



Annual Report **2013** 



### Educate. Empower. Transform.

### Dear friend,

Asante Sana! Thank You! We praise God for your partnership, which provided life-changing opportunity to children and their families in the Mathare slum last year.

We saw dramatic changes in the life of Kyalo, a young boy who went from routinely skipping public school to joining Kwa Watoto and finishing the year at the top of his class. We celebrated with Brian, undeterred by scars from severe burns on his face, when he jumped to the top position in the competitive Sixth Grade.

We empowered mothers by teaching income generating skills and providing physical care through our home based care program. We proudly stood with our students as they advocated for peace and hope during a peace march through the streets of Mathare.

We educated young girls and boys who are HIV positive and refuse to be defined by their disease and the shame associated with it. We mentored our teaching staff as they taught character and promoted academic excellence with remarkable passion, all with the vision of educating the next generation of Kenyan leaders.

We witnessed extraordinary transformation in the lives of the people we serve. Yet, we also witnessed the cruelty of poverty and violence rampant in the slum. Children died preventable deaths, young girls experienced the horror of rape and early pregnancy, gangs stole the childhoods of vulnerable boys and addiction seized the minds of parents and children. These too are realities in Mathare, though the story does not end there.

God indeed hears the cries of the poor, and has called us to come alongside the community of Mathare so that each child can experience fullness of life in Jesus.



eduKenya is a movement, not simply an organization. God is leading us to spread the movement like wildfire – to go places where life is stolen and restore it, to reintroduce childhood, to help children and families realize their God-given potential and provide lifealtering opportunities to rise out of poverty.

We see lives released from addiction, hopelessness and poverty. We see children enrolled in safe schools, protected from prostitution and gang recruitment. We see families with stable incomes that provide enough for their families. We prayerfully seek to be light in the darkness, offering transformative hope and opportunity.

Thank you, on behalf of the children and families you've helped, for your prayers and generous support. May God bless you as you continue blessing others both near and far.

Adam Gould and Bob Kikuyu eduKenya Co-Founders and Directors

### Who We Are

Our Vision: All children and their families in Mathare experience fullness of life

through economic, social and spiritual transformation.

We empower children and their families with the opportunity to break **Our Mission:** the chronic cycle of poverty and transform their lives and communities.

We are motivated by Jesus to love and serve the poor, oppressed Our Motivation:

and vulnerable.

# **Creating Hope for Today and Tomorrow**

Bravine is an eight year old girl in the Third Grade at the Kwa Watoto School. One of six children, Bravine lives with her family in a shack with just one room. Her neighborhood in the Mathare slum is known as the place where the poorest of the poor live in shacks made of iron sheeting. Bravine's parents eke out a living by washing laundry and selling scrap metal, earning well under \$2 a day. Supported by highly insecure livelihoods that don't provide stable income, the family often goes without food.

Bravine joined the Kwa Watoto School Preschool Class when eduKenya staff found her unattended in the slum at the tender age of three. The trajectory of her early childhood was dramatically altered by this encounter. She says, "I am very thankful that I was invited to come to school because I am getting a good education and I am fed two meals a day, which is often all I eat for the day."

Bravine's favorite subject is Christian Religious Education and her favorite school activity is learning on the One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) computers. Inspired by her siblings who aren't enrolled in school, Bravine wants to be a teacher when she grows up to help all children have the opportunity to learn and grow up healthy. Because of the nutritious food she eats and regular medical check ups



she receives at school, Bravine's health is markedly better than that of her siblings who aren't enrolled in school.

Bravine's life is rife with challenges and burdens that no eight year old should carry. Yet the Kwa Watoto School is a beacon of hope for her each day. We will continue nurturing, educating and feeding Bravine, determined to walk with her until the time she is able to pursue her dream of becoming a teacher. While we cannot transform her home life, we will faithfully provide her with the opportunities and resources she needs to use her Godgiven assets to break the cycle of poverty and fulfill God's calling on her life.

### **Providing Affordable Housing**



eduKenya's unique sustainability model includes the purchase of rental properties in Nairobi, the rental incomes of which are used to fund program operational costs. The model has several purposes: to develop a viable and sustainable revenue stream to support the Kwa Watoto School and,

with the purchase of additional properties, ensure that the school is able to operate independent of outside assistance; to provide affordable, high quality housing for Mathare community members; and to support the local economy through impact investment and job creation.

