

Hope Matters International

Volunteer Introduction Packet

2021



Photo by Sarah Ackerly



Jambo!

Welcome and thank you for your interest in joining in the work at Hope Matters International! We are excited to see what God does in you and through all of our volunteers as they serve in Kenya.

We believe that this is not just a short-term trip; this is a long-time commitment of sharing Hope with the people of Kenya. In a world that can be completely overwhelming at times, one can often press on through situations that would have otherwise seemed impossible... if one can just hold on to HOPE. At Hope Matters, we have found that Africans have an incredible ability to hold on to the hope that things will get better. It is our desire to not only encourage that hope, but more importantly to point families and individuals towards the one hope that will always prove true, Jesus Christ.

We have prepared a guide that will help lead you through this journey. The guide will be distributed to you in several packages and will cover topics such as fundraising, trip planning, cultural learning and expectations, necessary forms and documents to travel, working in the field, and debriefing. Every package will have a checklist of things that will be required to get done as soon as possible.

As a team, we also recommend that you work through the book "Helping without Hurting: Participants Guide". This book will help give you a deeper understanding of poverty, prepare your expectations and goals for your time in Kenya, and challenge you to commit long term to the work that God is doing around the world. The book can be bought online or ordered as an e-book. Leaders will need to buy the leaders guide as well. The book will also give instructions on where to find the free online video series that goes along with the study. If your church already has training materials for short-term missions, make sure to go through it together as a team.

Are you excited yet? We sure are! Let's get started!

Expectations of Volunteers

Before Leaving for Africa:

- Teams need to meet at least 3 times as a team before leaving. Come to the meetings prepared to discuss fundraising ideas/progress, required readings, and any questions you may have.
- Secure all necessary funds. You will be required to raise money for all your expenses, a ministry project in the field, and a blessing/encouragement for the full time staff in Kenya. More details in the Financial package.
- Read through the packages carefully making sure that everything on the checklists is completed before leaving.
Learn at least 20 Swahili phrases. We will provide a list of common Swahili words and phrases. In our Culture package.
- Get acquainted with Kenya! We can't provide you with everything you need to know about Kenya so we ask you to take some time and do some research for yourself. Google the country, language, cultures/tribes, etc. Keep an eye on the news in Kenya or sign up for Google alerts. Find where Kipkarren River and Musembe (Uasin Gishu County) are on the map. Get to know as much as you can about the people you will be serving.

While on the field:

- Come to learn. Be quick to listen and seek to understand. Ask questions of your supervisors.
- Be flexible. Life in the village can be uncomfortable at times and things often don't always go as planned. Try to remember this little saying: Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be broken!
- Have a heart of service. Be willing to help wherever is needed. Sometimes even the most mundane tasks can be the greatest opportunities for ministry!
- Keep connected with Christ. Make sure to spend daily quiet time with Him. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you, teach you and give you strength.
- Plan at least one night for debriefing while in Kenya before returning home. This can be an overnight safari, trip to Rondo Retreat Center or even a night at a guesthouse in Eldoret or Nairobi.

When you return:

- Teams should plan at least one or two debriefing meetings with your team.
- Update your supporters, church, friends, and family about your time in Kenya. Share with them the things you have learned and the ways God is working in Kenya. Tell them of the ways God has worked in your heart and faith.

- Commit to supporting Hope Matters International through finances, prayers, becoming an advocate, or volunteering. We will give you more information on how you can get involved.
- Continue to seek God's specific call on your life to help fulfill His global purpose. Commit to listening to His voice and direction to the specific role you are to play in bringing God's hope to the lost and suffering.



Important Contact Information

USA Office

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Kenya Office

Hope Matters International

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KENYA

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About Hope Matters International

Hope Matters is an international ministry currently based in the USA and serving in Kenya. We are a registered non-profit in the USA and non-government-organization in Kenya. We were officially registered in both countries in 2013. However, the vision for the ministry began long before then and we'd like to share that story with you.

As a couple, William and Michelle Kiprop first met in 2004. Over the course of their courtship, they discovered that they shared hopes and dreams for making a difference in Africa. William had grown up in the highlands of Kenya and knew poverty and suffering first-hand. He was blessed during his teen years to find hope in Christ.

Michelle, originally from California, had first visited Africa in 1995 on a mission trip to Mozambique. While there, she experienced a minor injury. God used that event in her life to open her eyes to the incredible medical needs faced by millions of men, women, and children across the continent. She realized that as an American, she had the ability to travel to receive great medical care, but that there were Africans with life threatening conditions that had nowhere to turn. At that time, she knew she would one day return to Africa to not only bring the hope of Christ, but also as a medical practitioner to spread God's love and message of hope through physical and emotional healing.

