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The Advocacy Project/Undugu Society of Kenya
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Personal Statement
What Receiving the Grant Has Meant to Me

The grant I received from the Jessica Jennifer Cohen Foundation has meant that I was able to do what very few people are able to. I was able to travel to a less developed country, live there for six months, and work every day on real, pressing issues with those affected. With the help of JJCF, I was able to have a lasting impact since I could devote a significant piece of time to community service work. Without a sponsor, people find it hard to support their volunteer work for extended periods, but with JJCF behind me, I knew that I could work hard and be focused solely on my mission of helping poor Kenyan children and youth. I was not distracted by financial issues, and had the opportunity to actually extend my community service work thanks to JJCF. The grant made this possible.

What is more is that the grant I received from JJCF told me that I always had someone back home (outside of my family and friends) who cared about what I was doing. It was easy to feel like no one was paying attention to my work while I was abroad, however, I knew that JJCF supported me. This meant that I had motivation to keep me going, knowing that I had an audience, no matter how small it may have been.

And finally, the grant instilled in me a sense of pride to be doing community service in memory of a young woman who was so devoted to it. It has been an honor to contribute to the work Jessica would have favored and to be part of the JJCF family. Thank you so much for all you have done!