

# GRACELAND AFRICA MISSION

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



January 2022 - April 2023  
[www.gracelandafrica.com](http://www.gracelandafrica.com)





## OUR MISSION

It's not charity.  
It's investing in people.  
It's financing hope.



We seek a world where people are empowered to overcome poverty and social insecurity; ethnic and gender inequity; a world where they have the opportunity to achieve their hopes and dreams.

## LET'S CELEBRATE

I'd like to take a moment to celebrate our 18+ years of impact in Kenya. Every year we review our program objectives and outcomes in light of our Mission Statement. This report highlights our extensive investment in students and their families and how they have risen with new hope to chart a better future for themselves and their families. The outcome has been amazing!

In 2022, 23% of our students attended primary school, 57% secondary school, and 20% college or university. I can remember the day when our first students graduated and went to secondary school. It was so exciting. Today we are celebrating our many graduates! Our grade 8 graduates continue to do well in their national exams and obtain admission to top level secondary schools. All of our grade 12 students consistently pass their national grade 12 exams. In 2022, six of our nine secondary school graduates obtained grades in the top 20% of all grade 12 graduates in Kenya. Our students are serious about their education. They are working hard to do their best!

When I look at our college and university students, I am amazed. They no longer are the little primary school kids we knew 10+ years ago. They are in the process of becoming doctors, nurses, electricians, social workers, teachers, IT specialists, hospitality specialists, journalists, and economists. Our students have grown up. They are diligently pursuing careers and a better future.

We are also celebrating the capacity building initiatives of Mom Naomi and Mom Susan, who started retail businesses in 2022. Lydia, our Program Officer and our first university graduate (BBA), has been providing direction for these ladies and they are succeeding in business.

Your partnership with GAM has been pivotal for the successes we are celebrating. The students and their families are truly grateful for your ongoing support. We are so thankful for your steadfast partnership and encouragement, and for God's ongoing blessing upon our work in Kenya.

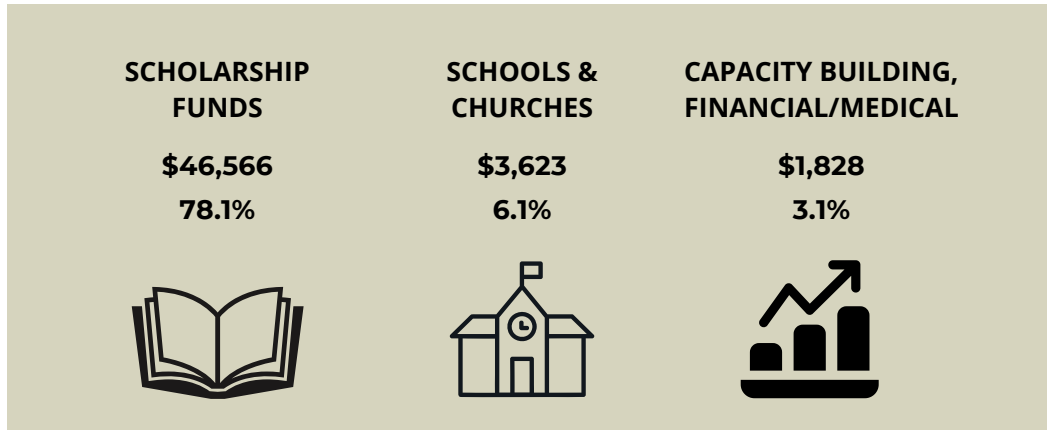
Sincerely,  
Diane Laakso

Guide found on page 15



# 2022 PROGRAM FUNDING

January - December 2022

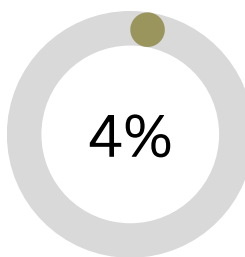
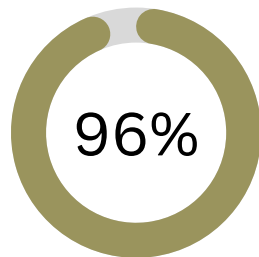


## Program funding included:

- scholarships that assisted students in primary school, secondary school, college, and university.
- schools and churches where we assisted with teachers salary subsidies, pastor's bible school, and year end Christmas gifts.
- capacity development included small business start-ups for single mothers of students in our scholarship programs.

