



Reaching New Heights

2024 Annual Report



Investing in Kenyan Youth

Greetings from the Kenya Connection Team!

We sincerely thank you for your generosity and kind support. Your contributions profoundly impact Kenyan students, families, and communities.

Thank you for being a vital part of our mission. As we conclude the year, we are delighted to share this report with you.

Over the past year, **96%** of all donations have gone directly to support student scholarships and ministry in Kenya. It's my hope that you will be encouraged by these short stories and updates in our 2024 Annual Report.

Kenya Connection

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

May God bless you,

Dave Chaves,
Executive Director



Kenya Connection's Team

Update from Akiba School

A Center of Growth

Akiba completed a successful school year and continues to serve as a beacon of hope in the Kangemi community. Following last year's strong performance on national examinations, the school has strengthened its reputation of offering excellent education to residents of low-income areas. Akiba now serves over 500 students from Baby Class through Junior Secondary School.

Your support has enabled particularly needy students to attend school on scholarship while supporting general development and growth at the school. This includes primary school scholarships, construction and refurbishment of washrooms, painting, teacher retreats, alumni activities, sporting equipment, and more.



Becky represented Akiba nationally with her public speaking skills.

This year, Akiba staff were trained on Kenya's new competency based curriculum while Akiba students engaged in a variety of extracurricular activities, sports, and field trips. The school had a strong performance in the national musical festivals with one of the students, Becky, winning second place in the Nairobi Region for public speaking. The School Manager described her performance as "a true reflection of confidence, self-esteem, and an exhibition of leadership skills."



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

*-Edith Gitao,
Founder of Akiba School*

High School Scholarships

Building a Brighter Future

During 2024, Kenya Connection provided full scholarships to 57 high school students. These students were able to attend 32 selected boarding schools across Kenya, including some of the top national and provincial schools in the country.

Our team of youth mentors connected regularly with the scholarship students as well as their parents and guardians. The Kenya Connection ministry team coordinated school placement and transportation, facilitated tuition and school fees and offered prayer support as well as counseling and tutoring services.

We're proud of our students and their academic performance and personal and spiritual growth over the year. During 2024 Kenya Connection hosted a special retreat

for the upperclass students to the William Holden Educational Center where students learned firsthand about nature and wildlife conservation. This special multi-day field trip and retreat provided an opportunity for students to bond, engage in hands-on science lessons, and learn practical life skills.



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 21 students studying courses such as Broadcast Journalism, Business Management, Education, Forensic Science, Medical Engineering, Nursing, and more. Most of the college scholarship students are graduates of our New Beginnings program and many were sponsored from a young age at Akiba School.



Felix graduated from a coastal college in hospitality and tourism management

“thank you all for your support and encouragement, prayers and for believing in me. I appreciate it from the bottom of my heart. Thank you for believing in my education.”

- Gladwell, Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice, Africa Nazarene University

MEET BANICE

Banice enjoys serving as a youth mentor and administrator for our Kenya Connection ministry team. She's played a vital role in coordinating school ministry and outreach activities in three regions of Kenya. This year she graduated with first class honors with a Bachelor's degree in Counseling Psychology. She looks forward to continuing to serve at-risk children and youth.



Banice celebrates her achievement.

New Beginnings

Helping High School Graduates Build a Foundation for Success

Finding direction after high school can be a major challenge. New Beginnings offers high school graduates an opportunity to navigate this period of transition amidst a host of social challenges and pressures. 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.

Participants grow together through structured readings and discussions, group activities, and service. They engage in Bible studies, computer classes and learn about topics like financial literacy, Christian communication, career development, leadership, and more.

"Through prayer, reflection, and the Bible, I began to understand that I was not alone. God has been with me every step of the way guiding me to a life of purpose and meaning." - Mercy

"I've grown stronger, more resilient and more determined." - Jimmy

"New Beginnings has brought me good friends and brought me closer to God." - Claris

"This has really impacted my life because I've learned to forgive and love others. It has helped me discharge the burdens of my heart." - Stacey

Members of the 2024 class of New Beginnings.



