

2023 Fall Newsletter

**Supporting women
and youth in Kenya**

**P.O. Box 516
Menlo Park, CA 94026**

November 2023

Margo Returns to Lead Kenya Help



After a brief retirement, Margo has returned to be part of the Kenya Help/ Empower The World

partnership. We hope to continue our strong program of supporting bright, needy young people to achieve an education. We believe it supports not just the student, but also the family and ultimately the country.

Exams and schools in Kenya.

Kenya Curriculum Primary Exam (KCPE) is taken at the end of the 8th grade. Out of a possible 500 points, a score above 300 is considered quite good.

Kenya Curriculum Secondary Exam (KCSE) is taken at the end of high school. It is scored on an A, B, C basis, with an A score being very difficult to achieve. B+ is outstanding.

Kenyan high schools are not free, but fees vary. While day schools are cheaper, boarding schools are believed to provide better preparation for the all-important KCSE.

Fr. Kiriti's Note

Since the inception of Empower the World Foundation, I have learned many lessons. The latest is you can't pick a boy or a girl from a family and claim to be helping the family overcome poverty. We have had two cases which have proved me wrong. I have changed the names.

John, a form four student, performs at the A level. Late last year he failed to turn up on opening day. After a week the school called enquire about his whereabouts. Phone calls were made and promises were given but he did return to school. I visited the family and they promised to get John to school. From neighbors I learned that John was breaking stone in a quarry with his uncle to bring food into the family. It took the intervention of the government official to get him back to school. John will complete sitting for the end-of-secondary-school exam in November. ETW hopes his results will make him a contender for university support.

Mary is a form two student. One time she came home for holiday only to find there was no food at home. She went to a nearby shop to ask a loan of a packet of corn flour, promising to look for money and pay. Unfortunately, on that day it was the son of the owner who was selling. The boy asked Mary to come and collect the flour later in the evening. That evening for sure she came back home with corn flour plus a child in her womb. In January Mary will return to a new high school to take up her education. Her mother will care for her child. We helped find a nearby day school for Mary that will allow her to continue her education and spend time with her baby.

From the above, I have learned that we need a wholistic approach to the ministry. Sometimes we need to provide help to the family so the student can be in school and study without worry, knowing the family will eat.

Please Donate

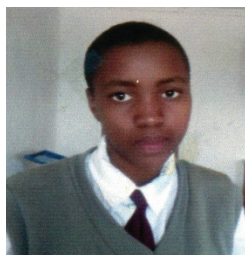


The 2023 Intake Report

Every year, with funding from Kenya Help, Empower the World Foundation (ETW) sponsors a select group of students who have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement and determination. These students come from a variety of backgrounds, each with their own unique story of resilience and perseverance. By supporting them with scholarships, mentorship programs, and educational resources, we strive to provide them with the opportunities they need to succeed. Our sponsorship program not only recognizes their accomplishments but also empowers them to pursue their dreams and make a positive impact in their communities.

The following students benefited from our annual scholarship program:

Mercy Wanjiru Mwangi



Mercy is the last-born child in a family of 5. She got placement at St. Maria Veronica Girls Secondary

School. Currently she is in form two and risked dropping out due to financial constraints in her family. Mercy's father cannot support the family in any way. The mother is a subsistence farmer.

Lucy Nyambura Kuria



Lucy Nyambura Kuria is 20 years old and the eldest in a family of 6. Her parents are unemployed.

Lucy has hearing impairment and attended Ngala School for the Deaf for her primary and secondary education. Currently Lucy is taking a Diploma in Catering

and Accommodation Management. Her dream is to join Kenya Technical Trainers College so that she can later train people suffering with deafness.



Derrick Munene

Derrick, 20 years of age, born in a family of two. He attended Nakuru Primary school but unfortunately, he did not finish his secondary school due to financial constraints. He was rescued from the streets after dropping out of school. He is at the Vocational Training Center doing a course in Catering and Accommodation. His father works as a hawker in Nakuru and has shown relentless effort and determination in providing a decent life for his children.

Jacob Mbandu Munyendo



Jacob, the eldest of three, is being raised by a single mother after his father, who worked as a driver of the Catholic Diocese of Nakuru, passed on due to a tragic car accident. He has now joined St. Joseph's Minor seminary. He hopes to be a priest in the future.

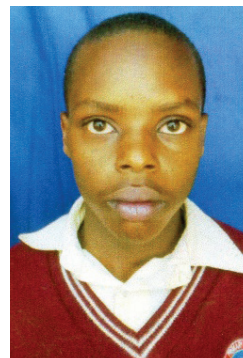
Moses Wachira Wamahiou



Moses is the eldest of two siblings. While attending Kinungi Primary School, he tragically lost his mother at a crucial period when he was preparing for his KCPE exams. He lives with his elderly grandmother and is currently in

form one at Archbishop Ndingi Secondary School for Boys.

Erick Leboo Mbiombo



Erick is the fourth-born in a family of five. Born into a single-parent family, Erick's mother is a hardworking woman who supports her

children through various menial jobs, such as cleaning people's laundry. Erick and his family currently reside in a house provided by a well-wisher. Their living situation underscores the stark reality that they do not own any property.