Graceland Africa Mission does not pay for 3rd party fundraising and it does not have any employees in Canada.

Percentage of donated funds that supported our programs



Percentage of donated funds that covered administrative costs

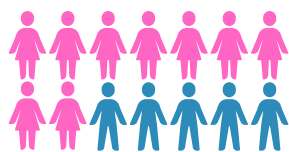


Since 2018, Graceland Africa Mission has been annually recognized for demonstrating excellence in nonprofit accountability, transparency, and governance by the Standards Program of Imagine Canada.

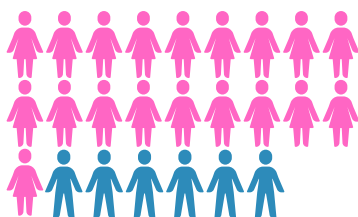


# SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

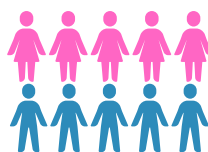
2022 Student Roster included 55 students



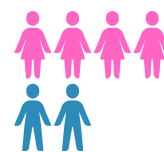
14 students in  
Primary School



25 students in  
Secondary School



10 students  
in college



6 students in  
university

## 2022 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP INVESTMENT

### One for One

14 Primary Students \$3,891  
15 Secondary Students \$5,455  
3 college students \$3,656  
1 university student \$721

2022 Budget \$13,723

### Hesima Boys

2 Secondary students \$957  
2 college \$2,899  
1 university \$869.

2022 Budget \$4,725

### Right to Be Girls

8 Secondary Students \$6,659  
5 college \$8,038  
4 university \$6,424

2022 Budget \$21,121

All scholarship operating expenses are funded with non-designated revenue. 2022 Total \$6,997

### Students who need funding in 2023 include:

**HELP NEEDED**  
**2023**  
**Student Funding**  
**Shortfall**

3 students in primary school  
2 students in secondary school  
1 student in college  
6 students entering college or university  
Most students are partially funded  
and therefore they require additional support.



## Primary Students 2022

In 2022, our One for One primary school student roster included 14 students:



- Grade 3 - Blessing, Jeremy
- Grade 4 - Gloria, Precious, Kelvin, Mitchell
- Grade 5 - Faith
- Grade 6 - Nehema, Daryl, Junior
- Grade 7 - Nelvine, Adrian
- Grade 8 - Favour, Melvin

In December, Favour (1) and Melvin (2) wrote grade 8 KCPE national exams and obtained good marks (see their photos above). They started boarding secondary school in January, 2023. Both have obtained excellent marks in term 1, 2023.

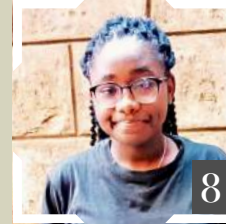
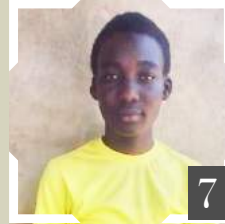
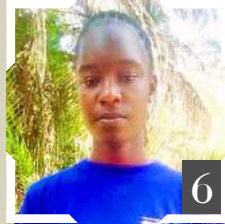
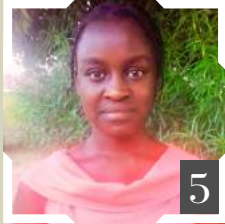
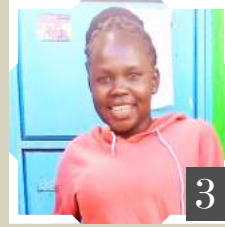
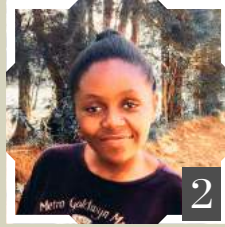
Our students are growing up! Several years ago, our roster included only primary school students. In 2022, only 23% of our students were in primary school. We have identified three new students in grade 3 and 4, Sharon, Angela and Abraham, who are in need of scholarships.

