Jeena Akkara, '97 **Charuru, Kenya**

CHARURU KENYA

Jeona Akkara 197

I extended the Six-week period of service to 51/2 mo in Kenya, It was positive experience in that I learned about myself and the people in Kenya. Staying longer allowed me to understand the reality behind the myth of Africa.

First going to Kenya, I was overwhelmed Byall the positive images of smiles and colors. This picture of the marketplace made me understand the community-centered rdeals (43, individual) Collaborative efforts are the norm. Any work performed is most likely done by many people, willingly and gladly. open market (where I got my food) sold all the common foods including maize, beans, spmach, plantains, bananas, and avacados



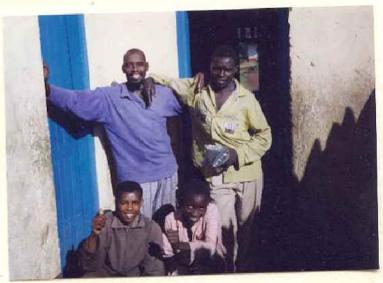


The children were one of my favorite aspects of my experience Their smiles, songs, and laughter made me think that kids everywhere have some of the same characteristic Some things, however, are drastically different from the U.S. like being hungry, taking cove of younger siblings allday, not being educated if one doesn't have money etc. Those wonderful anniles. prevail throughout difficulties.



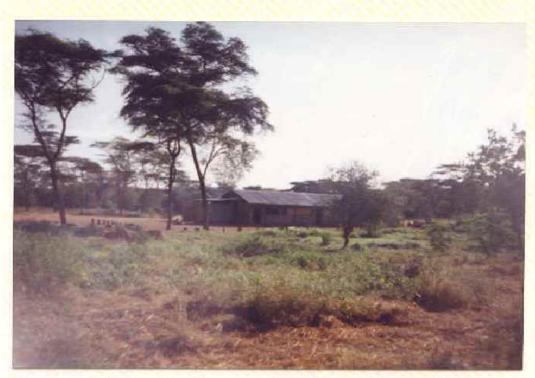
The majority of my time was spent in the school system (I wasteaching in the village of Charura and going to various high schools to address AIDS) In the interim I helped individuals to plant maize (as shown here). Kayathi and Wawira were constant friends of mine in the village whose smalles I'll always remember.

The man in the purple shirt is named Baba by everybody because he is a father figure to everyone. He was my second father during my 6 mo. in Kenya. He epitomizes much of the generosity, congeniality, and laid back attitude of many Kenyans. He often helped me in language barriers and to learn the needs of the community with my role.





place at the end of b mo was one of the hardest things to do. This was a goodbye party with many of the women that I was close to (Stella, Kayathi, Muthoni, Mwahambe t Wawira) who let me help them and let me feel I was part of the community and I think they helped me in ways that changed me. I could never have helped them as muchas they didne



This is a school run by the nuns. Schools were happy places in Kenya and at this particular school singing was a large part of the childrens day. The sisters were a vounderful in fluence on the lives of these children, as they were for John and myself.

This is Musa, the lab tech, working at one of the clinics. Fees at the clinic were kept very low, but only a few could afford the basic lab tests offered.