Naomi Resian Salash



Naomi is the eldest of five siblings. She resides with her unemployed parents in their rural home. They rely on menial jobs to make

ends meet. Her score of 342 on the KCPE is remarkable, considering the financial constraints faced by her family

Naomi is now a proud student at Maai Mahiu Girls' School. This opportunity not only offers her access to quality education but also represents a beacon of hope for other young girls in her community, demonstrating that dreams can be realized through education.

Success Stories

Kelvin Thairu



My name is Kelvin Thairu. I was born in a family of nine, and I am the sixth child. In 2011, my beloved mother passed away, making life more challenging at home. We relied on our father, who was a small-scale farmer. Due to financial constraints, some of my brothers had to drop out of school. The situation at home began to affect my performance in school. When I was in grade 5, and I was forced to stay at home for one month.

Before the end of that term, my class teacher, Mr. Kiria informed me that he was willing to pay my school fees. I returned to school but could not afford lunch for the entire academic year. My school uniform was torn and unkempt. Nevertheless, I continued to do my best in school and consistently ranked at the top of my class. When I reached class 8, the head teacher brought some forms from Empower the World Foundation scholarship program. I was one of the students selected to fill out the forms. I sat for my KCPE national exams and scored 344.

I was accepted, and Hillary Agisa from ETW conducted a home visit. I was over the moon and could not believe that I was to join secondary school. I was admitted to Archbishop Ndingi Secondary School. ETW ensured that I had everything I needed. I took my KCSE and achieved a score of B+. I am incredibly grateful for the support I received from ETW. It alleviated the burden on my father, and I firmly believe that the future is bright.

Karuma Veronica Wambaire



Karuma Veronica Wambaire's life journey is a testament to resilience and determination. Born into a family of four, her path took an unexpected turn when her older sister fell seriously ill, leaving Veronica to shoulder the responsibilities of the eldest child. Her role as the responsible one was further solidified when her parents separated in 2016, and the family moved to Lanet, Nakuru. During this tumultuous period, Veronica took charge of her education as her own tutor, joining a new school as the term was ending.

Tragedy struck when her grandmother passed away just before her end-of-term exams, but Veronica's determination pushed her to excel academically, surprising even her teachers. While life at home remained challenging due to financial hardships, Veronica scored an impressive 374 marks in her KCPE exams, a source of immense joy for her family. Her dreams of attending Njonjo Girls' High School seemed uncertain due to the hefty tuition fees, but a scholarship from ETW provided a lifeline. With their support, Veronica achieved a remarkable B+ in her final exams, paving the way for her enrollment at the University of Nairobi.

Despite personal setbacks, including the loss of her father, Veronica's resolve to overcome life's challenges remains unshaken. She secured a teaching position at Anestar Boys High School, contributing to her family's financial well-being while pursuing her education. Veronica's story is a testament to the power of perseverance, faith, and the support of organizations like ETW.

Please Donate





**Supporting women
and youth in Kenya**

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Rev. Daniel Kiriti

**Kenya Help/
Empower the World**

Kenya Help is a US registered Foundation, established in 2005, receiving tax-exempt status (EIN 35-2314350) in 2007. **Empower the World (ETW)** is a similar tax-exempt foundation registered in Kenya. It was established to disburse funds raised by Kenya Help, receive applications for scholarships, vet those families and choose the students to be sponsored by Kenya Help funds. They are "sister foundations."

**National Schools/
Government Schools**

National Schools are the top schools, accepting only the best students of the country. **Government schools** can vary in quality, but many are quite good.

It costs \$800-\$1000/school year to support a student. Support includes tuition, boarding, uniforms, and other fees and miscellaneous items. Sadly, our young female students need basics such as sanitary pads.

Meet Juliet Nyambura, Our Volunteer



Juliet Nyambura is an experienced digital media and communications specialist who is ETW's communications

volunteer. Her mission is to employ the power of storytelling to transform lives and amplify the voices of the youth. Why ETW? Juliet believes education is a fundamental driver of societal progress. "Working in this sector allows me to contribute directly to positive changes in individuals' lives, communities, and even entire nation. I believe through my skills and knowledge in communication, I can champion higher literacy rates and quality education for all," says Juliet.

How the New Kenyan Curriculum Changes Will Affect ETW's Operations

The introduction of the new Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) in Kenya is expected to have a notable impact on ETW. As the education system undergoes a transformation, it is essential that ETW adapt and align its goals and strategies to ensure continued effectiveness for students.

The implementation of CBC may result in changes to the structure and duration of the education system. ETW may need to consider extended scholarship terms to support students throughout their educational journey, including higher education and professional development programs. One significant way the CBC may affect ETW is by altering the scholarship criteria. With the CBC emphasizing competency attainment and skills development, the foundation may need to adjust its selection process to prioritize candidates who demonstrate these competencies rather than solely relying on traditional academic performance indicators. ETW will continue to review the impact of CBC.

Ways to Donate

- Send a check:
Kenya Help
PO Box 516
Menlo Park, CA 94026
- Go to website: www.kenyahelp.us
- Use our new QR xcode
- Make a provision for Kenya Help in your will
- Donate appreciated stock or mutual funds.
- And if you are over 70 1/2, one of the best (most tax-efficient) ways to donate is to do so directly from your Rollover IR
Please contact us if you have any questions.

