



Annual Report 2019

Celebrating Our First Graduating Class

"We all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

2 Corinthians 3:18



Friends,

How do you respond when you finally reach something you've spent years working toward? Was it what you expected it would be? When you finally reach that moment, is your happiness lined with a little bit of sadness, because the anticipation for the moment is over?

For thirteen and a half years, we lived in an anticipatory waiting period for our first graduating high school class. In this time we have made decisions we believed were good, but weren't always the best. Nevertheless, God led us through them, and we learned. There were challenges, and God was always there. eduKenya and the class grew together. We developed the Senior Leadership Program, which became a powerful transformation experience for our students. The 7 Transformation Milestones evolved and shaped our students, and our students shaped our school.

Our high school grew out of a place of necessity, but became a place of priority in the transformation of our students. Through all this, we haven't been perfect, but wholly human. Where we saw frailty, God provided strength. We didn't always make the right decisions, but through this we found ingenuity, and like our students, continued to be transformed. God has led us, and developed the gifts and abilities of our staff, students, and parents. Now, we watch our 20 high school graduates step out of eduKenya. This is only the beginning of their transformation journey.

There is sadness in saying goodbye to our 2019 graduates, but also a tremendous amount of joy. After all, our purpose is to prepare our students to go out into their communities as agents of transformation. Spending the days leading up to graduation with the Seniors was an incredible blessing. We dined together, went bowling, and spent precious time in conversation. Our students shared with me what they had learned, and where they wanted to go from here. But more

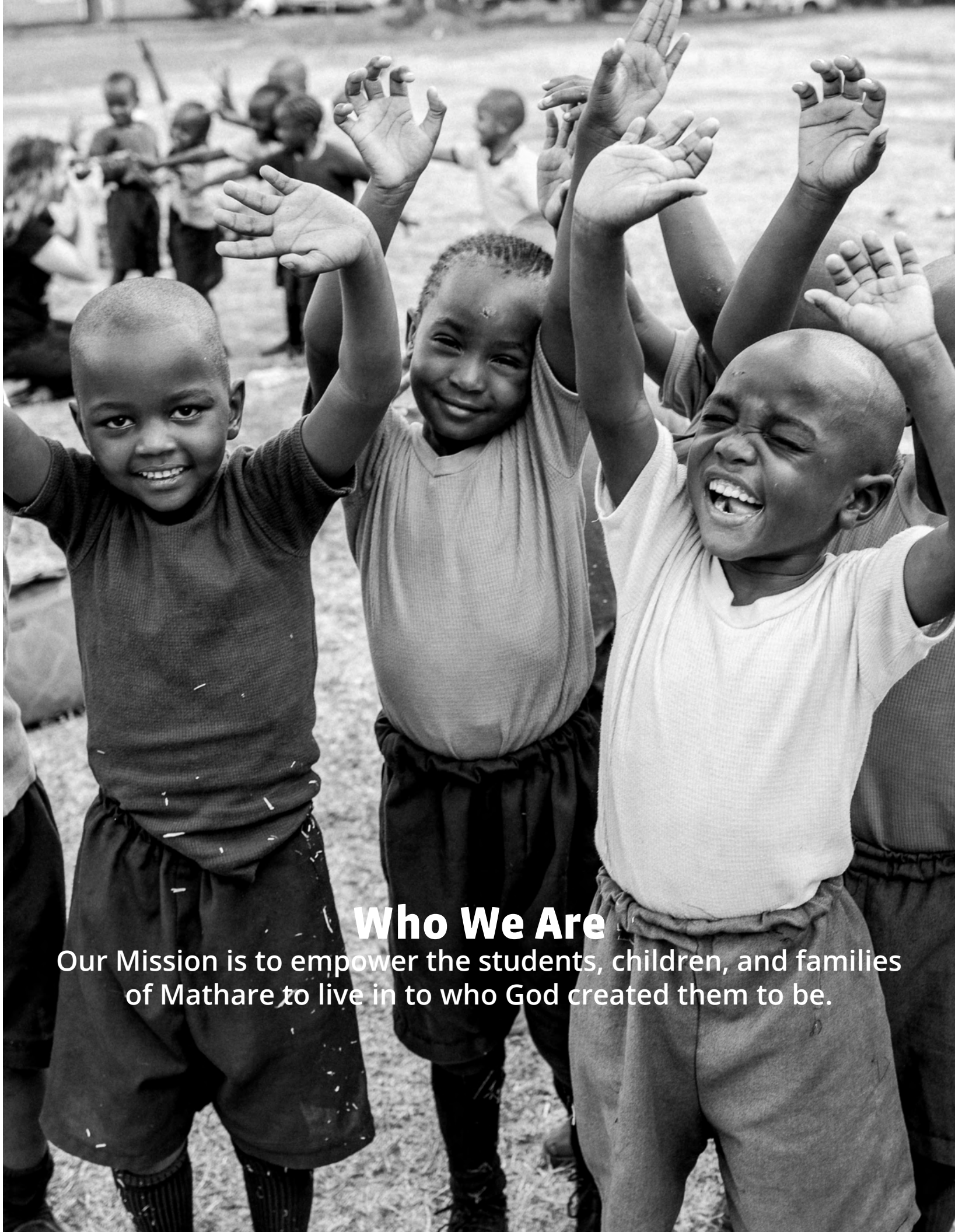
importantly, they spoke of the impact they wanted to have. After spending this time with them, I honestly couldn't believe I had the pleasure of being associated with such remarkable young people and their growth.

