



**SASA HARAMBEE**  
Now, Let Us All Pull Together!

**SasaHarambee.org**

**March, 2021**

**A Message in Celebration of Women from Carol Carper, Sasa Harambee Co-Founder**

As we pause this month to celebrate women, their courage, and spirit, I wanted to share the journeys of two remarkable Sigomere women with you. Just for a moment...

*Imagine your plight as a young woman with three young children. You have decided to flee your abusive husband and seek shelter with your family. As time passes, you are being pressured by your siblings to remarry and trade the rest of your life for a bridal dowry of farm animals.*



*A small distance away from you lives a teenager with increasing drama in her life. Twice, she has refused to marry much older men chosen for her. People gossip that she is another wife to her father. At her young age, she has become pregnant. Her mother is so upset she has tried to commit suicide.*

Yet when the lives of these Kenyan women seemed to be spiraling out of control, they found their voice and power. Against the odds, these women have become stronger and are moving forward. **And because of amazing Americans like you, we can serve more women like them each day.**

### **Julia's Story**



Eight years ago, Julia found the courage to say "No more," walking out the door and leaving the relationship violence of her marriage behind. She returned to her parents' home with three small children in tow. One of her children suffered from a severe seizure disorder. Because the seizures were never controlled, the little boy had never been to school.

Julia's brothers suggested she should remarry. Often a Kenyan family encourages a woman to get married again as a second or third wife. This brings parents and siblings a measure of prosperity, because the bride has a purchase price of cows, negotiated by the families. Julia resisted this suggestion and after a year of being at home with her

mother and father, she decided she wanted to get a high school degree. This is how, at the age of 32, she enrolled in the local high school.

Even though Julia had many home responsibilities she was determined. She met a Sasa Harambee teen volunteer in 2013. The teen's family began to support Julia's going to school. She is now in her fourth year of college. Julia's dream is to teach at the University. She now caters Sasa Harambee's meetings. With the money earned through catering and selling hay through SOAP, Julia finally has the funds to send her son with special education needs to school. **Julia's life is very different because of the generosity of American donors like you.**

### **Judith's Story**

Judith is a college student with dreams of being an independent entrepreneur. She is taking a beverage production and management course and will graduate in November, 2021. Her business plan is to open a kiosk by the county hospital to sell juice and snacks. She will create jobs for other young women who like herself, experienced pregnancy far too early in life. Judith is full of excitement about what lies ahead for her. But it was not always this way.



Judith became pregnant in her senior year of high school as a result of consensual teen sex. Meanwhile, Judith’s family became increasingly determined to have Judith marry an older man who would not object to accepting her and her little boy and to paying the bride price of a few cows for her. They brought two “suitable” men home to meet her and she turned them down.

In the aftermath, she decided to leave home and went to a nearby city. A friend took care of her child while she worked at a local restaurant and began school. She has received some government scholarship funds and has been able to stay in school. Judith also has become a valued member of Sasa Harambee’s *Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Health Ambassadors* program. **Your gift today ensures that participants hear from this wonderful role model through our program.** She truly embodies overcoming teen pregnancy and creating a life of meaning and self-sufficiency for herself and her child. ***And thank you for all that you do for these girls. You are part of their lives now, too.***

Sasa Harambee plans to continue using Judith’s message as a tool to inspire young women here. As Judith like to say, *“Everything in my life happens for a reason. It’s just God’s way.”*

I am happy to share that today, 63% of our Farmer Teachers are women, a measure of their increasingly empowered role in Sigomere society. We truly could not do what we do without you! With your generous support, Sasa Harambee continues to drive local programs that give women the opportunity to advance and find their power. Women are leading other women farmers to success.

So, as we pause to celebrate extraordinary women around the world, **I want to thank you for your commitment to this journey and ask, can I count on your continued support for Sasa Harambee’s programs in Sigomere?**

With a grateful heart,  
Carol



**Women Farmer Teachers in Sigomere**

**Yes, Carol!** Enclosed is my gift to Sasa Harambee for programs that empower women and train farmers for:

\$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  \$1,000  \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

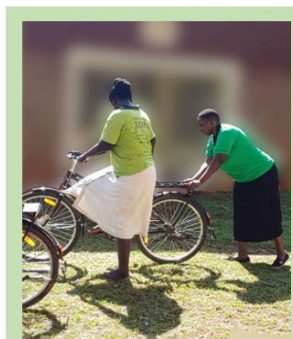
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make your check made payable to Sasa Harambee and mail to: **Sasa Harambee, 225 Union Blvd., Suite #150, Lakewood, CO 80228** or donate at **[www.SasaHarambee.org](http://www.SasaHarambee.org)**

*Sasa Harambee is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, #94-3435198. Your donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.*



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