



Embracing Hope

2025 Annual Report



Investing in Kenyan Youth

Greetings from the Kenya Connection Team!

Thank you for your kind partnership in ministry. 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, **97%** of all donations have gone directly to support student scholarships, training, and ministry in Kenya. It's my hope that you will be encouraged by these short stories and updates in our 2025 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 alumni mentor with KC ministry leaders and recent graduates.

Update from Akiba School

A Center of Growth

For over twenty five years, Akiba School has served families in need with quality Christian education. While the school began by serving street children and the most vulnerable, over time it has expanded and strengthened its reputation as a center of academic excellence. The school now serves over 500 students from Baby Class through Junior Secondary School.

This year, the school was the highest rated in its area. The current curriculum focuses on seven pillars: building communication and collaboration, self-efficacy, critical thinking and problem solving, creativity and imagination, citizenship, digital literacy, and the joy of learning. In addition to core subjects like math, history, science and Swahili, students take courses in computer studies, French, agriculture, health education, and more.



During 2025, student leaders participated in a national mentorship and leadership program. Teachers also formed a new karate club to promote discipline, self esteem, concentration levels, resilience and mental and character formation.



Educator and Board Member, Heather Boda, visits Akiba School

High School Scholarships

Expanding Horizons

During 2025, Kenya Connection provided full scholarships to 52 high school students, including thirteen candidates who successfully graduated. Students attended 45 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 2025, several of

our high school graduates served as tutors and helpers at Inspiring Hope Academy in Kilifi, Kenya. Meanwhile, some of our alumni came back to help with tutoring in mathematics. While each student has their own story, they all are grateful for the support of friends like you who have made it possible for them to pursue an education.



Grace was one of the first in her community to graduate from high school.



Graduating high school students meet with mentors.

College Scholarships

Equipping Gifted Students

Over the past year, college 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. This year we also had five students on industrial attachment: Sheila, Elphas, Melindah, Bornvictor and Peter.



Gloria graduated with a diploma in Guidance and Counseling.

“ I learned how to live a purpose driven life and how to choose my career wisely. My ultimate goal is to create job opportunities for others and to open my own accounting firm.”

- Stephen graduated with a Diploma in Business Management and is now employed at the Nairobi City Council.

MEET JAMES

James recently graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and Statistics from Mount Kenya University through a full scholarship from Kenya Connection. As part of his studies, he served an attachment with the finance department of our business startup, Inspiring Hope Photography, and learned skills in accounting, Quickbooks, and financial reporting.



James during his internship.

New Beginnings

Helping High School Graduates Build a Foundation for Success

New Beginnings is designed to help young adults discover and use their unique gifts and talents and equip them with tools and skills for healthy living and to make a positive impact in their communities.

This year's theme was "The Year of Restoration", with seventeen recent high school graduates completing the full six-month program. Through Bible study, discussion, structured readings, and skill development, participants were encouraged to put God first and to courageously pursue better lives—in school, in the workplace, and in their personal faith journeys. Participants engaged in computer, communications, and financial

literacy classes and learned skills like photography while receiving career and educational counseling. They also engaged in outreach activities such as serving with a community based organization to care for the elderly.

"Before joining New Beginnings, I struggled with knowing how to pray and felt alone in my faith. But now, I've learned to pray confidently, and I've found a community that truly supports me. This program has changed my life, and I'm not the same person I was when I started."

-Purity



Members of the 2025 class of New Beginnings.

Research Apprentices

This year Kenya Connection launched a new apprenticeship initiative for recent high school graduates. Participants learned about their history and cultural roots, used their creativity to develop innovations and pitch business ideas, and explored faith and its relevance in today's world.

The program included mentorship, training and working with small groups to ideate, design prototypes, and finally pitch their projects before a panel for evaluation and awards.

This year's participants, developed a podcast exploring elements of culture through storytelling, dialogue, and creative expression. Another group developed and launched a custom Bible app featuring Swahili Bible trivia. And the "Global Minds Group" showcased original painting and artwork as tools

to address conflict and build understanding. Apprentices shared stories of their enthusiasm, resilience, and the growth they experienced through the mentorship and teamwork process. Parents, guardians, mentors, and alumni joined for the final project presentations and a special graduation ceremony (pictured below).



