

GRACELAND AFRICA MISSION



Annual Report

January 2021 to April 2022

www.gracelandafrica.com



Breaking the cycle of poverty with higher education

A quality basic education is a key driver for reducing poverty, fostering economic growth, achieving gender equality, and social development (Global Affairs Canada, 2017).

Presidents Message

Our work in Kenya is not charity. With the support of many partners, we have invested in Kenyans with the goal of helping them to create a better future for themselves, their families, and their communities.

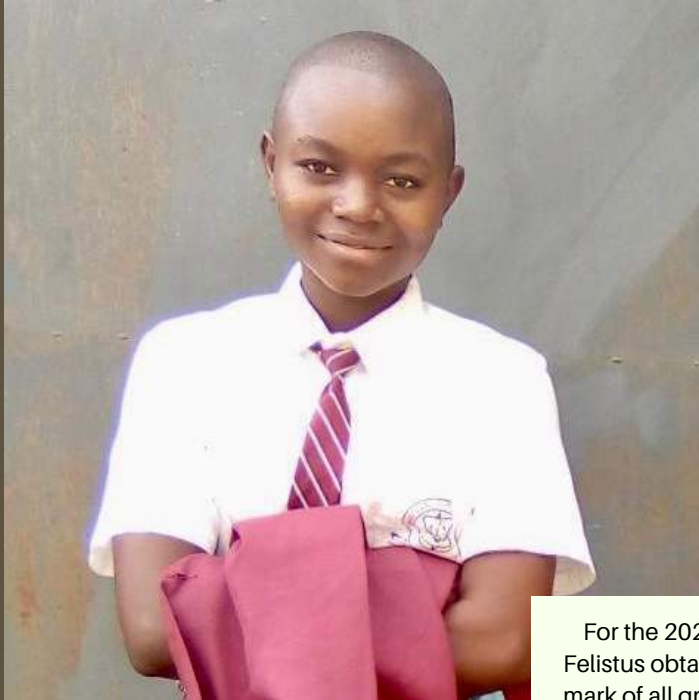
Our investment in education has grown annually. In 2021, 81% of program funds, approx. \$46,700, provided students with scholarships. Research over the last 50 years has shown that investments in education positively impact future jobs, income levels, and social determinants like the age at which girls marry, the number of children they have, and whether their children will be malnourished (World Bank Group, 2018).

When having tea with Kenyans in their homes, be it mud houses in a remote rural village or a 100 sq ft corrugated steel house in a slum or a congested tenement apartment, it is easy to identify students who need financial support. Take for instance, Emily, the youngest of three sisters (photo above). GAM began financing Emily's education when she started grade 9, because her single mom and grandma were unable to fund her education. She has now completed third year of her Bachelor of Education degree at Kenyatta University. Emily has achieved a GPA of 62.8, representing Second Class Honours (upper). Impressive! How is it possible for Emily to do so well? A combination of Canadian financial support, mentorship, and lots of determination and hard work, have all helped to set Emily on the trajectory for a better future.

Our investments in the livelihood of Kenyans through agriculture (organic community gardens), animal husbandry (cows, goats, and rabbits), and small business developments, are also paying off. For example, the cash value of the calves sponsors purchased for primary school students in Amagoro, has doubled over the last 5.5 years. With substantial partner support, we have had the means to significantly impact the livelihood and capital of students' families.

Bottom line is that our investments are adding value, whether it be through education, training, mentorship, agriculture, small business, and even medical intervention. Our programs are helping marginalized Kenyans get ahead and develop a better future for themselves. We are grateful God's blessing upon our work and for our partners who have made these achievements possible.

Sincerely, Diane Laakso,
Founder and President



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

Our Mission Statement

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.

**For the 2021 school year,
Felistus obtained the highest
mark of all grade 11 students
in her school.**



2021 Allocation of Program Funds

Scholarship Funds	\$46,710 81.3%	95% of Revenue Funded Programs in Kenya
Capacity Building/ Financial Aid/Medical	\$5,543 9.6%	
Churches & Schools	\$2,150 3.7%	



Graceland Africa Mission is recognized for demonstrating excellence in nonprofit accountability, transparency, and governance by the Standards Program of Imagine Canada.