Caroline Chepkorir is a 27 year old tenant who lives in the apartment building owned and operated by the Kwa Watoto Trust. She lives with her husband and one year old daughter. Caroline grew up in poverty and was raised by her grandmother since her parents could not care for their five children. Caroline managed to complete high school and college with government scholarships and loans, and recently completed her last payment with the income she makes as a teacher.

Caroline says that the apartment is the most affordable and comfortable place she has lived. "Besides being cheaper than where I used to live, my current apartment is much more spacious, cleaner and safe. Water is included in the rent, which is often not the case in Mathare, and water is always available. I previously went for days without water because my former landlord consistently failed to pay the water bill."



Security is of utmost concern for Caroline as a woman and mother living in a dangerous area. She feels very safe in her apartment because of the security measures taken, as well as the constant presence of a building manager who monitors the security gates and visitors. The daily presence of eduKenya staff at the administrative office, which is located on the ground floor of the building, also contributes to an overall feeling of security for Caroline.

Living in the apartment building has been transformative for Caroline. She says, "Thieves broke into my old apartment building all the time, and I lived in constant fear. The management harassed me whenever I filed a complaint about something that needed to be fixed. The building was always dirty, and I could never be certain I would have water. Now I live in a safe building that is cleaned every day and managed by courteous people. When there are repairs, the management fixes them immediately. I am very happy my daughter gets to live in this safe and healthy place!"

### Partnering with the Local and Global Church



It was a privilege to go on a Vision Trip with eduKenya last year and spend time with the students and staff at the Kwa Watoto School. As a pastor of Paoli Presbyterian Church, I knew it was important for me to experience the work of eduKenya first hand. Our church has enthusiastically supported eduKenya for the past three years, supplying mission housing for the Gould family and financially supporting the ministry.

In a very dark, hurting sliver of creation, lives are being changed, healed and made whole through the power of God's Spirit and the work of eduKenya. I will never forget Teresa, a little girl who won my heart the moment I walked into the Kwa Watoto School. She exuded love with her beautiful smile, serving as witness to the love that she experiences at school

I will always remember the experience of visiting the grandmother and guardian of a Kwa Watoto School student. This woman had just found her son after he went missing for several days due to deep entanglement with addiction. Sitting in her dilapidated shack listening to her story of great suffering, including the death of her daughter, it became clear how passionately she clung to the hope that can only be found in Jesus. With pumping fists in defiance to a broken world, she thanked God for eduKenya's ministry. She was an unforgettable witness to the power of God's Spirit.

Upon return from the trip, I was filled with an even greater passion for the Gospel-driven work of eduKenya. The lives of the students, staff and people in the community of Mathare are being deeply impacted and changed. I am thrilled that we at Paoli Presbyterian are in partnership with eduKenya and will continue that partnership as the ministry continues to grow and reach an even wider population.

Jeff Conway, Pastor of Paoli Presbyterian Church





## **Empowering the Next Generation**

Mr. Stansislous Wambua Mule joined the Kwa Watoto School in 2011 as the sixth grade teacher. Having grown up in extreme poverty in a poor rural village in eastern Kenya, Mr. Mule experienced many of the challenges faced by his students, including chronic hunger. Food and water scarcity were the norm in his arid village, leaving his parents, subsistent farmers, heavily dependent on food aid from the government to feed their thirteen children. Mr. Mule recalls many days when he didn't know when he would eat next. Villagers believed, during one especially dire season, that he and his siblings would die from

With no school to attend in his village, Mr. Mule walked over three miles to school each day until the eighth grade, when he dropped out and became herder of the village livestock because his family could not pay the meager school fees. He was finally able to attend high school with a relative's financial assistance, though the only school available was over six miles away. With unwonted dedication in the face of multiple obstacles, Mr. Mule walked a total of four hours to and from high school every day for nearly four



years, and then completed a graduate degree in education.

Mr. Mule's penurious upbringing enables him to closely identify with his students who face daily challenges of living in extreme poverty. His transformational story of rising out of poverty and pursuing his dream of teaching against all odds is inspirational to the entire school.