Equipping Parents and Guardians

Building Local Support Structures to Encourage Growth



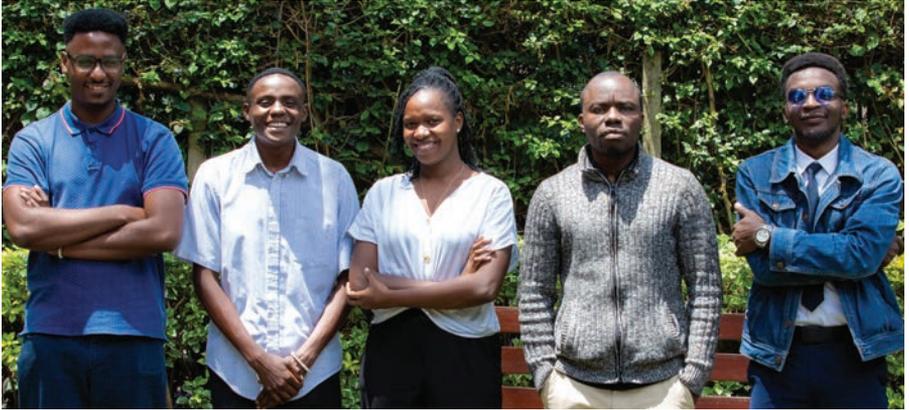
Kenya Connection coordinates regular meetings with parents and guardians aimed at fostering stronger involvement and support in their children's education and overall development. This year parents, engaged in small groups and participated in two courses

developed in partnership with the C.S. Lewis Institute. We've received powerful testimonies from parents ranging from forgiveness, restored relationships, personal transformation and recommitment to Christ. Parents also participated in a prayer retreat.

This year Kenya Connection provided fifty percent scholarships to children of teachers at Akiba School. Below teachers receive awards for their service.



Website and Administrative Support Team



Harryson recently graduated with a diploma in Medical Engineering. Debra studied hospitality and restaurant services. Both were part of New Beginnings and went to college through Kenya Connection scholarships. They were both recently selected to join a small team providing administrative and technical support to our partner organization, the C.S. Lewis Institute.

Our business and ministry support team now has five members and offers award-winning services in website development, email marketing, and more. They also support a related multi-media company offering photography and video production. Does your business or ministry need extra help? Consider engaging an international team member.



Youth mentors share during a New Beginnings camp.

Inspiring Hope Academy

Thanks to your support, Kenya Connection is bringing much-needed hope and transformation to a community in Kilifi, Kenya through Inspiring Hope Academy. The academy now serves 110 students from pre-kindergarten to fourth grade. While parents help in planting and harvesting at the school farm, the school's feeding program offers porridge in the morning and a nutritious meal at lunch. This year we celebrated a bountiful harvest of green grams and cowpeas.

Some of the highlights from 2025 include weekly staff devotions, improved sanitation and construction of temporary classrooms, staff training on child protection policies, and a VBS during school holidays. Our boys and girls teams proudly participated in the school's first soccer tournament. We also held a successful tree planting exercise with active participation from teachers, parents, and learners.



School staff and interns

A night visit to the school compound from an adult elephant, provided a scare, but thankfully no significant damage. Over the next year we hope to establish a business center to help support teacher salaries and basic student needs such as shoes and clothing.



Morning assembly





FINANCIALS

Fiscal Year 2025

Income: \$115,419.18

Expenditures:

Administration

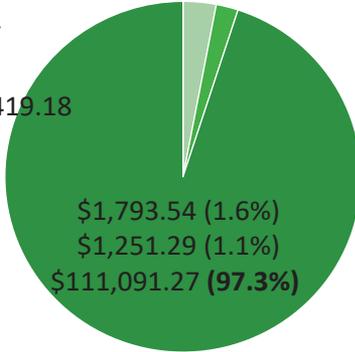
\$1,793.54 (1.6%)

Fundraising

\$1,251.29 (1.1%)

Programs

\$111,091.27 (97.3%)



Board of Directors

Yvonne Gathoni (*Secretary*)

Anthony Dahm (*Treasurer*)

Cynthia Hess

Frederick Thieman

Dorothy Dahm

James Were

Heather Boda (*Comms. Dir.*)

Lucy Chaves (*Program Dir.*)

David Chaves (*Exec. Dir.*)

Expenses by Category:

Scholarships

and School Support \$55,826

Mentorship and Discipleship: \$16,861

Youth Development Ministries: \$12,034

Community Outreach: \$7,345

Kilifi Mission Project: \$22,070



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 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:

Kenya Connection
215 Lawton Street
Falls Church, VA 22046

For information on Akiba School
please visit:

www.akibaschool.org



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