Equipping Parents and Guardians

Building Local Support Structures to Encourage Growth

Kenya Connection coordinates regular meetings with parents and guardians aimed at fostering stronger involvement and support in their children's education and overall development. Over the past two years we've also launched small group opportuni-

ties for parents to share tea and snacks, learn together, and pray for one another and their families. These sessions build local networks of caregivers to encourage parenting journeys while helping adults navigate various economic, social, and emotional challenges. Your support makes all of this possible.



Inspiring Hope

And Building Sustainable Businesses and Ministries

Malcolm is a gifted photographer. Matthew has learned how to code and build websites. Winnie is a diligent and well organized manager. All of these graduates of New Beginnings and many others now serve with Inspiring Hope - a fully licensed and audited company which this year generated over \$50,000 USD in revenue for young Kenyan entrepreneurs.

During 2024, Inspiring Hope produced multiple short documentaries in collaborations stretching from America to Nigeria, South Africa, and Zambia. Meanwhile, the website team served local and international clients. We're eager to encourage the creative potential and gifts of young

Kenyans and help them to build sustainable businesses that glorify God and serve their communities.

The support of friends like you made it possible to incubate and shepherd the Inspiring Hope Company. Our ministry team is now in the process of building an apprenticeship network to provide additional internship opportunities for recent graduates. Our first apprentice in 2024 was placed with a sales management team at one of the Africa's largest health and hygiene product providers. He impressed the company so much with his character and service they offered him a full-time position.



During the production team's filming of a series on *Biblical Accountability for Business Leaders*.

Gen Z Speaks Out

2024 will go down in history in Kenya as the year Generation Z made their voices heard. In the past, these teenagers and young adults have been ambivalent about politics. But after a new finance bill threatened to overwhelm an already stressed nation with a wide range of new taxes, thousands of Gen Z's took to the streets.

Lamenting government corruption and increasing foreign debt, young Kenyans united across tribes and economic classes to demand change. Despite kidnappings and police crackdowns, the youth were resilient in their demands, and eventually the controversial finance bill was rescinded.

During the protests many young Kenyans witnessed violence or suffered injuries. While Kenya Connection was not directly

involved in the protests or political movements in any way, our ministry team did lead prayer meetings with youth leaders and parents and sought to encourage dialogue and discussions about working together to build a peaceful and just society.



Chakama Community School

Thanks to your support, Kenya Connection helped launch a school serving vulnerable children in an extremely poor community in the coastal region of Kenya. Now with the blessing of the community, we've taken on the full management of the school. With a visionary staff including a strong team of teachers, we're excited to enhance the quality of education while offering practical care and support.

Some of the highlights from 2024 include: regular parent and community meetings, school uniforms, a school field trip to Mombasa, and school shoes for the kids. The school management washed and oiled the children's feet before helping them into their new shoes. For most children these were the first shoes they had ever worn.



Chakama Community School Staff

It was a moment that moved both parents and students. The act was more than just about footwear—it was a powerful demonstration of care and respect, showing the children that they are valued and loved. In other news, two of our scholarship students from the area were the first in their families and communities to graduate from high school. Both are now joining universities.



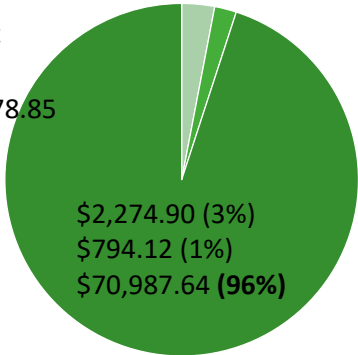
FINANCIALS

Fiscal Year 2024

Income: \$90,378.85

Expenditures:

Administration
Fundraising
Programs



Expenses by Category:

Scholarships	
and School Support	\$38,028
Mentorship and Discipleship:	\$11,705
Youth Development Ministries:	\$12,618
Community Outreach:	\$7,577
Kilifi Mission Project:	\$4,129



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

Board of Directors

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





Thank you for partnering with Kenya Connection. We rely on the support of friends, family, and small foundations and church partners 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:

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215 Lawton Street
Falls Church, VA 22046

For information on Akiba School
please visit:

www.akibaschool.org



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