



An Update on Your
Partnership



Investing in Kenyan Youth

Thank you for your partnership with Kenya Connection. Through your kind support we've seen God do amazing things in the lives of Kenyan children and youth over the past year.

We're grateful for a strong Kenyan ministry team, gifted teachers, and volunteers who multiply the impact of our international partners' donations. Through scholarships, mentorship, and community outreach and development, we're witnessing incredible growth and transformation.

Thank you for helping to make all of this possible. Over the past year, **97%** of all donations have gone directly to support student schol-

Kenya Connection

OUR MISSION is to empower Kenyan youth to live productive and meaningful lives through Christian education, mentorship, mission, and business development.

ships and ministry in Kenya. It's my hope that you will be encouraged by these short stories and updates in our Annual Report.

May God bless you,

Dave Chaves,
Executive Director

During a meeting with parents of scholarship recipients in Western Kenya.



Update from Akiba School

A Center of Growth

Over the past year Akiba School beat the national average and led their area in academic performance. Students excelled in English and Swahili and Class 8 graduates went on to leading high schools.

With the restructuring of the Kenyan educational system under the new government, Akiba now offers Elementary, Primary, and Junior Secondary schools serving over 350 students. While families in the area work hard, many struggle to provide for their children.

Your support has enabled needy students to attend school while supporting general development and teaching staff at Akiba. The Akiba Board of Directors and management have made strong strides



in maintaining quality teaching staff while working to build a sustainable model for Christian education in very low income communities. Your partnership is key to the school's continued growth and success.

This year Akiba students received awards for their performances at the Nairobi Music Festival and engaged in a variety of extracurricular activities, sports programs, and field trips.



"Education is a treasure that chases away ignorance and poverty."

*-Edith Gitao,
Founder of Akiba School*

High School Scholarships

Building a Brighter Future

During 2023, Kenya Connection provided full scholarships to 58 high school students in 35 selected boarding schools across Kenya.

Our team of amazing youth mentors met regularly with the scholarship students as well as their parents or guardians. They coordinated their transportation and school fee and offered prayer support as well as counseling and tutoring services. Many of the youth mentors sat in the same desks as our current scholarship students in elementary school. Now they serve as powerful role models and witnesses to the impact of education and faith.



While her name means “gold”, this bright student was rescued from sex-trafficking and given the opportunity to join a prestigious high school.

**“Tin to ler tin
to ber.”**

*Dholuo proverb meaning
“quality is taught from a
younger age.”*



Despite growing up in rural poverty, Stephen and Sarah successfully completed high school recently with a strong performance on their national exams. They’ve now qualified to join Kenyan colleges and universities.

College Scholarships

Opening Opportunities

The Chichi Amina Scholarship program provides college and university scholarships based on academic merit and financial need. Over the past year, scholarships have been provided to 16 students studying courses such as Agricultural Economics, Business Administration, Catering, Criminal Justice, Journalism, Computer Science, Finance, Medical Engineering, Nursing, and more. All of the college scholarship students are graduates of New Beginnings and many were sponsored from a young age at Akiba School.

MEET JOSEPH

Joseph almost missed out on going to high school at all. Now he’s completed his coursework for a Bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Economics at Egerton University. He’s also joined the Kenya Connection ministry team, helping to support mentorship, apprenticeship, and business development programs. He’s active in youth ministry and has formed an Akiba Alumni band. Joseph says:

“Thank you for restoring my hope for a future. I do not sincerely know what I can do for you or even how to thank you... May God bless you and shine his light upon your life, family and everything you touch.”



Irene recently graduated from college through a Kenya Connection scholarship.



New Beginnings

Helping High School Graduates Build a Foundation for Adulthood

New Beginnings is a six-month discipleship program for recent high school graduates. Participants grow together through structured study, service, and mission. They engage in weekly Bible studies and discussions, take computer classes and learn about topics like financial literacy, Christian communication, career development, and more. The goal is to equip young adults with tools and skills for healthy living and to help them discover and use their unique gifts and talents to make an impact for God's glory. The majority of participants completed their high school education as a result of scholarships through Kenya Connection.

This year members participated in a special camp at Lake Elementeita, where they enjoyed games, hiking, swimming, bonfires, and special guest speakers who explored the themes of fatherlessness, our Heavenly Father, and redemption. Following a special footwashing ceremony, participants were awarded certificates for successfully completing the course. Many of them have now joined a network of alumni mentors and volunteers who help to support student sponsorship programs.

Members of the 2023 class of New Beginnings with leaders and Kenya Connection Board Member.



Inspiring Hope

And Building Sustainable Businesses and Ministries

One of the biggest challenges facing high school and college graduates in Kenya is “what next?” With limited opportunities for formal jobs and youth unemployment levels reaching 35%, crime, sexual promiscuity, and addiction, are easy lures, especially in the congested environment of urban slums.

Kenya Connection is proud to work with graduates of Akiba School and the New Beginnings discipleship program to provide internships and apprenticeships and to create opportunities for sustainable income and productive service.

