

Good Kenyan Foundation Newsletter

September 2024

Greetings from Kolonget Village in Eldoret!

It's truly surreal to reflect on how far we've come since my last update, when we were seeking funds to construct and launch the Regina Yego Girls Center. Thanks to the incredible spirit of generosity from supporters like you, we've seen this vision come to life in ways that warm my heart every day. Additionally, I am deeply grateful to Giving Women Switzerland for their technical support. Stefanie, Esther, Marie-Nolle, Atalanti, and Seema—thank you for the many hours you invested to help in designing, preparing, planning, and fundraising for this project. Your dedication has been invaluable. I also want to express my heartfelt thanks to my close friends and family for their encouragement during moments when I was losing hope.

Walking through the center, it's amazing to witness the joy and enthusiasm of the girls who now call this place their safe haven. They express themselves, create, innovate, and learn in an environment that we all built together, brick by brick. Your support has turned this dream into a reality, and it's deeply gratifying to be part of it.

I'm excited to share that we've just celebrated the completion of Cohort 1—our very first group of exceptional girls! We proudly graduated 23 girls out of the 25 who started. These girls have been equipped with essential skills in ICT, basic

entrepreneurship, crafting, and life skills.

Thanks to our dedicated partners and networks, we've secured scholarships for 3 girls, apprenticeships for 1, and work placements for another. Additionally, 3 girls had already secured spots at various colleges before graduation. We are now focused on ensuring the remaining 15 girls transition successfully into their next steps.

As we prepare for Cohort 2, we were thrilled that 49 applicants qualified, more than we had planned to recruit. After careful consideration, we've decided to admit 37 deserving girls, exceeding our original target of 30. We're currently facing some logistical challenges, including the need for more chairs and additional laptops. However, I'm confident that we will meet these needs and continue making a significant impact.

Last December, I was selected as one of 19 leaders from East Africa by the Issroff Family Foundation's Continued Learning Initiative (CLI). This opportunity has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my leadership journey. The main deliverable of the initiative is a strategic plan, and I'm thrilled to share that we now have a strategic plan for 2025-2027 that is 98% complete. I'm very excited about this next chapter for Good Kenyan.



LUCY CHEPCHUMBA
CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This achievement has been a collaborative effort with key stakeholders. I extend special gratitude to our volunteer advisors, consultants, board members, staff, and alumni who contributed countless hours to this project. I would also like to recognize the IFF team for their leadership, support, and the work of their reviewers and facilitators. We will officially launch this strategic plan in January 2025 and begin its implementation. We look forward to sharing more details during our 8th anniversary celebration in April 30th 2025.

Please join me in welcoming Gemma May and Liz Matimu to our board as they join the current members transitioning out. With three more members coming in January 2025, we're excited to continue strengthening our governance and leadership.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to everyone for your ongoing support. I invite you to read through our latest updates and look forward to your continued support as we work to propel underserved Kenyan youth toward sustainable futures.

Forever grateful for you!
With love,
Lucy Chepchumba
Co-Founder and Executive Director
Good Kenyan Foundation



The Inspiring Journey of Building the Regina Yego Girls Center

The journey to establishing the Regina Yego Girls Center has been nothing short of extraordinary. It's a story of vision, perseverance, and the unwavering support of our incredible community. What began as a distant dream in 2017 slowly took shape in Nairobi, evolving from a part-time endeavor into a well-structured initiative, thanks to the support of friends and partners.

In 2021, with invaluable backing from the Segal Foundation's Booster Program and the expertise of Warrande Advisory, we crafted a comprehensive three-year plan. Although our initial vision included Eldoret, we faced funding challenges. During last year's Giving Tuesday, we launched a campaign to construct two training rooms, an office, and three toilets, complete with electricity and water. Despite reaching only 10% of our fundraising goal, we pressed on and broke ground on December 27th, driven by faith and a strong foundation. At that point, we only had enough funds for the foundation itself.

As construction progressed, we were uplifted by the incredible generosity of friends, supporters, and even strangers. Donations of cement, windows, doors, plastering materials, and electrical work poured in. Each call, each contribution was like a magical moment, bringing us closer to completing the center. Before we knew it, the Regina Yego Girls Center was up and running, a testament to the power of collective effort.

Your support has been instrumental in this journey, and we are profoundly grateful for the commitment and encouragement that have carried us to this point.

Thank you for being a crucial part of this transformative experience!!



