Berkshire Missions, Inc. /Africa Connect Mission Statement

Berkshire Missions, Inc. is a grass roots 501C(3) non-profit doing business as Africa Connect, a Christian outreach based in Kitale, Kenya since 2006.

**Our Vision:**

We believe that positive, lasting change to the human condition is realized only through meaningful relational exchange on all levels; with God, with one another, and in a community. Our vision is to help facilitate this exchange between people of different cultures and nationalities, and through it empower individuals, families, and communities to live in the personal dignity, health, and wholeness for which God created them. We in the West need the spiritual and cultural strengths of Africa as desperately as Africa needs the diverse resources of the West. There is tremendous transformational power in practical, compassionate and sacrificial connection.

*“Our desire is… that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need.” 2 Corinthians 8:13-14 NIV*

**Our Strategy:**

1. To support nationals who have demonstrated integrity and a passion for their own people, through Cross-cultural partnerships built on equality, justice, mutual understanding and unity of purpose, in an atmosphere and structure of mutual accountability and Christ-like, loving service.
2. To reach, through support and partnership with indigenous projects, the orphans and vulnerable children of this world; to give them opportunity to be lovingly nurtured and equipped as tomorrow’s godly leaders. This will be done through education, feeding programs, health care, medical care, and counseling, and seeking the enrichment and empowerment of the child’s family or caregivers, all in the context of the gospel.
3. To help young men and women overcome the obstacles to a healthy and purposeful life, to help provide the appropriate education, and to empower single parents and widows through practical skills and business training, health instruction and Bible teaching.
4. To reach those who have not heard or responded to the message of Christ’s gospel, through support of and engagement in indigenous outreach efforts including, but not limited to: radio, film showings and crusades, food distributions, and medical clinics and urgent care in rural areas where such care is not available. We seek to reveal the Love of God through both the presentation of the Word and compassionate, holistic care that demonstrates that love.
5. To facilitate deeper understanding, experience, and perspective between peoples and cultures, through networking with other like-minded organizations and by organizing missions trips which create opportunities to develop relationships and engage in the practical work in the field.
6. Field decisions as to distribution of donated resources will be driven by relevant and actual need over bureaucracy and overseas management. Therefore, we will always place high priority on representative parties spending time on the ground.

**Our Values:**

1. Person over project
2. Relationship over task
3. Integrity over convenience
4. Accountability and regular reporting to donors
5. Material aid must complement internal change that reflects in a higher quality of life in the whole community. Therefore, we seek measurable and sustainable improvements, while promoting justice and equal economic opportunity rather than mere handouts. This entails providing aid in a manner that does not reinforce dependence on the West, yet because it is based on relationship, there must be a willingness to commit to long-term involvement. The balance is found in humble and persistent communication and applied wisdom to each unique circumstance and relationship.