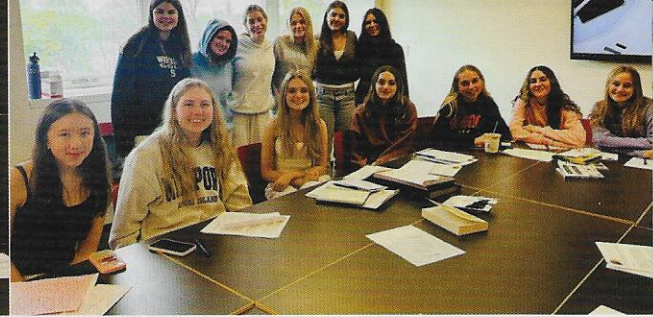




# FROM WESTPORT TO KENYA

## *How Local Mothers and Daughters Are Making a Global Impact*

By Jessica Hernandez | Photos supplied by Jessica Hernandez

One of the things that makes Westport special is its commitment to giving back. Whether it's supporting local nonprofits, volunteering at community events, or mentoring the next generation, service has long been woven into the fabric of our town.

That spirit is on full display through the National Charity League (NCL) Westport Chapter, where mothers and daughters come together to strengthen their community while learning the value of leadership, philanthropy, and connection. Founded in 2006, the Westport chapter serves families throughout Westport and Weston and has become one of the area's most active volunteer organizations, supporting dozens of local and national charities each year.

This year, the chapter has extended its reach far beyond Fairfield County through a meaningful partnership with Lift the Lid, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering students through education, mentorship, and global friendship. Through the initiative, members of NCL Westport are participating in a pen pal program that connects local girls with students at Lenana Girls' Boarding School in Kitale, Kenya. The

goal is simple but powerful: create meaningful relationships that foster understanding, encouragement, and cultural exchange.

Lift the Lid hopes to connect 145 girls from Connecticut with 145 students in Kenya, creating friendships that transcend geography and remind participants just how much they have in common despite living worlds apart. Through letters, shared stories, and ongoing communication, these young women are learning about each other's daily lives, dreams, challenges, and aspirations.

For Westport families, the program offers something especially valuable. In a world increasingly dominated by screens and social media, handwritten letters encourage thoughtful communication, empathy, and genuine human connection. The experience also provides local girls with a broader perspective on global issues while helping them recognize the opportunities and resources available within their own community.

The partnership reflects the mission that has guided the National Charity League for generations. Across the country, NCL brings mothers and daughters together through community service, leadership

development, and cultural experiences. The Westport chapter continues that tradition while supporting more than 30 nonprofit organizations and encouraging members to become lifelong volunteers and civic leaders.

What makes this particular project so inspiring is that it demonstrates how a local act of kindness can have a global impact. A letter written at a kitchen table in Westport may arrive in Kenya carrying encouragement, friendship, and inspiration. In return, it offers local students a window into another culture and a deeper appreciation for the shared hopes that connect young people around the world.

As summer winds down and families begin preparing for a new school year, the NCL and Lift the Lid partnership serves as a reminder that some of the most meaningful lessons happen outside the classroom. Through service, compassion, and connection, Westport's next generation is learning that making a difference doesn't always require grand gestures. Sometimes, it starts with a simple letter and a willingness to reach across the world to make a new friend.

*In a community known for its generosity, that's a lesson worth celebrating.*

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