



## Summer 2025 Trip Information Packet





Parent Support



Teacher Training



Community Awareness Events



Family Fun Day

# CONNECT 2 AFRICA 2025

June 1 - June 15



School Visits



An



unforgettable



experience!

**\*FULL OR PARTIAL TRIP OPTIONS AVAILABLE\***





## TWIC

Tabasamu Watoto Inclusive Centre was ECI's first Partner and we have been visiting their school since 2016. TWIC is an early childhood inclusive school in Kibera, Kenya. In addition to education, they also provide an abundance of community outreach. ECI works with TWIC to provide community awareness trainings, caregiver trainings, and professional development for TWIC's teachers and other community members. Dennis Ochieng is the founder and principal of TWIC. We work closely with Dennis throughout the year to determine specific needs for each team trip.



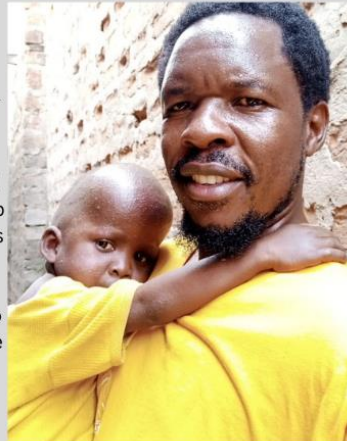
## Ardent Schools

Ardent Schools is an inclusive elementary school in Kantafu, Kenya. In addition to their school, they have Myles Autism Unit, which allows for therapeutic services to be provided to their students with disabilities. ECI and Ardent schools collaborate to host yearly community training days for parents, teachers, and other professionals in the field. Additionally, we have specific supports to Ardent's teachers. Judy is the founder of Ardent Schools. She has two sons who are both on the autism spectrum.

# A B O U T O U R P A R T N E R S

## Tender Care Institute

Tender Care is ECI's newest partner in Kenya. They are located in the town of Busia, near the Ugandan border. Tender care is a newly opened inclusive and early childhood school. Additionally, they plan to provide a day program and drop-off care to allow caregivers to shop at the local market twice per week. ECI is excited to be working with Tender Care to promote community awareness for individuals with disabilities, as well as to support their teachers in developing the skills to educate their students with disabilities and provide a welcoming learning environment.



## Connect2Rwanda

ECI is excited to be collaborating with a multitude of advocates in the city of Musanze, Rwanda. ECI, Ineza Kabaya, L'arc en ciel, and community officials will be working together to increase awareness efforts and educational supports for people with disabilities in the area. Ineza Kabaya is a learning and boarding centre for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and L'arc en ciel is an inclusive early childhood program. District officials are very involved in community developments. We are thrilled for this joint-effort opportunity!





# Tentative Itinerary

**Week Prior to Travel-** 1 Day Team Orientation (typically online)

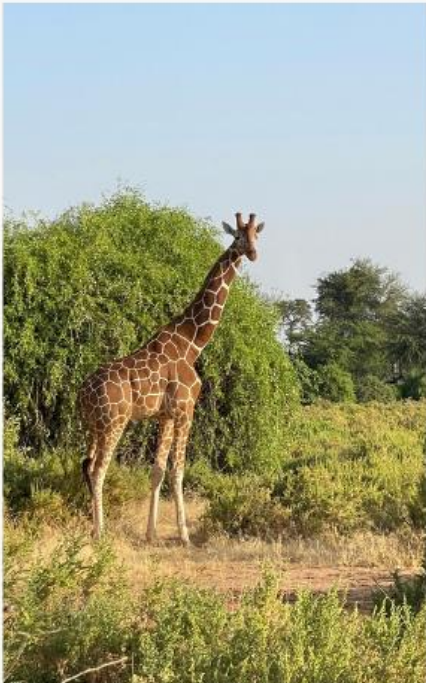
**June 1, 2025-** Team Departs Memphis together

**Week 1-** Team works in and explores Nairobi area (TWIC & Ardent Schools)

**Week 2 –** Team works in Busia town (Tender Care Inst.) and Musanze, Rwanda

**End of Week Two-** Excursion in Volcanoes National Park

**June 15, 2025-** Team returns to the USA



**Excursions:** Each trip we venture out to see more of the local area. In Kenya, you will have the opportunity to explore different parts of Nairobi; some options include The Giraffe Centre, Elephant Orphanage, safarriing in Nairobi National Park, and shopping at a Masai Market. In Rwanda, you will have the opportunity to join an excursion with the team in Volcanoes National Park. We will collect more information on the team's preferences and pick our specific adventures once we get closer to the trip dates. Excursion fees are separate from trip fees and are not tax deductible.