### NEW CURRICULUM IN KENYA

In 2017, the Kenyan Ministry of Education piloted a new inclusive and skills-based curriculum that consists of two years of pre-primary; six years of primary schooling; six years of secondary; and three years of higher education. (2-6-3-3-3 curriculum)

In 2022, students up to grade 6 followed the new curriculum. In 2023, Junior Secondary (grade 7) students were included, which means grade 7 students attending Fruitvine Academy transferred to a government school. The following year, 2024, grade 8 students will begin the new curriculum and will also be transferred to a government school.

# Secondary School Graduates - Girls



In 2022, GAM provided scholarships to 19 girls in secondary school. Most of these students were in grade 11 or 12.

Eight girls in grade 12 wrote their national KCSE exams in December, 2022. They obtained great marks and will be applying for college or university for September, 2023. The girls and their KCSE mark include: 1) Felistus B+, 2) Shekina B+, 3) Beth B, 4) Marylyne B-, 5) Renne B-, 6) Rehema B-, 7) Marion C-, and 8) Juliet C-. See photos above.

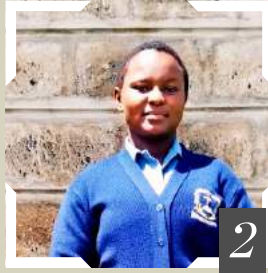
To put this in context, 75% of our girls not only achieved the minimum grade of C+ for entry into university, they placed in the top 20% of **all** high school graduates in Kenya. Provided they have funding, we anticipate that 100% will enrol in college or university in 2023. All of the girls are interested in STEM courses, either nursing or computer science. STEM courses include Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics. All of our girls, except for one, are from rural areas.

## STUDENTS IN KENYA

The struggling economy since 2020 has made life very difficult in Kenya, which has likely had a negative impact on school attendance particularly for girls. According to the UNDP Human Development Reports for 2019, girls in Kenya on average, obtained only 10.3 years of schooling. In rural areas, 50% of girls were married by age 19. Only 25% of male and female secondary school graduates achieved the minimum grade needed for entry into university (C+), while only 4% of female graduates enrolled in college or university. The percentage of girls that enrol in STEM programs is even less.

According to the the Ministry of Education in Kenya, a total of 881,416 students wrote KCSE exams in 2022, only 19.7% scored C+ and above, the minimum grade needed for entry into university.

## College & University - Girls



In 2022, GAM provided scholarships to 5 girls in college and 4 in university. Currently 44% are in STEM programs (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics).

1. **Esther D**, Bachelor of Arts, Social Science, Moi University, 1st year/4 year program.
2. **Esther K**, Certificate Orthopaedic Trauma Medicine, Kenya Medical Training College, 1st year/2 year program.
3. **Susan K**, Diploma Social Work and Community Development, University of Embu, 2nd year/2 year program.
4. **Mercy M**, Certificate in Food and Beverage, Bumbe Technical Training Institute. 2nd year/1.5 year program (Covid extended).
5. **Mercy N**, Diploma Community Health Nursing, Kenya Medical Training College, 2nd year/3 year program.
6. **Bestine O**, Diploma Information and Communication Technology, Chuka Technical & Vocational College, 3rd year/3 year program.
7. **Naomi K**, Bachelor of Arts, Major Forensic Psychology, University of Nairobi, 3rd year/4 year program.
8. **Janet D**, Bachelor of Food and Nutrition, Karatina University, 3rd year/4 year program.
9. **Emily K**, Bachelor of Education at Kenyatta University. 4th year/4 year program.



# Secondary School - Boys

In 2022, GAM provided scholarships for 6 boys in secondary school, 5 in college, and 2 in university. Our boys are ambitious and hard working. Sila and Collins qualified for an additional year in their respective programs, providing them with further training and education in their fields. Two notable students that received scholarships are Robert and Emmanuel.

Robert (1) struggled academically. Thankfully he didn't give up and in 2022 wrote his grade 12 KCSE exams. He obtained a D+, the average passing mark, and has applied to college to be an electrician.



