



International Women's Day



Homeless to a home owner **A story of Pamela**

Pamela, a mother of a 10 year old daughter, separated with her husband in 2004 after a longstanding domestic conflict and went back to her paternal home. While at her parent's home, she tested HIV positive with TB, her health worsened, and she became bedridden. Her brothers chased her away from their parents' home and she moved to a nearby rental house in town. She struggled to survive. In 2012, Pamela was enrolled into the WEEP program and HEART supported her with food, shelter, medical care and psycho-social support until she regained her health and acquired tailoring and business skills. She graduated in 2014 and is one of the outstanding WEEP alumni, successfully running her grocery and tailoring businesses and serves as a peer educator and a volunteer at a local health facility. Pamela is a trained "mentor mother" whose main aim is to empower expectant mothers to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission. Through her savings in the Pamela is one of our stories of coming from being abandoned and homeless to becoming a home owner HEART's Savings Internal Lending Communities (SILC) initiative she bought a piece of land and built a three roomed traditional house in 2017. She later upgraded her house with electricity..

Pamela said, "I am grateful for Mama Vickie for being a second mother to me. I feel secure with HEART staff; they are my real brothers and sisters because they have always stood by me in good and bad times, I have a lot of hopes in my future life and that of my daughter. It is true HEART has kept me alive to take care of my daughter and my dream was to give her a home that she can call her own".

The brothers who chased her away, now look up to her. As we celebrate International

Women's Day, Pamela is an example of a woman who has shown resilience, ambition and who sacrificially supports her house-hold and the community.

Written by Lydiah Njoroge and Alice Njoroge

HEART on Safari 2019

Greetings!

Today we are celebrating International Women's Day! Pamela's story above is one of so many women who are now thriving after graduating from WEEP!

I wanted to send a special thank you for all who attended our 19th Annual Dinner in Auburn last Saturday night! It was another awesome event with Isaac Mzee, Ellen Bowman and Steve Sacher all sharing the brief program alongside me. They each brought a different perspective and inspiring story. Many told me later it was our best event! Some of you could not attend but you sent in donations and stood with us in prayers and spirit. Please see the pictures below on

The HEART on Safari dinner was orchestrated by Stephanie Gunton and Pam Tweet and their team of volunteers. Thank you, Pam and Stephanie and each one that served our guests.

This event is a time to bring the HEART family together and raise money to further our cause for mothers in Kenya, like Pamela, and their children.

Thank you so much for being our partners!

Forever grateful,

Vickie Winkler
Founder/President

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