

Our trip to Kenya was full of interesting experiences, so many of us who went now have entertaining anecdotes to share. Here's one from Stanley Guo, the Vice President of our Pleasanton Division.

“On the second day of my trip to Nairobi, my team and I went to the Nairobi National Museum. As we were walking toward the Museum, I noticed at least hundreds of students walking towards and waiting by the reception area. They were all staring at us like we were zoo animals. The older kids gave us weird looks, while some of the younger kids wanted to give us high fives. Later, Dennis — our driver — told me these kids come from more rural areas where foreigners don't travel to, so we were anomalies to these kids.

“When we toured around the museum, we learned about the history, culture, and many animals of Kenya, but the many interesting interactions I had were the most interesting part of my time there. First, a kid about ten years old approached me and said ‘Nihao’, and I responded by saying ‘Nihao’ back and told him I can speak English. The kid then turned and walked away while saying ‘Aw crap’, which gave me a good chuckle. Second, there was a kid who looked younger than the kid prior approached me and asked to touch my hair. I should have been taken back by this interaction, but nevertheless I let him touch my hair without being weirded out. He gave me a polite ‘Thank you’ and walked away, but this interaction was nothing compared to how wild the next one would be.

“I was taking a look at some taxidermy, and I noticed a couple of kids staring at me from the side, so I decided to greet them. They reciprocated my words with a warm handshake and all of a sudden around thirty other students started to crowd around me, wanting to talk to me. I was soon overwhelmed at the presence of so many kids surrounding me, and I was lost on what I should do until their teacher came in. He shook my hand and introduced himself to me. I saw him tell another student to record our conversation and then started interviewing me. He asked general questions such as my name, where I was from, and how my stay in Kenya was so far. He also quizzed me on certain questions on Kenya such as who the president is, and luckily I got all of them right. I was taken back at how friendly he was to me, and how enthusiastic he was while asking me these questions. My team later came to find me surrounded by 40 kids after they noticed I was missing, and we ended up taking an unforgettable photo with each other. This day was one of my highlights during this trip, and the feature that made it unforgettable wasn't the environment or the wildlife, but the people.”

The people of Kenya are one of the main reasons we work to help support the country and its natural beauty. Even though Wildlife Without Borders is just getting off the ground, we've still been making definite progress. Here's what we did in September and what we plan to do in the future.

We signed a contract with The Habitat Watcher Foundation, Ivymax Foundation, and Saen Leduputo Ventures Ltd. for the construction of a WiFi tower that will soon be built in Kenya, which will cost \$2000 to build and \$30 per month to maintain. So far, we've raised \$1000 through generous donations.

We're currently in the process of raising money by various means. We've already created a virtual storefront to sell boxes of candy through the See's Candy Yum-Raising Program. Our GoFundMe page is now up as well. We plan to request sponsorships from various environmentally-focused local companies. On our Shopify page, we will sell bracelets and other souvenirs we brought from Kenya.

Eventually, we intend to begin fundraising through physical events in our communities. We also plan to create more social media posts on our Instagram and TikTok accounts that will increase awareness of the mission and the fundraising activities of Wildlife Without Borders. Once the Wi-Fi tower has been constructed and paid for, we will recruit student tutors to virtually teach Kenyan children at Destiny Sharper School about the importance of conserving the environment and living sustainably.