Upcoming Events

1. Giving Tuesday-December 2024

**GIVING
TUESDAY**

Celebrating the 14th Cohort Graduation of the Good Kenyan Mwanzo Program



Cohort 14 graduates

In February, we celebrated the graduation of the 14th cohort of the Good Kenyan Mwanzo program, a moment that filled our hearts with immense joy and pride. It was truly inspiring to see these young minds, now equipped with new skills and confidence, ready to take on the world. We were honored to have Mumbi Ndung'u, Executive Director of the Power Learn Project, grace our ceremony as the chief guest.

The graduation ceremony, held at St. Luke's ACK Church in Kenyatta Market, was a memorable occasion. One of the highlights was witnessing Ruth, one of our exceptional students, being awarded a fully paid college scholarship from the Jeremiah Scholarship Fund by Seeds of Hope. Her dedication, hard work, and perfect attendance over the past three months earned her this remarkable opportunity, showcasing her commitment to excellence.

As these young graduates embark on their new journeys, we are reminded of the powerful words shared by Mumbi Ndung'u: "As you embark on this new journey, remember that a mindset of abundance creates opportunities where others see challenges. As future leaders, embrace innovation, cultivate collaboration, and let the spirit of abundance guide your path to success."

We are excited to see the impact these young leaders will make in the world, and we are proud to have been a part of their journey.



Mumbi Ndung'u, Executive Director Power Learn Project and Ruth

Celebrating the Grand Opening of the Regina Yego Girls Center

In March, we reached a momentous milestone with the grand opening of the Regina Yego Girls Center, a day filled with joy and anticipation. The celebration began with a heartfelt inauguration ceremony led by Fr. Gichure from Sambut Parish, who honored us by cutting the ceremonial ribbon and offering prayers for the girls, trainers, and the resources provided, including laptops, desks, and sewing machines. His blessings extended to each room as guests were guided through the newly established center.

The air was alive with excitement as girls, parents, friends of Good Kenyan, and our closest neighbors gathered to mark this special occasion. It was a true community affair, with everyone coming together to celebrate the new opportunities the center represents.

The event also highlighted the launch of the center's inaugural cohort of 25 young ladies. This group of aspiring future leaders was officially welcomed, marking the beginning of their transformative journey. The ceremony was more than just an opening; it was a celebration of hope, potential, and the collective effort that made the Regina Yego Girls Center a reality. It was clear that this was the start of something truly special. The Regina Yego Girls Center stands as a beacon of opportunity, ready to empower these young women with the skills and confidence they need to shape their futures.



Celebrating 7 Years of Impact and Growth

As we celebrated our 7th anniversary on April 30th, 2024, we marked not just the passage of time but the collective achievements we have made together. This year's annual fundraiser was transformed into a Thanksgiving Dinner, a heartfelt event to express our gratitude and reflect on our shared journey.

Seven years ago, you placed your trust in us by supporting our inaugural dinner event, and we have been profoundly grateful for your commitment ever since. With your support, we have positively impacted the lives of 400 underserved youth, helping them secure jobs, pursue higher education, and start their own businesses. Your dedication truly embodies the spirit of a good Kenyan company, committed to a brighter future for our nation.

We are especially thankful to our chief guest Dr Wanjiru Kamau- Rutenberg Ford Senior Fellow and Founder of Akili Dada, five friends of Good Kenyan who co-hosted our anniversary event: Yamfwa Chinyatta, George Mwangala, Sylvia Getata, Rita Njeri, and Terry Adembesa

Each invited seven friends to fill their table and raise funds for the 1st cohort at Regina Yego Girls Center, contributing to our mission of empowering underserved rural girls through education and mentorship.

A special thanks also goes to our sponsors: Galana Energies, Swahili Beach, Leopard Beach Resort, Serenity Spa, Coca-Cola, and Jambo Jet. Your sponsorship directly supported the Regina Yego Girls Center, our newest initiative that aims to transform the lives of rural girls. The evening was filled with delicious cuisine, engaging activities, and opportunities to connect with like-minded professionals, all while renewing our commitment to making a difference in Kenya.

Thank you for being an essential part of our journey. Here's to many more years of positive impact together!





Lyann

How has the program impacted your life personally?

Personally, the Good Kenyan Foundation has positively impacted my life. Now, as a youth, I can proudly say that my future is bright thanks to GK.

What skills or knowledge did you gain that you believe have been most valuable?

I believe the most valuable skills I gained are from the life skills classes, such as self-identity, personal growth, and setting SMART goals, which have empowered me to have a clear vision for my future.

What advice would you give to current participants?

I encourage current participants to take full advantage of this opportunity and give it their best effort

How do you see the skills and knowledge you gained at the foundation contributing to your future success?

The knowledge I gained from life skills classes is applicable in my daily life. As the world becomes more technological, the IT classes will be increasingly important for my career, helping me perform and organize my tasks more efficiently. The art class was incredible; I am now able to create several items that I can sell to earn an income.