In 2022, Emmanuel (2) attended a national boys school with some of the top students in Kenya. In spite of his humble background, he is achieving outstanding grades. During 1st term in 2023, Emmanuel obtained grades that ranked him in first place out of 509 classmates. Emmanuel does not yet have a sponsor.



## College & University - Boys

(3) **Enan I**, Community Development & Social Work, Sigalagala Polytechnic. 2nd year/3 year Diploma.



(4) **Sila A**, Electrical Engineering, Bumbe Technical Training Institute, 2nd year/3 year Diploma.



(5) **Ethan O**, Diploma in Clinical Medicine and Surgery, Kenya Medical Training College. 3rd year/3 year Diploma.



(6) **Brian O**, Bachelor of Economics & Statistics, Kirinyaga University, 1st year/4 year Degree.



(7) **Collins O**, Mass Communication & Journalism, Eldoret National Polytechnic, 1st year/2 year Certificate.



(8) **Phillip D**, Bachelor of Social Sciences, Moi University, 4th year/4 year Degree.



# College & University Graduates



## Meet our Graduates - January 2022 to April 2023

1. **Phillip D**, graduated August, 2022, with a Bachelor of Social Sciences, Moi University. He is currently seeking employment.
2. **Mercy M**, completed December, 2022, a Certificate in Food and Beverage, Bunge Technical Training Institute. She is employed at a reputable 4 star Restaurant/Hotel in downtown Nairobi.
3. **Ethan O**, completed in December 2022, a 3.5 year (Covid extended) Diploma in Clinical Medicine and Surgery, Kenya Medical Training College. He is currently teaching at a primary school while waiting on the Ministry of Health for his internship placement.
4. **Emily K**, completed in April 2023, a Bachelor of Education at Kenyatta University. She obtained 2nd Class Honours (Upper) and is considering a Masters degree in linguistics.

## From our Graduates

**MERCY M** I just want to say thank you for the courtesy you extended to me during my college studies. You've indeed played a big role in my career extension and it couldn't be possible without your help. Thank you very much. I'm really grateful to GAM.

**ETHAN O** Am grateful to GAM for the prayers and support throughout the years. I was doing a three and a half year course (due to COVID-19 ) of Diploma in Clinical Medicine and Surgery at Kenya Medical Training College. Am also grateful to GAM for making my dream come true by funding my studies since 2019 to 2023. You made us proud as a family.

**EMILY K** I'm so grateful to GAM for funding my studies since secondary school 2015-2018 up to university 2019-2023. It's because of the organization that I never gave up on my academic ambition and worked hard throughout the two levels of education. I'm excited as I await for my graduation in July 2023.

# Capacity Building

Women in Kenya are hardworking, resourceful, and ambitious.

Those who have the desire and tenacity to start and develop a small business are often quite successful.



Photo above left to right: Mom Susan, Mom Naomi and Lydia GAM program officer who led a small business seminar.  
Photo below top down: Mom Naomi and Mom Susan.

Through the generous support of sponsors, GAM was able to provide business grants and training to help Mom Naomi and Mom Susan establish small businesses. The women are single mothers of students in our scholarship programs

In May 2022, Mom Naomi started a dry goods shop in Mwingi town in the Eastern Province. Within a few months, she was showing a profit which allowed her to expand and diversify her growing business.

In November 2022, Mom Susan opened a retail shop in a remote village in the Eastern Province. Her business had a great start, but slowed in 2023 when villagers harvested food. Mom Susan plans to offer tailoring, as well as diversify her products in order to develop the business.

**2022 Budget \$1,507**



Capacity-building is defined as the process of developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources that organizations and communities need to survive, adapt, and thrive in a fast-changing world.

United Nations, 2020, <https://socialprotection.org/learn/glossary/capacity-building>

# GAM Recognition Awards

Graceland Africa Mission is thankful for the support of our many generous partners. In April 2023, GAM recognized five partners for their ongoing support totalling well over \$25,000 each.



- **Donna Chantler**, founder of The Tonglen Foundation, Barrie Ontario. Photo top left.