Investing in Education

The concept of the rate of return on investment in education, is very similar to that for any other investment. It is a summary of the costs and benefits of the investment, incurred at different points in time and is expressed in an annual (percentage) yield. Rates of return for education have been extensively researched since the late 1950's and have been found to be significantly high (1).

Globally, higher rates of return are found in Sub-Saharan Africa, with females scoring about two percentage points higher than males. In middle income countries like Kenya, a student's lifetime earnings are anticipated to increase by 25% for investments in primary school education, an additional 18% for secondary school education, and another 20% for post-secondary education (1).

The social rate of return that yields the greatest benefit is for girls' education (2). Girls who complete their primary education tend to find better jobs, marry later, and have fewer children. They are also:

- half as likely to have children who suffer from malnutrition,
- less likely to have children who die before the age of five,
- less likely to turn to prostitution,
- less prone to be victims of sexual violence or become infected with HIV.



Note: The rate of return to schooling equates the value of lifetime earnings of the individual, to the net present value of costs of education. The rate of return for secondary school and post-secondary education is lower due to the higher cost.

Sources: (1) World Bank Group 2018; (2) Global Affairs Canada, 2017.

Scholarship Programs 2021

ONE FOR ONE CHILD SCHOLARSHIPS

Launched Dec 2013 with 20 students.

Graduate Roster:

- Grade 8 graduates - 19 students
- Grade 12 graduates - 4 students

2021 SCHOOL YEAR

- 19 primary students \$4713
- 13 secondary students \$7822
- 2 college students \$780
- *Operating \$2035

2021 Budget \$15,351

HESIMA BOYS' SCHOLARSHIPS

Launched Jan 2014 with 2 boys

Graduate Roster:

- Grade 12 graduates - 3 students
- College graduates - 1 student
- University graduates - 1 student

2021 SCHOOL YEAR

- 2 secondary students \$1886
- 1 college student \$515
- 2 university students \$2208
- *Operating \$740

2021 Budget \$5,349

RIGHT TO BE GIRLS' SCHOLARSHIPS

Launched Jan 2016 with 4 girls

Graduate Roster:

- Grade 12 graduates - 11 students
- College graduates - 1 student
- University graduates - 1 student

2021 SCHOOL YEAR

- 16 secondary students \$6840
- 4 college students \$9204
- 3 university students \$5573
- *Operating \$3393

2021 Budget \$25,010

*Note: All Scholarship Program operating expenses are funded with undesignated revenue

One for One Primary School Students



After a 9 month pandemic-related school closure in 2020, our students were happy to go back to school in January, 2021. The 2021 school year, July 2021-April 2022, was a bit difficult due to the shorter school year with brief school breaks. However, our students were focused and they have done well. Sponsors provided scholarships (\$330/student) for 19 students, grade 2 to grade 8 (12 girls & 7 boys).

In April 2022, we celebrated four One for One students who graduated from grade 8. Pictured above left to right, Sally, Zumax, Rebeccah, and Joe. Typically secondary school students attend boarding school, which marks a significant step forward in their academic career. Sally and Zumax were fortunate to both receive admission into the same national school.

One for One - Secondary School Students

Students and their families are very thankful for the support they have been receiving. In 2021, sponsors provided 13 scholarships (\$330/student) for One for One secondary school students (8 girls & 5 boys). Challenges from the pandemic and the condensed 2021 school year, have made it difficult for parents to manage secondary school expenses (\$500 to \$700). This is especially true for students attending national schools. In addition to tuition, Grade 9 students need extra funds to purchase a mattress, bedding, steel storage box, and their school and PE uniforms.

- April 2021, Enan and Sila graduated from grade 12 and in September of that year they started college. Enan is in Community Development & Social Work (3 yrs) and Sila is studying Craft Electrical Engineering (3 yrs). See photos on right.

- In July 2021, Ruth and Lyncolyne started grade 9.
- In April 2022, Brian and Collins Ingura graduated from grade 12. They will be applying for post-secondary school.



Right to Be - Girls Secondary School



Beth's dream is to become a pharmacist. She and her four siblings are raised by their single mother.



Pictured are Grace D (grade 10), with her mom and Lydia, GAM Program Officer, at Thitani Girls' Secondary school.

During the 2021 school year, RTB supported 11 girls in secondary school (7 sponsored and 4 unsponsored). Three students wrote national exams and graduated from grade 12: Esther D, Esther K, and Grace N.