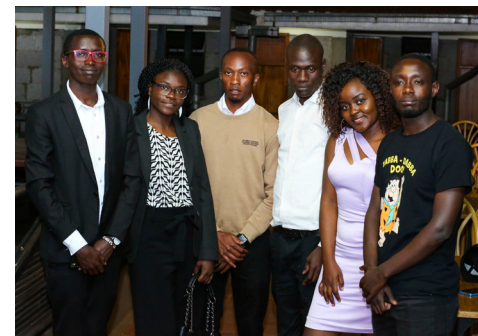
We’ve been blessed with a strong and creative team of young professionals with skills in photography and video production, graphic design, and website development. Over the past two years, we’ve built a website team which has created websites for three Christian ministries, and helped an established parachurch organization increase its exposure over 600%. Meanwhile, the video and photography team provided services to the Kenyan parliament, and helped to film documentaries and teaching videos in East and Southern Africa. Recently, the team moved into a new office next to Nairobi University.



During filming of the Ufalme Experience for the C.S. Lewis Institute and Africa Gospel Church

Alumni Dinner

This year Kenya Connection hosted its first alumni dinner, bringing together New Beginnings and Akiba School alumni as well as ministry partners and leaders. The evening aimed at building mentorship and apprenticeship networks amongst alumni and encouraging all alumni to give back to the society. Alumni speakers Jane Wambui (Communications Manager), Nicholas Oluouch (author and ministry leader), Eddie Opiyo (Business Consultant), and more shared their stories from extreme poverty and hardship to true hope while the Akiba alumni band offered a special performance.



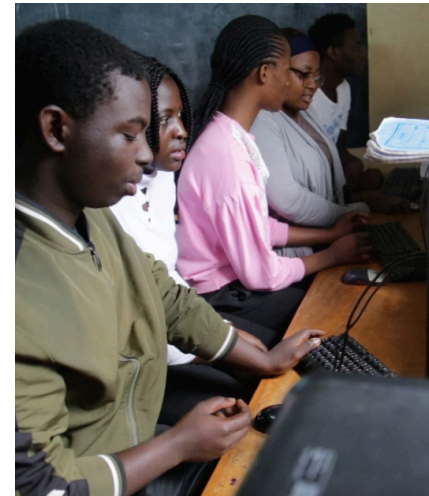
Building Just Communities

Our Journey in Chakama began in 2019, we thank God for the growth we have seen. We currently have 80 students at the Kilifi mission center School. These are Elementary age school children; their parents can barely afford to feed them. At the center we are able to provide a Christian based education and give them meals at least twice a day whenever funds are available. We are also blessed to have 10 high school students and the first ever University Student in Chakama village, Rajab Katana.

The Giriama people are the inhabitants of Kilifi and about 95% are traditionally Muslim. Giriama is one of the Mijikenda dialects spoken in the Kenyan coast by about half a million people.

Most of our students in Kilifi are Muslim, it was great to experience the spirit of unity despite the different religious backgrounds. Parents were asked to express at least one thing that they appreciated about their child, this is not an easy thing especially in a culture where feelings of love and gratitude are demonstrated rather than said. Thankfully, many parents rose up to the occasion and affirmed their children.

We are grateful for the partnership we have with Reverend Moses and Mrs. Jane Oduor for their leadership and mentorship. They have dedicated themselves to live in a very hard area, we are more than grateful for their service.



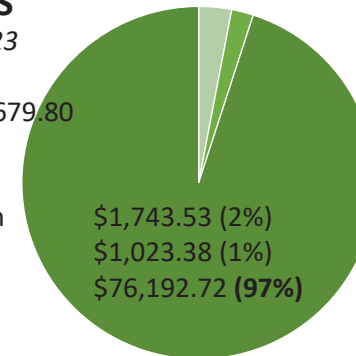
FINANCIALS

Fiscal Year 2023

Income: \$70,679.80

Expenditures:

Administration
Fundraising
Programs



Board of Directors

Yvonne Gathoni (*Secretary*)
Anthony Dahm (*Treasurer*)
Cynthia Hess
Frederick Thieman
Dorothy Dahm
Lucy Chaves (*Program Manager*)
David Chaves (*Executive Director*)

Expenses by Category:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Scholarships and School Support | \$50,899 |
| Mentorship and Discipleship: | \$6,707 |
| Youth Development Ministries: | \$12,569 |
| Community Outreach: | \$5,912 |
| Kilifi Mission Project: | \$2,368 |



Dave and Lucy Chaves are affiliated with the Society of Anglican Missionaries and Senders. Learn more at www.samsusa.org





Thank you for partnering with Kenya Connection. We rely on the support of friends, family, and small foundations to fund our educational, mentorship, and outreach ministries.

You can sign up to sponsor a student or make a gift to support the work of Kenya Connection. We're a registered 501c3 organization (EIN: 81-2213098). Your gifts are tax-deductible as allowed by law. We're always on the lookout for volunteers to help with our stateside and Kenya teams as well as friends to join our prayer team. Meet our ministry team and learn more at:

www.kenyaconnection.org

Contributions can be made to:
Kenya Connection
215 Lawton Street
Falls Church, VA 22046

For information on Akiba School
please visit:
www.akibaschool.org



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