



# Capstone Ministries



Restoring Children! Strengthening Families!

**“The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone” Psalm 118:22**

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Capstone Ministries is an RSO (Recognized Service Organization) of LC-MS (Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.)



#### USA Address:

Capstone Ministries  
P.O. Box 2080  
Oakdale, CA 95361

#### Kenya Address:

Dan and Patty Schmelzer  
P.O. Box 3962  
Kisumu, Kenya 40100

The number of  
street boys  
reconciled with  
family by  
Capstone  
Ministries to date:

# 543

8 boys went home in Oct.

Email: [CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com](mailto:CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com)

Website: [WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org](http://WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org)

## “A Letter by Pr. Robert Schipul” “The Hand of God”

“The vision of Capstone has been working through a unique process of discernment and unlikely relationships. Faith and commitment in the Lord’s guidance has made the return of 543 young boys to their family homes a reality.

Our journey into this amazing Kenyan ministry came at a time we least expected to be involved in a new District (LCMS) mission. The NED Mission Chair: Rev. Timothy Yeadon invited 10 Pastor’s and laypeople to travel to Kenya to explore how we might assist the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya in their ministry. I didn’t want to go. “Let someone else have a great missional experience. I had mine!” “No, Come with us!” was the response of Chairman Yeadon. We were going to accomplish something great. We were going to build something. Well, we didn’t. What we did build were relationships. After touring western Kenya and thoroughly exhausted, on the last day of our trip, we finally met a husband and wife team who were Rotarians. Come to find out they were Lutheran and Dan Schmelzer was a Lutheran Pastor. We invited them to dinner that night and left the table to become life-long friends. The Hand of God was present.

They were looking for a meaningful way to serve the Lord. They had been supervising an “Orphanage” and were frustrated because these children did have parents or other relatives that could raise them. Dan and Patty were now looking for a way to restore street kids with their families instead of placing them in some kind of custodial institution. A year later we invited them to visit New England. For two weeks we introduced them to Local congregations and LWML groups and began to build a support group. The Hand of the Lord was at work.

Missions fundraising had always been a challenge. But with Dan and Patty and the new Capstone Ministries format for effective outreach, hearts were opened and the story became so easy to tell. Sandra and I never thought that we would be involved in another mission outreach but this was different, exciting and just seemed the right way to go. The Hand of God was working.

During the 14 years we have worked with Dan and Patty, welcomed them stateside every year, shared personal experiences and most importantly; watched the Capstone Mission grow, change, adapt as the Lord continued to lead us; I began to see more clearly the Hand of the Lord at work. And that revelation has encouraged Sandra and I, and so many other supporters across the country to help advance this good work.

Not only has the Ministry changed and adapted to become more effective, but Capstone has become truly transparent, accountable and a model for mission start-ups. An 11 member Board of Directors from 6 states meets quarterly by video phone conference to review 12 pages of quarterly reports. We also meet bi-annually in retreat here in the states and help to guide and nurture Dan and Patty in discerning where this Hand of the Lord is leading the mission. Each stateside visit brings new supporters as they tell the Capstone Story.

This does make Capstone Ministries both unique and effective in the work the Lord has led us to do. Part of the “uniqueness” is that they have empowered their indigenous staff to effectively administer and carry out the day to day activities. I know that I can speak for the rest of the Board of Capstone and say: “What a joy to be in ‘mission’ with two beautiful, committed and effective mission partners in Dan and Patty Schmelzer whom we call our Brother and Sister in Christ.”

Rev. Robert and Sandra Schipul  
 Hingham, MA  
 Board Member

## Rescues in September

Eight boys were rescued during October. Watch for upcoming newsletters for their photos. Pray they remain at home and in school. God bless you for your support of Capstone Ministries.

### Dan and Patty’s Nov. / Dec. Travel Schedule

- Nov. 3 St. John’s Lutheran, Fallon, NV
- Nov. 6 St. Peter’s Lutheran School Chapel, Lodi
- Nov. 10 St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Lodi, CA
- Nov. 17 St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Elk Grove,
- Nov. 24 United Lutheran Church, Manteca, CA
- Nov. 27 St. Peter’s Lutheran School Chapel, Reedsburg, WI
- Dec. 1 Messiah Lutheran Church, Mounds View, MN
- Dec. 8 Village Lutheran Church, Ladue,

### “The Long Road Home”

Dan’s second book is available for purchase on Amazon. It is an accurate description of rural Kenyan life and includes many of the challenging circumstances faced by the staff of Capstone Ministries. Follow Timo as he goes through one challenge after another and finally is reconciled with his family. Illustrated by Maxwell Abwamba, one of the boys Capstone reconciled in 2008.



#### Donation: Capstone Ministries & Dan and Patty support

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Designation if any \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Capstone Ministries. All donations are tax deductible.

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