"I have a deep passion for teaching and feel it is my calling to nurture students in all aspects of their lives to the best of my ability. I work not for the pay, but to impart knowledge and to improve my students' lives. God has been a faithful shelter through the storms of my life, and I want to help my students depend on Him through their storms," says Mr. Mule.

In addition to teaching the sixth grade, Mr. Mule oversees disciplinary procedures for the school. Having a relatable background aids him in garnering the respect of the students, who say that he is known as both the strictest and friendliest teacher.

"Serving at the Kwa Watoto School has grown me in all ways, making me a better person," says Mr. Mule, citing both personal and professional development opportunities he has received. When his mother was gravely ill, he received financial support from other staff members to pay for hospital fees. Mr. Mule is also grateful for training he received in curriculum development and composition grading, saying that his teaching proficiency continues to improve as a result of these opportunities.

Mr. Mule's presence at the Kwa Watoto School is a constant reminder of the power of education in the fight against poverty. His inspiring testimony impels us in our mission with the hope that each child we teach will also determinately pursue education, rise out of poverty and use their experiences to empower the next generation.

# Transforming Partners through Vision Trips

Last November I had the privilege of going on a Vision Trip with eduKenya to see the Kwa Watoto School first hand, develop relationships and experience different aspects of Africa. One of the people I met was Michael Maingi, the head teacher at the school. Even though he is just 27 years old, he commands the respect of the teachers and students at the school as well as the people in the community.

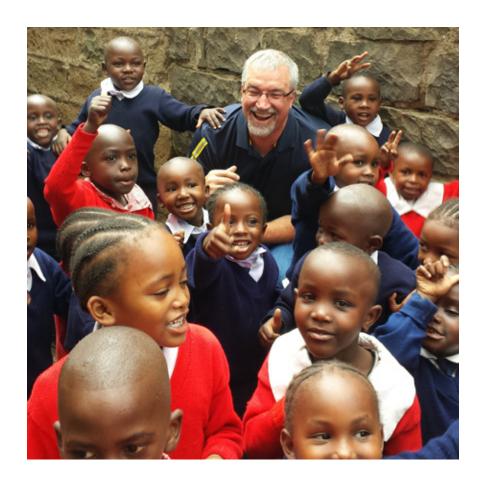
Michael took us on a tour of the school and one of the stops we made was at the "library." I put that in quotes because most of us would not call this room a library, as it more closely resembles a large closet with shelves holding books and assorted teaching supplies. As I looked around the humble room I remember wondering how much education can really happen with such meager supplies. Then Michael said something I will never forget. He looked around the room and with a smile said, "How can we not succeed when we have all this?" His assessment of plenty where I had seen scarcity was humbling.

Michael told us how the standardized test scores from the students are as good as or better than the scores of students at some of the best private schools in Nairobi. Kwa Watoto School students aren't just learning their ABCs and getting a couple good meals each day; they are going to be able to compete academically with some of the best students in the city, who have many more resources and opportunities at their disposal.

They can do this because Michael, the teachers and staff are faithful witnesses of Jesus in a very dark place. They give love, grace and protection, and they expect their students to do their best. As a result, the students and their families have hope for the future where none existed before. The Kwa Watoto School is a great example of how God can do much with very little.

Tom Friedel, eduKenya Board of Directors





# 2013 Financial Highlights

eduKenya is dedicated to the highest standards of financial stewardship and accountability to both our donors and the people we serve. We are committed to efficiently and transparently utilizing the resources entrusted to us.

We regularly monitor program budgets and costs to ensure that resources are maximized and used for their intended purposes. Annual audits and reviews are conducted by Certified Public Accountants.

Here is the unaudited statement of our financial position for the year ending December 31, 2013.

REV	ENUE	

Individual/Private \$146,663
Business/Corporate \$97,266
Churches \$50,390
Rental Income \$13,784
Nonprofits \$15,793
Skills Training \$1,882
School Fees \$1,832

#### **EXPENSES**

\$11,854 Kenya Administrative \$62,085 US Administrative \$46,753 Fundraising \$9,645 Home Based Care \$125,432 Kwa Watoto School \$19,966 Skills Training

TOTAL \$ 327,610 \$275,735 TOTAL

## **Providing Life Changing Opportunity**

Kyalo is a 16 year old boy who lives with his eight siblings and single mother in a two-room shack in the Mathare slum. His mother is a participant in eduKenya's Home Based Care program that supports people living with HIV/AIDS and other lifethreatening conditions.

