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The Message of Maji

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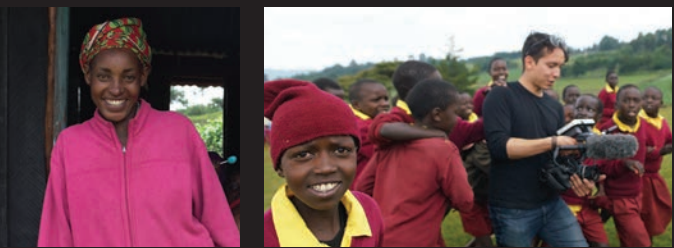
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The Message of



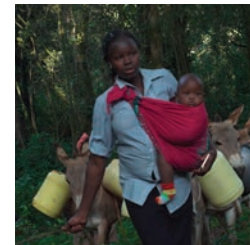
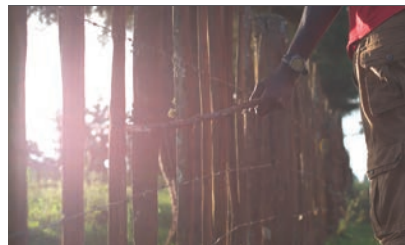
STUDENTS

When we read the application for a Davis Projects for Peace grant submitted by Benard Kibet '18, we were struck by both its simplicity and its ambition. With the analytical view of an economics major, Kibet had devised a way to bring water to his community in Kenya, potentially changing the lives of thousands of people for generations to come.

And he would do all of this for \$10,000.

In our offices on Mayflower Hill, we considered the best way to tell this story. We would have to send a reporter to Kenya, that was certain. But with a notebook and pen? An audio recorder? Or would we film this pivotal moment?

We wanted to show water sparkling, splashing and gurgling as the storage tank slowly filled. We wanted to show the reaction of Kibet's community. Film it would be.



We dispatched our talented staff filmmaker, Milton Guillén '15, to Kenya. Guillén and his associate, French-Nicaraguan filmmaker Nicolas Abanza, would have a week to document this historic time in Tinet, in Kenya's Rift Valley. In the end, they captured the power of the vision of a single Colby student and his determination to make the world a better place.

Kibet did just that, as the wonderful film *Maji* demonstrates. We can't think of a better demonstration of the impact of a Colby education, and the ways Colby's global perspective connects students and graduates to the world.

We plan for *Maji* to be the first of many films produced by *Colby Magazine* (a film on the life of painter Marsden Hartley is underway). We hope you find *Maji* informative, inspiring, and motivating. After all, Kibet is just one Colby student. As he points out, we all have the potential to have a positive impact on the lives of those around us. Let's take that message from Kibet and *Maji* and go forth with determination and a plan, whether it be to help a friend, a family, a village, a country, a generation. As the film so beautifully demonstrates, it can be done.

Gerry Boyle '78
Managing Editor
Colby Magazine

Photos by Milton Guillén '15 and Nicolas Abanza