

To Africa with Love, NFP - 2022 Mid-Year Update

Dear Friends of To Africa with Love, NFP,

We are pleased to share with you our annual "Mid-Year" Update!

After navigating some supply chain challenges at the start of the year, we were able to kick-off our programs in February, with a **Pads with a Purpose** event at **Naivasha Secondary School, where over 275 young women participated!**

These girls were all finishing off their final year of school, so this was an exciting way to wrap up their formal education and begin to explore what might lie ahead.



Shout Out to Geneva High School Students for their Support!

Magazines used in our Pads with a Purpose Events are very difficult to come by in Kenya. We are so very grateful to the students from Geneva High School (Geneva, IL) who spend time clipping words and pictures from magazines, which are then brought to Kenya for the events. In the 2021-22 school year, students contributed over 90 hours clipping magazines for To Africa with Love, NFP!

In early **March** we then kicked off our **2022 Amka Cohort, with 8 young women participating** this year! The girls met regularly during their school break (March-April), discussing topics related to Self, Faith, Family/Friends/Community, Service and Work, hearing from local Guest Speakers (including young Kenyan poet Hope Wambui and community activist GAZslum Wafalme) and engaging in a variety of Experiential Learning Activities (including hiking in the Karura Forest, yoga, swimming, and cleaning up in their community). The cohort also had a chance to help at Pads with a Purpose events and learn bead making from 2020 Amka Cohort Graduate Hilda Onamu!



This year, we are thrilled to share that **we've enhanced the Amka experience with the addition of 1:1 coaching.** In alignment with a core part of To Africa with Love, NFP's mission to "connect," across cultures, we've engaged **7 Certified Coaches from the US** who have been partnering with the Cohort to discover even more about themselves and how they can tap into their innate ability to navigate life's choices and challenges. We are so very grateful to this inaugural crew of coaches for saying yes to this opportunity, and helping these young women unleash their potential!

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In 2022, our newest program - **Acts of Love** – also continued, providing small, one-time, financial contributions to fill a specific, immediate need of a person or group. Our most recent Act of Love being **helping a woman start her own business**.

As we enter this second half of the year we will be **continuing our Pads with a Purpose events**, with an aim to reach 500 young women, and **making preparations for the next phase of our engagement with the Amka 2022 Cohort**, when they finish up their school year in late November. We are also excited to announce that **Karen's next trip to Kenya will likely be in January**, so if you'd like to make plans to join her, please feel free to let us know (toafricawithlove@yahoo.com)!

In addition, we are in the process of ideating around an in-person (Chicago area) fundraiser in early December and are actively working on a “testimonial” video to share the updates and great progress of our Amka 2020 Cohort, so stay tuned for more details and updates to come! (Photo right, is a sneak peak, of one of the Amka 2020 Cohort graduates, at work in an internship as part of her coursework to become an electrician).

We remain immensely grateful to the support of all our **Friends of To Africa with Love, NFP**. We'd like to also give a special mention to both the Wheaton Franciscan Sisters Corporation and the Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception, who have generously awarded grants to us this year to support our efforts. Every dollar indeed matters and goes directly to our programs!

We will continue to share the message about the work that we are doing – and the real impact it is having. To help us in this endeavor, **we encourage you to pass along this newsletter to a friend** and visit our website at www.tawl.org for on-going information and updates.

We cannot continue this work without the encouragement and support of the broader network and are truly blessed to count you among that community!



With gratitude,

TO AFRICA
with **LOVE**



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