Our mission and vision thrived in 2019 – so many things continued to evolve, but it was still a challenging year. There were moments when I wasn't sure if we would survive financially, and that wore on me personally. As we scratched and clawed for each dollar, our amazing staff continued to provide transformational opportunities for our students and community members. Finances were a struggle all year, but December met us with the best fundraising month we ever had – another reminder of God's provision.

At the graduation ceremony, class representative Diana Osura gave one of the best graduation speeches I have ever heard. She shared about the family culture of the class and the transformation they experienced together. Hearing from her what God is doing for these students, I was overwhelmed with gratitude. In addition to their character development, 12/20 students received scores on their National Exam that automatically qualified them for university and 19/20 finished in the top 39% nationally. As Diana closed, she referred back to something they learned as they climbed Mt. Kenya: she encouraged her classmates to find the opportunity behind each challenge. As you read the stories in this Annual report, I hope you see how we also are finding the opportunities behind every challenge.

Gratefully,

Adam Gould
Executive Director/Co-Founder



Who We Are
Our Mission is to empower the students, children, and families of Mathare to live in to who God created them to be.

Climbing the Mountain is a Lot Like Life

The Senior Leadership Program is a year long program intended to grow our students spiritually, in character, and perseverance through mentorship, experiential class excursions and team building activities. This is done through in class learning and discussion, rock climbing, hikes, mountain climbing and mentoring. Below, Njenga, the program leader, describes his experience with the 2019 Senior class.

Ajema, eduKenya’s Kenya Director, came to Naru Moru, I think recommended to me by a friend. We got to talking about what she does, and she told me about the teenagers at eduKenya. I told her about what I do, and I guess that is how the story began. We talked at length on how I could be a part of the transformation in Mathare.

I had been doing different programs with young people, specifically outdoor education, something that was becoming more popular. I have also taken many people up the mountain before, and I began to notice what the great outdoors can do. I noticed how empowered the climbers would be, but it was unfortunate that this was realised only when their lives

were already well-lived. I longed to give this to younger people to imagine what kind of life they would live having discovered themselves and discovered things about themselves at an early age.

It is amazing to see the transformation that happens. With the outdoors, the transformation is seen more blatantly than in the classroom. I was encouraged to see the class of 2019 go through such transformation. It was beautiful seeing them come from being afraid of going up the high ropes at Lukenya or at Hellsgate to being confident going up the mountain.

What was most encouraging was hearing them talk about their experience. I was hoping to hear them say things like, “Now I can conquer anything,” or, “With every challenge, there is an opportunity, you just have to look for it.” It became all worthwhile when that is exactly what they said.

Growing up I was a follower and I had never thought that I could one day lead people or inspire them. But as life went by, the outdoors showed me my potential. I became motivated to exceed what I thought was possible. I pushed myself and now I can

share that experience with people. I can lead them to realize their potential.

The class of 2019 was a very disciplined class; they did as they were told, they had every toe in line, they mirrored their director in all ways. I could even say they were too disciplined. I was so used to teenagers who need help with discipline, but not this group – they were very easy to handle.

I remember going up the mountain, one of the students came to me and told me their fears of the mountain. They told me they were asthmatic and they knew that the cold may hold them back. This reminded me of myself. “I too am asthmatic,” I told them, and I have gone up this mountain more times than I can count. It was my limitation that I simply learned to master.”

Climbing the mountain is not about how strong you are physically. It is more about how you manage your weaknesses and master your strengths. It’s about being mentally prepared for a challenge and looking for opportunities to succeed with what you already have. Climbing the mountain is a lot like living life.



A Fine Impression

Mary is a primary school teacher employed by the government, currently working at Kiatine Primary school in Wote, Makueni County. She serves at Kiatine as the Christian Religious Education teacher, the Kiswahili teacher, and the guidance counseling teacher. She is passionate about social justice and the fight against gender-based violence. She participates in Gender-based Violence Canada, where she deliberates on how to curb the issue in Africa. Mary represents Kenya at these forums, with another colleague from a different part of the country.

