

## Loise Wangare



Changing lives stitch by stitch

# Kenana Knitters

Loise was introduced to the knitters by her neighbor Jane Wacuka. Prior to joining the knitters Loise had been working at a flower farm in the area. Sadly while working at the flower farm in 2013 she dislocated her hip joint and ended up having to undergo hip replacement surgery. During the healing process she suffered a blood clot which resulted in peroneal nerve dysfunction that later led to amputation of her lower foot and toes. While she was recuperating from surgery, she found herself pregnant with her 5<sup>th</sup> child in 2016. As the sole bread winner and almost bedridden from her hip surgery she had lost all hope of getting work and being able to fend for her children. Loise joined the knitters when her daughter was 4 months old.

Our initial assessment of Loise was that she was bitter and angry at the world. Her emotional status at the time reflected on her knitting which was so shockingly bad that after a couple of weeks at the knitters we considered sending her away completely. As the months went by and she started to make friends and join into the general camaraderie of the ladies at the workshop; we started to see a general improvement in her work. As her confidence grew, she began to knit beautifully. Today, 2 years later she is a wonderful addition to the knitter's team, highly dependable and an excellent team player.

*I want to thank Anna Akai the knitters workshop manager who really encouraged me not to give up as a knitter. My family has benefitted greatly from my work here. I no longer rely on assistance from friends and family. My daughter is now almost 3 years old and my older children are carrying on with their education uninterrupted. I am so thankful for the opportunity and that fact that they didn't give up on me. I pray that God continues to bless Kenana Knitters so that they may continue helping the women who work here and those who will come to work here in the future.*

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