ECI's

# MISSION & MODEL

## Our Mission

We are dedicated to raising awareness for individuals with disabilities through parent empowerment, education, and resource development across the globe through sustainable efforts.

## Our Model

We promote and support sustainable development through our work with our partners. Sustainable development is "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (World Commission for Environment and Development).

## How We Do This:

- We offer a long-term commitment; we work with the same Partners year after year.
- We work collaboratively with our Partners to assist them in assessing the needs of their own communities.
- We are the hype girls, cheerleaders, & supporters. Our Partners are the leaders in their missions.
- We support our Partners in accessing and developing resources in their local communities so they can be accessed again in the future.
- If it's not replicable, we don't do it!

## Our Long-Term Goal:

To give our Partners the resources and skills they need to support themselves without us someday.

*"No matter what, the mission remains the same: close the doors one day because our local partners say they're good to go and don't need us anymore. I'm looking forward to the day when I wake up without a job. For now, I'm looking forward to the next two years of disrupting, building, and inspiring."*  
-Mark Hackett, Executive Director,  
Operation Broken Silence



## 2025 TRIP COSTS & DETAILS

| OPTIONS      | DATES                                      | COST    | DETAILS   |
|--------------|--|---------|---|
| FULL TRIP    | JUNE 1 - JUNE 15, 2025<br>KENYA & RWANDA   | \$4,500 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WORK AT ALL 3 PARTNER SITES IN KENYA + OUR PARTNERS IN RWANDA</li> <li>• FLIGHTS</li> <li>• 3 MEALS PER DAY</li> <li>• TRANSPORTATION</li> <li>• ACCOMMODATIONS</li> </ul> |
| PARTIAL TRIP | JUNE 1 - JUNE 8, 2025<br>NAIROBI AREA ONLY | \$3,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WORK AT TWIC &amp; ARDENT SCHOOLS ONLY</li> <li>• FLIGHTS</li> <li>• 3 MEALS PER DAY</li> <li>• TRANSPORTATION</li> <li>• ACCOMMODATIONS</li> </ul>                        |

**Not included in the cost of the trip:**

- Vaccines (please inquire with your doctor on necessary vaccines)
- Tourist Visa (this is applied for in advance, more details will be given)
- Snacks, alcoholic beverages, airport meals, shopping, daily exploring, and excursions

### \*Important Items to Note:

- The total cost of the trip can be fundraised.
- Dates may fluctuate by 1 day on either side of the trip depending on flights.
- ECI will book international flights and arrange accommodations, transportation, local meals, and excursions.
- Cost includes room for flight fluctuation and flight costs from Memphis International Airport. For safety and timeline reasons, the team must fly out together.
- If you would like to use airline miles, we can provide you with a modified fundraising amount.
- All donations & payments are tax deductible with the exception of money paid toward excursions.
- **Commitment Fee:** A \$250 commitment fee will be due within 14 days of being accepted for travel. This can be fundraised and counts towards your fundraising total.
- We can provide fundraising support and tips to help you raise the funds for your trip!

# Travel Scholarship Program

ECI is excited to announce the additional of our new program to assist those who have committed to us! In order to be eligible to receive scholarship funds toward your trip, you must meet the following qualifications:

|                           |                                   |   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| <i>Volunteer history:</i> | Traveled twice with us previously | Meet at least 1 of the following criteria:  |
|                           | &                                 | Take the lead on a yearly fundraiser for ECI (does not include independently fundraising for a trip).<br>or<br>Volunteer with us in 2 capacities each year:<br>-social media posts/marketing assistance<br>-volunteer at a fundraising event<br>-lead a monthly zoom training<br>-assist with grant writing |

Applicants can only receive funds once per year.

Applicants are assessed based on the previous year's volunteer work, with the exception of travel history.

*terms*

You will be able to request trip funds during the application process.



**Thank you for your interest in traveling with Exceptional Connections International! If you're excited about what you've read so far, then follow the link to apply to join our Summer 2025 Travel Team!**

<https://s.surveypalnet.com/n6ai3dfj>

If you have an application on file with us from 2022 or sooner, you will be prompted to skip certain questions. But please submit the application to us!

**Please submit your application by February 1, 2025**  
**Submit questions to [info@ExceptionalConnectionsInternational.com](mailto:info@ExceptionalConnectionsInternational.com)**



**Address: 941 Patterson Cove, Memphis, TN 38111**  
**Phone: 901-258-6011 501(c)(3) Tax ID: 82-3437565**  
**[www.ExceptionalConnectionsInternational.com](http://www.ExceptionalConnectionsInternational.com)**