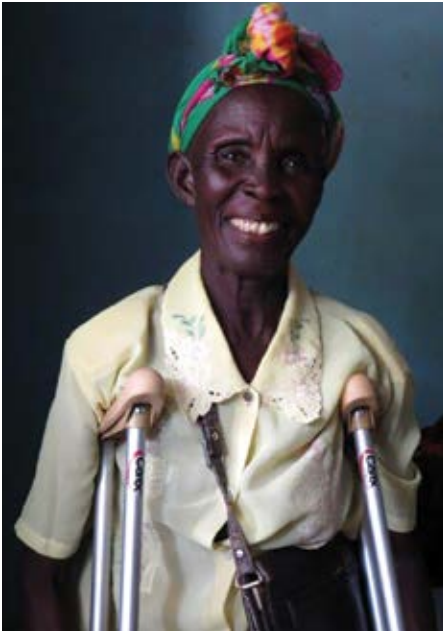


Lifted up by Angels

"We're lifted up by angels, Given wings to fly, Leave the night behind us, Trust the light to find us, Even as we rise."

- Song "Angels" by Jennifer K. Kimball / Tom Kimmel



Kenyan Recipient, photo courtesy of Dave Talbot, Crutches 4 Africa Founder

Lauren Lukas and her husband, Radd, have lived in Westbrook Village for a couple of years now. They moved to WV for the golf and have really enjoyed the amazing community, and the new friends and neighbors. The other aspect of their lives occurs through Lauren's workplace, American Furniture Warehouse. As AFW Special Events Coordinator, Lauren feels privileged to spend half of her time supporting non-profit organizations such as Toys for Tots, Hope for Hunger Food Drive, Easter Seals,

Muscular Dystrophy Association, Alzheimer's Association, The West Valley Mavericks, Make A Wish Foundation, Project C.U.R.E., Habitat for Humanity, Arizona's Children Association, The Honey Foundation, American Red Cross, Angels on Patrol and Homeless Youth Connection.

When Lauren began working in this capacity, she was thrilled to learn that that the AFW has supported the Rotary and Crutches 4 Africa for many years by picking-up, storing, inventorying and delivering the mobility devices. Africa already had found a big place in her heart, following her travels there twice before for a photo safari and a mission trip to Swaziland to help build an orphanage and plant gardens. Lauren met the local Rotary leadership last year and let them know she would be honored to go to Kenya as a chaperone with their Ambassadors to help distribute the mobility devices.



Another Joyful Recipient, photo courtesy of Dave Talbot, Crutches 4 Africa Founder

Currently Interact and Rotary District 5495 throughout Arizona have made Crutches 4 Africa their signature International Service Project. The goal is to fill a 40-foot shipping container and also send seven high school aged ambassadors to Kenya next summer to distribute mobility devices to those in need. The Rotary just recently notified Lauren that there was an opportunity for her to go in the summer of 2019!

During the month of January, Lauren will be hosting a drive in Westbrook Village to help the Rotary Clubs round up crutches, wheelchairs, walkers and canes. Stay tuned for more information regarding a WV mobility device donation drop-off location, as well as mobility device pick-up services. Prior to January, American Furniture Warehouse location (Glendale or Gilbert) is receiving mobility device donations.



Lauren with Frank, AFW Warehouse Manager



Lauren on Safari in Africa