Eucabeth

How has the program impacted my life?

This program has helped me develop skills that will enable me to earn a living and contribute to my community. It has also enhanced my critical thinking by fostering creativity. Additionally, it has significantly influenced my career choice and given me a clearer path forward.

What skills or knowledge did you gain that you believe have been most valuable?

The ICT class has been incredibly valuable to me. The computer skills I gained provided a solid foundation, which I will build on when I pursue a full ICT course in college. Additionally, these skills have empowered me to potentially start my own business, such as running a cyber café, allowing me to earn a living. I've also learned design concepts through Canva, which I can use to explore creative opportunities.

What advice would you give to current participants?

My advice to the current participants is to trust the process and always believe in yourself. Stay disciplined, and above all, pray to God for wisdom and guidance. Lastly, rest assured that the Regina Yego Girls Center is a safe and supportive place to grow and learn.

How do you see the skills and knowledge you gained at the foundation contributing to your future success?

The skills and knowledge I gained will boost my career by enhancing my ICT skills, expanding my entrepreneurial knowledge, improving my creativity, and most importantly, helping me become a better person.



NEW BOARD MEMBERS ALERT!!



Gemma May

We are thrilled to announce the addition of Gemma May to the Good Kenyan Foundation Board of Directors. With over 12 years of experience in the NGO sector, Gemma brings a wealth of expertise in fundraising, strategy, and impact measurement.

Holding a Master's degree in Public Policy and Management from SOAS, University of London, Gemma is deeply committed to empowering young people. Having lived in East Africa for a decade, she has developed a profound appreciation for the region and its potential. Gemma's journey with Good Kenyan began in 2019 as a dedicated volunteer, where she contributed significantly to our work. We are excited to welcome her as a board member as we embark on the next chapter of our mission to uplift marginalized youth.

We are excited to have Gemma join the Good Kenyan Foundation Board!

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Liz Matimu is the Partner, Risk, and Business Advisory at KKCO East Africa LLP. She is a United States International University of Africa graduate (USIU) with a master's degree in business administration specializing in Strategy and Human Resources. She holds a bachelor's degree in business management from Moi University. She is also a member of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Reg. No. 10261), an Executive Coach, and a member of the Academy of Executive Coaches London.

Liz has 21 years of extensive experience in leading Internal Audit systems reviews, due diligence assessments, human resource management, corporate governance, setting up financial systems and internal controls for clients, and supporting family businesses and enterprises.

Liz has also worked as a corporate governance consultant with the IFC Group, part of the World Bank, working with the African Corporate Governance teams in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Tanzania. She has also worked in Stanbic Bank having held several positions including Home Loans Manager, Acquisition Manager, and Learning and Development Consultant. Liz currently serves as the Honorary Treasurer of the Kenya Girl Guides Association as well as a trainer for ICPAK. Internationally, she serves in the DFK EMEA committee as a member representing the Middle East and African regions.

Liz is married and has two teenage sons. In her free time, she loves mentoring girls, supporting swimming sports, and reading good historical novels.

We are excited to have Liz join the Good Kenyan Foundation Board!



Liz Matimu

GRADUATION

A Milestone Achieved: Regina Yego Girls Center Celebrates First Cohort

July marked a momentous occasion for the Good Kenyan Foundation as we celebrated the graduation of our inaugural cohort at the Regina Yego Girls Center. This remarkable achievement underscores our commitment to empowering marginalized young women.

With a commendable completion rate of 92%, twenty-three out of twenty-five bright and determined girls successfully completed the four-month program. Equipped with newly acquired skills in entrepreneurship, ICT, creativity, and essential life skills, these young women are now poised to become catalysts for change in their communities.

This milestone is a testament to the dedication of our trainers and mentors, whose tireless efforts have contributed to the success of these young women

To recognize outstanding contributions, we honored several students with special awards:



Keynote speaker Mr Collins Boinet CEO Diesel Power



Most Helpful Student Award:
Evaline



Most Responsible Student Award: Joan



Most Improved Student Award: Esther



Most Hardworking Student Award: Daisy





Guest Judge Caroline Chebet

Sanaa Creations and Kamagut Events and Decor also impressed the judges and received grants of Ksh 20,000 and Ksh 10,000 respectively. We gratefully acknowledge the students of Oshwal Academy for donating half of the seed grants awarded to the business through their school project.

These talented young women will now have the opportunity to incubate their businesses at the center, receiving mentorship and support as they transform their ideas into thriving enterprises. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and excited to witness their entrepreneurial journeys unfold.

