four years of secondary school will be completing their **KCSE exams**. Based on their results, we hope to transition as many as possible into our **TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training)** program, helping them take the next step toward meaningful careers and self-reliance.

Construction Program:

We are also preparing for a major transformation at **Nado Enterit Primary School**. In 2026, we plan to **completely overhaul the school's infrastructure** to create a safer, more supportive learning environment for the students who come from the Maasai community.

This ambitious project will include the construction of **two fully furnished dormitories, two classrooms with desks, a kitchen, store, and covered shelter**. We will also install energy-efficient stoves and implement a sustainable water solution to improve sanitation and hygiene

Closing Message from the Team,

As we close out the year, our hearts are full of gratitude to our donors, supporters, and friends. Your generosity, encouragement, and unwavering belief in our mission have made this year one of profound impact and transformation. Thanks to you, children have remained in school, young people have discovered new opportunities, and entire communities have been strengthened by your compassion and commitment to serving others.

Thank you for being the driving force behind this work and for standing beside us every step of the way.

Together, we have changed lives and together, we will continue building brighter futures in the year ahead.

From all of us at **Amara Charitable Trust**, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful, peaceful, and restful holiday season. May the new year bring you happiness, good health, and continued purpose.

With our best wishes,

The **Amara** Charitable **Trust** Team

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Website: www.amaratrust.org