- **Brenda Barr**, founder and managing partner of the Family Law Group, London Ontario. Photo left: Brenda Barr & Wendy Lockrey.



- **Heather Laakso**, Family Physician, Orillia, Ontario.

- **Holly Laakso**, Scientist, Deep River, Ontario.

- **Laurel Laakso**, Family Physician, Sioux Lookout, Ontario

## 2022 Canada Africa Partnership Ride



GAM participated in the 2022 CAP Ride, a virtual national fundraiser for projects in Africa. Participants biked, ran, walked, and kayaked 12 km over a period of one to five to days.

Our GAM team of 9 participants, raised \$3565 net, to assist our students in Kenya who are in college and university.

Thank you to our participants and all of you who donated. These funds will really help our students!

Everyone is welcome to participate with us in the 2023 CAP Ride June 1-4.

<https://canadaafricapartnershipride.ca/partners/>

## Our Partners



### PRIVATE DONORS

A special thank you to the many individuals who make one-time or ongoing personal donations. Your support has had a significant impact on our programs in Kenya.

### FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATE DONORS

We are very grateful for your partnership, ongoing encouragement, and financial support.

#### THE TONGLÉN FOUNDATION

Donna Chantler,  
Barrie, ON

#### FAMILY LAW GROUP

Brenda Barr  
London, ON  
<http://www.familylawgroup.ca>

#### PLEXUS CANADA

Sharron Beaton  
Lisle, ON  
<https://plexusworldwide.com/sharrownbeaton/home>

#### DESJARDINS INSURANCE

Sandy MacKenzie  
Stouffville ON  
<https://www.sandymackenzie.ca>

#### CO-OPERATORS INSURANCE

Christine Eibisberger-Hobden  
Barrie ON  
<https://www.cooperators.ca/local/christine-eibisberger-hobden/>

#### CO-OPERATORS INSURANCE

Joanne Sirois  
Casselman, ON  
Assurances Sirois Insurance Inc.

#### BIG YELLOW BINS

Duane & Renne Van Dixhoorn ,  
Coldwater, ON  
<https://bigyellowbins.com/>



# 2022 Board of Directors

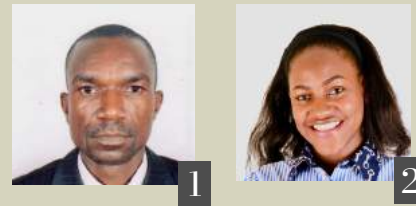


- (1) Diane Laakso, MSc, Founder & President
- (2) Holly Laakso, PhD, Secretary
- (3) Michael Phillips, PhD, External Affairs
- (4) Yvonne Ouwerkerk, BA, Director
- (5) Jake Nogy, MArch, Boys Scholarships

Graceland Africa Mission does not retain any paid employees in Canada. The board of directors and all volunteers are not compensated financially or by any other means. No payments are made for products or services to directors or companies in which a director is an owner, partner, or senior manager.

## Kenyan Partners & Advisory Council Members

- (1) Joseph Onyeit, Program Director
- (2) Lydia Mucheka, BBA, Program Officer



## Revenue and Expenses January -December 2022

	2022	2021
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Private Support	38,921	42,530
Corporations	8,395	11,996
Foundations & Organizations	7,675	10,860
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54,991</b>	<b>65,386</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Programs	56,528	57,489
Promotion	852	583
Administration	2,251	2,629
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59,631</b>	<b>60,701</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash	8,904	13,544
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,904</b>	<b>13,544</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
	none	none



- Administration expenditures 3.8% of expenses.
- Promotion expenditures 1.4% of expenses

Contact us:



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**Graceland Africa Mission is a  
registered charity with the  
Canada Revenue Agency.  
Registration  
# 898683115 RR0001**

Photo on cover: Juliet C  
Photos page 2: 1) Faith, 2) Lydia  
Mucheka, 3) Emmanuel & Mercy Mueni,  
4) Mom Susan, 5) Susan, 6) One for One  
students at Christmas party, western  
Kenya.



By Bestine O.  
RTB College Student  
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