“We only want to come back and see how your has business has flourished and see how these members of the community become your customers and help you grow further than you had anticipated,” said judge Caroline Chebet



Sanaa Creations Group

Sparking Entrepreneurial Brilliance

Our Regina Yego Girls Center graduates recently showcased their entrepreneurial prowess in a thrilling business pitch competition. After four intensive months of honing their business acumen, three teams - Mazao Bora, Sanaa Creations, and Kamagut Events & Décor - presented innovative business ideas to a panel of seasoned entrepreneurs.

The competition was fierce, with each team demonstrating creativity, passion, and a deep understanding of the market. In the end, Mazao Bora emerged victorious, securing a substantial grant of Ksh 30,000 to propel their business forward



Mazao Bora Group



Kamagut Events & Decor Group

Soaring to New Heights: Three Regina Yego Girls Center Students Awarded Full Scholarship

We are thrilled to announce that three exceptional young women from the Regina Yego Girls Center have been awarded full college scholarships! Daisy Jepleting, Lyann Jerono, and Joan Jephchirchir have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and dedication to their communities, earning them this incredible opportunity.

These scholarships were made possible through the generous support of the Jeremiah Scholarship Fund, a partnership between Seeds for Hope and the Good Kenyan Foundation. This investment in our students' futures is a testament to our shared commitment to empowering young women and breaking the cycle of poverty.

We are also excited to share that Lyann and Joan have just joined Tambach Teachers College, marking the start of their educational journey towards becoming future leaders in education.

Lyann expressed her gratitude, saying, "I am feeling very happy, excited and I am grateful for this opportunity to continue with my studies and I promise this chance will not go for granted." Daisy echoed her excitement, sharing, "I am very excited for being given this opportunity and I say thank you to Seeds for Hope for giving me this opportunity to continue with my studies and I promise I won't let you guys down."

These scholarships represent a significant milestone for our students and a testament to the success of the Regina Yego Girls Center. We are immensely proud of their accomplishments and look forward to following their journeys as they embark on this new chapter.



From the left Lyann, Daisy and Joan ,



Apprentice and Work

EVA

We are excited to share that Eva, who aspires to pursue a career in catering, will begin her role as the Office Assistant at Regina Yego Girls Center in September. Alongside her new role, she will continue to develop her part-time business.



ZIPHIA

Purple Tulips Events and Decor will welcome Ziphia for a four-month apprenticeship in Diani Kenya, providing her with hands-on experience in all aspects of the events industry. Ziphia is passionate about starting her own event business, particularly in Kamagut, where she notes there are currently no event companies.



REFLECTIONS FROM THE FACILITATORS

Creative Hub Facilitator - Meloddi Mazola

Experience Working with the Girls:

Working with the girls has been amazing. Seeing the progress we have made as a new team has been both fun and a valuable learning experience. It constantly challenges me to grow and adjust in terms of location, training know-how, and my people skills.

Witnessing Significant Growth or Transformation

I have witnessed significant mindset shifts and growth in the girls. Some have changed their career paths to fields they had never considered before, thanks to the skills imparted to them. Others have gained more confidence in speaking in front of people. Many now dream beyond their previous limitations, with increased exposure and a broader understanding of the world.

Specific Skills Impacted

The Creative Hub lessons impart skills in innovation, design, and recycling. The girls have learned to use two different electrical machines, various materials, and tools for box-making. They can upcycle existing materials to make their own clothes and thrift flip for sale.



Creative Hub Facilitator - Meloddi Mazola

cont.

They also have the ability to create crafts to beautify their spaces and generate income from making and selling gift boxes, tote bags, and mats (including tapestry and fabric mats) from recycled materials. Additionally, my class provided some knowledge on brand identity by applying the principles and elements of design.



Entrepreneurship Facilitator - Michael Onyango

Experience Working with the Girls

Working with the girls at the Good Kenyan Regina Yego Girls Center has been a profoundly rewarding experience. The dedication and enthusiasm they brought to the entrepreneurship classes were truly inspiring. Their eagerness to learn and grow as future entrepreneurs made each session dynamic and engaging.

Witnessing Significant Growth or Transformation

One instance that stands out is during the pitching sessions. Initially, many of the girls were hesitant and unsure of their ideas. However, as the training progressed, I witnessed remarkable growth. By the time of their final pitches, they demonstrated confidence, clarity, and a deep understanding of their business concepts. Seeing them transform from nervous beginners to confident presenters was truly gratifying.

Specific Skills Impacted

The class focused on imparting several crucial skills. The girls learned the fundamentals of business planning, financial literacy, and market research. We also emphasized soft skills such as effective communication, teamwork, and problem-solving. These skills not only prepared them for entrepreneurial ventures but also equipped them with tools to navigate various aspects of life with confidence and competence.

