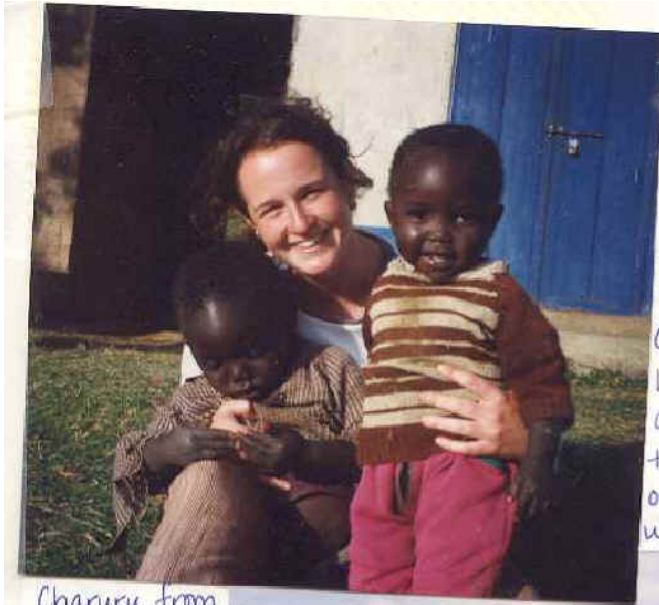


Erin O'Leary, '98

Charuru, Kenya



CHARURU
KENYA

Erin O'Leary



Here are just a couple of the faces of Charuru. Charuru is a small village located five travel hours outside of Nairobi. Even though we had no electricity or running water, there was no scarcity of love!

Charuru from a nearby mountain range. The village was surrounded by tea fields. Tea-picking was the predominant money-maker for the villagers.



Francis helped us "mow" our lawn. This is a picture of our yard. We spent many nights playing soccer and trading pictures and drawings by candlelight with Francis. What a smile!



became good friends with Juster after I bandaged her daughter's burned leg in the schoolyard one day. He is a very independent single mother of Esther, Phyllis, and Joshua. She taught me so much about African culture and life, in general. Who would have thought First Aid would teach me about the important things in life?

We constructed a tea seedling nursery with the village Youthmen Group. This was an important project to the village because tea is the major cash crop. We also worked with this group to complete the construction of a medical clinic and harvest charcoal. Their skills were amazing, as well as their patience with us!



This face greeted us every morning with wet kisses and big hugs. Willy, who we lovingly called "Wet Willy," was always full of stories that he told us in Kimeru, the tribal language. He did not mind that we didn't understand him! Another beautiful face, another unconditional show of care. This is how Charuru treated me. I cannot wait to go back. I miss my friends.
— EO —