Right to Be - Girls Post-Secondary

In 2021, our RTB college and university students had the opportunity to obtain practical work experience in their field of study. In the photo below, left to right: Janet (Nutrition) is with dietitians at the hospital in Nyeri; Mercy N (Nursing) is assisting in a vaccination drive; Bestine (ICT) is working in the IT dept at Lions SightFirst Eye Hospital, Uthiru; Mercy M (Hospitality), pictured in the centre, worked at Breez Hotel in Busia.



Hesima - Boys Secondary & Post-Secondary



Our boys are excelling academically. As they near the completion of their degree programs, Philip and Ethan, now in their 4th and 3rd year respectively, remain focused on achieving their academic goals. In July 2021, Emmanuel and Samuel started grade 9 in top notch national schools. Emmanuel is obtaining strait A's. Samuel, who is also getting good grades, was awarded a Mwalimu Scholarship to cover his tuition. Photo above left to right: Philip (Social Studies, 4th year, Moi Univ); Ethan (Medicine, 3rd year, KMTTC); Emmanuel (grade 9); and Samuel (grade 9).

Investing in Livelihoods in Amagoro

The Calf Education Fund was launched in 2017 for One for One primary school students living in Amagoro. Over the last 5.5 years sponsors have purchased 14 calves for students, including five students who received a calf in November, 2021 (see photo below). Calves have also been purchased through the sale of goats, and calves have been born to cows in the program. Currently 12 students own 16 cows and 6 calves (6 have died). Total sponsor investment \$2345. Current cash value of livestock is approx. \$6200.



Photos above are of students who participated in our Student/Sponsor Zoom Meeting, April 2021.

Canada Africa Partnership Ride

In June 2021, GAM participated in a national fundraiser with 18 Canadian organizations raising funds for projects in Africa.

The 2021 CAP Ride was essentially a Covid safe, virtual bike-a-thon. We walked, ran, or biked 12-15 km to raise funds for our Right to Be girls in secondary school, college, and university. It was a really fun and effective way to raise funds. A special thanks to our 12 participants and those who donated!

We raised \$6730 net for girls education!

WAY to GO TEAM!



Our Partners

PRIVATE DONORS

We are so thankful for the many individuals who make regular or one-time personal donations. Your support provides significant assistance to our programs in Kenya.

THE TONGLÉN FOUNDATION

Donna Chantler, Barrie, ON Canada

BRENDA BARR

Family Law Group, London, ON

<http://www.familylawgroup.ca/brenda-d-barr/>

SHARRON BEATON

Plexus Canada, Lisle, ON

<https://plexusworldwide.com/sharronbeaton/home>

CHRISTINE EIBISBERGER-HOBDEN

Co-operators Insurance, Barrie ON

<http://www.cooperators.ca/en/christineeibisbergerhobden/home.aspx>

JOANNE SIROIS

Co-operators Insurance, Casselman, ON

Assurances Sirois Insurance Inc.

DUANE & RENNE VAN DIXHOORN

Big Yellow Bins, Coldwater, ON

GRACELAND AFRICA MISSION

Revenue & Expenses 2021

	2020	2021
REVENUE		
Public Support	43,457	42,530
Corporations	7,365	11,996
Foundations & Organizations	3,000	10,860
TOTAL	53,822	65,386
EXPENSES		
Programs	47,804	57,489
Promotion	1,280	583
Administration	2,587	2,629
TOTAL	51,671	60,701
ASSETS		
Cash	8,859	13,544
TOTAL	8,859	13,544
LIABILITIES		
	none	none



- Administration expenditures 4% of expenses.
- Promotion expenditures were 1% of expenses

GRACELAND AFRICA MISSION

2021 Board of Directors

Diane Laakso BAsc, MSc - Founder & President

Laurel Laakso BMSc, MD - Secretary

Michael Phillips PhD - Director of External Affairs

Brian Treleaven - Director of Governance

Yvonne Ouwerkerk BA - Director

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Contact Us



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

GRACELAND AFRICA MISSION

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Photo front cover: Mitchell pictured on the right, won first prize for Creative Attire Day at school.

Photo back cover: Naomi, RTB student at University of Nairobi library.



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