



The girl destined for independence.

"She never had a sound. There was this time she imitated the sound of bird, ah! That's when she was two years old..."

Melissa's mother recalls the early days of her daughter's diagnosis, noting the excitement she felt when hearing vocal imitation from her toddler. Born in 2001, Melissa was not diagnosed as autistic until age three. At that time, it was said that she would never have words and would likely struggle greatly with independent living skills.

Today, she is leaping over milestones and will begin vocational training at Kaizora in Nairobi, Kenya as she continues to develop her independence as a young adult.

This **April**, we're sharing stories of change!

Do you want to read more stories like this one? Click to the **RIGHT!**

VIEW THE APRIL CAMPAIGN!

Meet Melissa.

For the past 6 years, Melissa has been receiving ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) therapy at Kaizora, along with 14 of her peers.

As she was once told she would never have words, she is now typing words independently from books. She's learning to read, use the computer, and loves swimming. She is also an avid puzzle solver and has made incredible progress managing her personal needs, independently.





A mother and daughter working together for acceptance.

Melissa's mother Elizabeth plays an incredible role at Kaizora Consultants. She comes to the center to not only play music for all the students, but to support her daughter and model advocacy in her community. Melissa's growth and progress has been incredible to watch over the years, and her dedication to learning is incredibly inspiring.

This **April**, we're writing a story of *HOPE* with each of you. We're looking for 100 advocates to invest in the story by joining **COMPASS**, our monthly giving program.

Will you join **COMPASS** to keep these stories going?

**I WANT TO JOIN THE
MOVEMENT**



There's a story waiting to be written...

A story of acceptance, understanding, and change.

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The Global Autism Project has been collecting stories for over 13 years. We've met parents, children and champions who fight for the acceptance of autism in their communities. Their stories are of challenge and hardship, and of triumph and hope. Their advocacy is inspiring, and their stories have already changed the lives of so many.

But there is one story that is still being written... It's the story of change.

This April, we're embracing the month of Autism Awareness to write the first chapters with you. Our mission is to promote the acceptance and integration of people with autism worldwide by training communities in culturally relevant, quality practices. In an effort to grow this movement and deliver on our mission, we're asking 100 people to [invest in change](#) for all people with autism.

When you join [COMPASS](#), our monthly giving program, you become an active writer in the story of change. Your investment allows our organization to partner with centers all over the world, train local professionals in best practices, and promote awareness. When you join [COMPASS](#), you change the language of this story. You write acceptance instead of rejection. You shape fear into *hope*.

[I WANT TO CHANGE FEAR INTO HOPE!](#)



Meet Melissa!

A girl determined to reach her potential!