They were married in 2007 and their son Ryan joined the family in 2011. After a number of years of service with another ministry, they felt God moving them to launch a holistic and sustainable ministry that would touch and impact the entire person through healthcare and community development. As a family, their hearts are united to bring hope to Africa through impacting body, mind and spirit. William brings a background in community development and agriculture, while Michelle has medical and community health expertise as a certified Family Nurse Practitioner and Public Health Nurse.

We believe that regardless of one's circumstances, there is always hope. Even on the darkest night, God's light burns vividly as a candle of hope in the deepest darkness. It is our ambition to allow that hope to shine brightly through the ministry of Hope Matters. Because we believe that Hope. Really. Does. Matter.

We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. - Romans 5:3



We believe that HOPE matters.

That's why William and Michelle Kiprop acted to put hands and feet to the vision of providing holistic care for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those living in their Kenyan community, in Jesus' Name.

Our Mission Statement

To minister the love of Christ in a tangible way by physically and spiritually reaching out to serve impoverished African families and individuals through community advancement, healthcare, and development programs.

Our Goals

At Hope Matters International, we are motivated...

- *To implement programs with a commitment to holistic care that addresses the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of those we serve.*
- *To operate under a sustainability model with a long-term commitment to the people and communities we serve.*
- *To provide comprehensive medical care with a preventative-health focus.*
- *To place a strong emphasis on education so that people will be empowered to make knowledgeable decisions about their own healthcare.*
- *To promote empowerment of orphans and vulnerable children.*
- *To mobilize medical and educational programs to reach disadvantaged peoples with limited access to healthcare.*
- *To partner with local health-care workers by training and working alongside them to improve quality of care in their communities.*
- *To create, and operate within, an atmosphere where patients will feel loved, accepted and empowered.*

Community Outreach Program

We believe in bringing treatment, prevention, relief, and education directly to the patient. That's why we have a mobile medical team that takes programs out into the communities where people live.

Our **Education Outreach Program** empowers individuals and communities by bringing trainings such as First Aid, Basic Healthcare, Women's Health, High Blood Pressure, and Diabetes directly to schools, community centers and churches.

The **Mobile Medical Unit** brings direct care programs into rural communities with limited access to quality medical care. We also work to promote health through nutrition and sustainable agriculture through providing **Agricultural Education** as well.

Our **Vulnerable Children** program assists local Children's Homes by providing well-child care for their children and health education for the house-parents. We also have a sponsorship program in place to assist at-risk children and youth to stay in school.

Village of Hope Medical Centers

We have two medical centers where patients can come for healing and wellness of body, mind and spirit. We currently operate the **Village of Hope Medical Center in Chebairwa and the Village of Hope Hospital in Chebarus, Musembe**. Our facility provides diagnostic, laboratory, treatment, and pharmaceutical services.

We also want to go beyond basic treatment. That's why we also have **Preventative Care**. We strive to promote a strong preventative program that addresses screening and early intervention for conditions like Malaria, HIV/AIDS, High Blood Pressure, Diabetes, Cervical Cancer, and Chronic Lung Problems. As part of this program we run a regular **Diabetes Support Group** meeting.

We also desire care for **Mental and Spiritual Health**. In order to truly be a comprehensive center, the mind must also be considered and cared for. We have a chaplaincy team working in both facilities and plan to make psychological services available in the near future.

The **Maternal Child Health** Care program exists for women to obtain services such as general gynecological, prenatal care, cervical cancer screening, and birth control. This department also hosts a well-child development program. Our new **Maternity Ward** allows mothers to come to deliver their babies in a safe and clean environment.

Checklist for Volunteers

___ Purchase “When Helping Hurts in Short Term Missions: Participants Guide” as a guide to prepare for your trip or ask your church if they have any training resources for missions.

___ Begin to look at flights for dates agreed upon with Hope Matters.

___ If you do not have a passport, apply for one. If you already have a passport, please check that it is valid for at least 6 months after your trip ends.

___ Familiarize yourself with Hope Matters International Website www.hopemattersintl.org. Like the Hope Matters Facebook page www.facebook.com/HopeMattersIntl or follow Hope Matters Instagram @hopemattersintl

___ Do some personal research on Kenya

___ Make a list of potential Donors

___ Sign the VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT FORM, RELEASE OF LIABILITY FORM, REIMBURSEMENT POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMNT, TRAVEL WARNING DISCLAIMER, and AUTHORIZEMENT FOR TREATMENT forms and return them to your Team Leader if you are on a team. Leaders and interns, you can scan these signed forms and email them to volunteer@hopemattersintl.org or you can mail them to:

Hope Matters International, PO Box 9293, Alta Loma, CA 91701

Optional: Search the bible for verses about the poor, sick, nations, needy, cultures, etc. to have a better understand of God’s heart for the people in Kenya.

Some suggested books for extra reading are: *The Hole in Our Gospel* by Richard Stearns, *Africa Friends and Money Matters* by David E. Maranz, *The Blue Sweater: Bridging the Gap Between Rich and Poor* by Jacqueline Novogratz.