

# Travel with Meaning

Micato Safaris wants to ensure that a safari won't just be a life-changing experience for you, but for the women and children of Kenya too.

INTERVIEWED BY COSTAS CHRIST PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI

**Who:** DENNIS PINTO, MANAGING DIRECTOR,  
JOY PHELAN-PINTO AND ANNA PINTO,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

**The cause:** "AmericaShare assists underserved women and children, with education as its core mission," explains Dennis. "We operate myriad programs, from school sponsorships to women's-empowerment handicraft groups to youth computer training. With Micato's One for One Commitment, for every safari sold, we send a child to school. We pay all fees, buy all required items, find the school, and make the arrangements. Every child deserves an education, and we're overjoyed to be working toward making this a reality."

**Most rewarding part:** "Meeting children like Justus Omondi Okeyo who have attended school through Micato's sponsorship program. At age 9, Justus couldn't read or write. Now, at age 16, he speaks perfect English and is a top-performing student. Knowing that through the gift of education we have helped hundreds of children like Justus – that's the best part about doing this work."

**Unexpected outcome:** "The positive effect of AmericaShare's work on American teenagers. We have countless examples of how they are deeply moved by interacting with orphaned and vulnerable children at our community center in Nairobi."

**Back, left to right:** Anna, Joy, and Dennis Pinto. **Front:** Tristan and Sasha Pinto (Dennis and Joy's children) flank Justus Omondi Okeyo, a beneficiary of Micato's school sponsorship program in Kenya.

**Most important thing we've learned:** "How generous Americans can be. Such generosity renews our faith in the world on a daily basis."

**Why travelers should give back:** "Just imagine what a positive difference we could make if every traveler donated even as little as \$1 for every day traveled."

**Best thing about doing good:** "Changing and improving lives. As Winston Churchill said, 'We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.' " VI



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Experience East Africa's top wildlife parks with style and substance on Micato's 15-day safari, with an opportunity to visit an AmericaShare project in Nairobi. *Departures: Weekly through 2011; from \$13,775.*