Prior to joining the Kwa Watoto School, Kyalo was enrolled in sixth grade at a public school and skipped school nearly every day. Kyalo's mother feared for his future, knowing that violent gangs recruit and prey on unschooled boys in the slum.

eduKenya staff helped Kyalo enroll at the Kwa Watoto School in 2010. At the age of 14, Kyalo performed at a second grade level on educational assessments. His first year in school proved highly challenging as he struggled to learn English and other basics that students half his age had already mastered.

Kyalo's teacher, Mr. Muli poured himself into teaching Kyalo and is proud to report that Kyalo is now the best student in the class. This beloved boy who previously knew not a word of English and whose life was plummeting with destructive behaviors is now a top student with dreams of becoming a policeman to protect the people in his neighborhood.

Kyalo's mother continues to struggle in providing for nine children on her own while living with chronic illness. On school days, Kyalo only eats the two meals served at school. On weekends, he sells metal scraps in order to buy food for his family. Kyalo and most other children at the Kwa Watoto School would be malnourished if they weren't enrolled in school, which doubles as a feeding center.

Mr. Muli's belief in Kyalo coupled with your financial partnership made a monumental difference in Kyalo's life.

Thank you for giving Kyalo the opportunity to receive a quality education, eat nutritious food and experience the transformational love of God.





## **Building for the Future**

exciting We anticipate many developments in 2014, including the construction of a new school as a result of your generous partnership! Our school location for the past three years has been transitional and cramped. We are thrilled to give our students the opportunity to learn in a spacious environment that is more conducive to learning and gives us the opportunity to enroll more students.

Since eduKenya's inception, our work has focused on providing hope, opportunity and transformation for children and families living in extreme poverty in Mathare. As the children at the Kwa Watoto School have grown, so too has our vision for the future. We have concluded through much prayer and consultation that we will work to establish a boarding school outside the slum for children in 6th - 12th grades.

By the 6th grade, boys are recruited by violent gangs and girls are forced into prostitution and early pregnancy, their childhoods stolen. We have seen how children that age are especially vulnerable to violent forces in the slum, and often drop out of school before

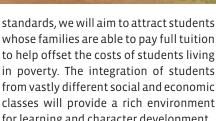
entering middle school. The best way to protect our students and keep them in school is to provide the opportunity to leave the slum and attend boarding

school for middle and high school.

Many children in Mathare complete primary school but do not go on to high school, partly because there are few accessible high schools. We are determined to empower our students to continue receiving a competitive education with high academic standards once they graduate from the Kwa Watoto School. We believe founding a boarding school will best support this goal.

We hope to set up the boarding school to be self-sustaining through a combination of outside investments and students who pay full tuition. With high academic for learning and character development.

We continue to seek impact investors to purchase additional rental properties in Nairobi, the revenues of which will be used to fund program operational costs for the Kwa Watoto School and related development programs for parents and community members. Our goal is to fully fund these programs by revenue earned from rental properties, such that they operate independent of outside financial assistance. With your partnership, we passionately pursue this God-sized vision for the future.





### **Remembering Alicia**

We dedicate this report to Alicia Njeri, a five year old girl who died on September 27, 2013. Alicia was in the Nursery Class at the Kwa Watoto School. We continue to grieve her tragic loss and miss her joyful spirit. Alicia's early death reminds us of the fragility of life, especially for children living in extreme poverty. Alicia means "noble" and "exalted." As we continue to grieve, it helps us to think about Alicia as exalted in the arms of God, free from suffering and sorrow, healed and whole.



### eduKenya Leadership Team

#### **Board of Directors**

Tom Friedel Adam Gould, ex-officio Steve Gould, chair Bob Kikuyu, ex-officio Daniel Mutisya Stella Mwangi Stella Ndiho

### **Kenya Vision Team**

Bob Kikuyu Michael Maingi Augustine Muema Daniel Mutisya Stella Mwangi Stella Ndiho

#### **US Vision Team**

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#### **Donations**

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