In addition to being a part of Gender-based Violence Canada, Mary is also an exam proctor. Every year for the last 4 years Mary has proctored Kenya Certificate for Secondary Education (KCSE) exams in Makueni county, Chelezo High School being the fourth school and her favourite, she says.

While Mary talked about the students at Chelezo High School, her eyes would light up. It was strange to see a total stranger become so excited about a class that she hardly knew. She sang the praises of the Class of 2019 as though she had met angels. Our Kenya Director, Ajema, told Mary that we would be holding a Graduation ceremony for the class of 2019, Mary said that she must come – she must see where this class comes from.

“Out of all the schools I proctored, Chelezo High school stood out. I can never forget that class. KCSE exam period can make people go crazy. There is a lot of pressure for the students to do well, and that kind of pressure makes people do some crazy things. It’s a difficult job to be an exam

proctor. The pressure to do well can cause cheating, and cheating is a complicated thing, the child immediately gets a failing grade; the principal and the proctor are at risk of losing their teaching licenses. The consequences should be something that the principal and the student fear, but the fear of failure clearly outweighs it.

This is always the worry I have. I am afraid to lose my license. I am also afraid for my life – these students and teachers can harm me for wanting to do the right thing. Being an exam proctor is a scary business. Whenever I go to a new school I am cautious of what I am getting into, but it is a duty that must be done by someone.

This is why the students at Chelezo really amazed me. They didn't seem as though they were the first class to ever sit for the exam in their school; the air was calm and relaxed. They studied as though this was an exam like any other and not the exam that students feel will define the rest of their lives. They sat for the exams as though they had experienced this before. I was amazed. They didn't fidget to suggest ill behaviour, and if you passed by them, they would hardly notice because they were busy doing their work.

I couldn't believe it, I had never experienced this. I was not worried for my life nor my license. When I would get together with my other colleagues and share stories of the schools we were assigned to, my colleagues told me horrifying stories of how they must be alert because the students seem to be in cahoots. While I told them about Chelezo, they all prayed that next year they would be posted there.

The students would greet me every morning and say goodbye to me every evening with a, ‘See you tomorrow!’ I had never experienced this, it warmed my heart. The Director, Ajema, while at Chelezo, went to the kitchen to help cook the meals for the candidates. No wonder the students were so polite and helpful, these are the kind of examples they have.

I had multiple conversations with Ajema about how Chelezo started and I could not believe that these children were from Mathare slums! I have interacted with students with troubled backgrounds before, but I had never met any like the ones at Chelezo. I wanted to know where they are from and meet the people who molded them. When Ajema sent me the invite to graduation, I had to come and see where these students came from and see where they are going next.

I was overwhelmed by the love in the graduation hall that day. The ceremony was beautiful, I could see the amount of effort that was put to build the students at Chelezo. I pray that I can come for more of those ceremonies.”





Preschoolers Transforming Mathare

“It’s not just about the child getting an education, it’s about the child getting a transforming education. Preschool is a very important stage – it’s here that we lay the foundation for all the other teachers to build on – learning starts here.” Talking to Mrs. Christine Bosire, the headteacher of our preschool, she had one agenda on her mind: Tell the world about early childhood development, why it’s so important, and how she sees transformation in the lives of children all the time.

“You know the problems of the slum areas, preschool isn’t taken seriously, and yet this is where transformation begins, these kids are so powerful! Parents have come up to me to tell me about how their toddlers are changing the culture of their homes. They tell me that

because of our Christ-centred milestone the children expect the parents to pray before eating a meal, pray before going to bed and in the morning when they wake up! These are only preschool students!” Mrs. Bosire tells me.

eduKenya wants to empower the children of Mathare so that they can transform Mathare and be well-equipped to solve the issues of informal settlement for the future. But the little children in preschool are making their mark already. “They hold their parents accountable and call them out on wrongdoing, saying, ‘That is not what the teacher told us to do, or the teacher said that is wrong.’ In turn, the parents have to become a better example to them,” says Mrs. Bosire.

The teachers really give of themselves to

ensure that the children become the best version of themselves. The teachers will teach the children songs and skits so that they can participate in festivals and compete against other schools. They will go with the students on all these trips, so that the children are exposed to more than just the confines of the slum area. They interact with other children from other schools and see more of Nairobi. They see other types of cars on the way to these trips, they see other kinds of people and other kinds of children. “It’s important to start this now, I see a big difference between children who go for these festivals and those who don’t. There is a level of confidence that they have that others do not. That’s what makes them eduKenya children. And all of this is made possible because of teachers who are intentional to help the children get to where they need to go.

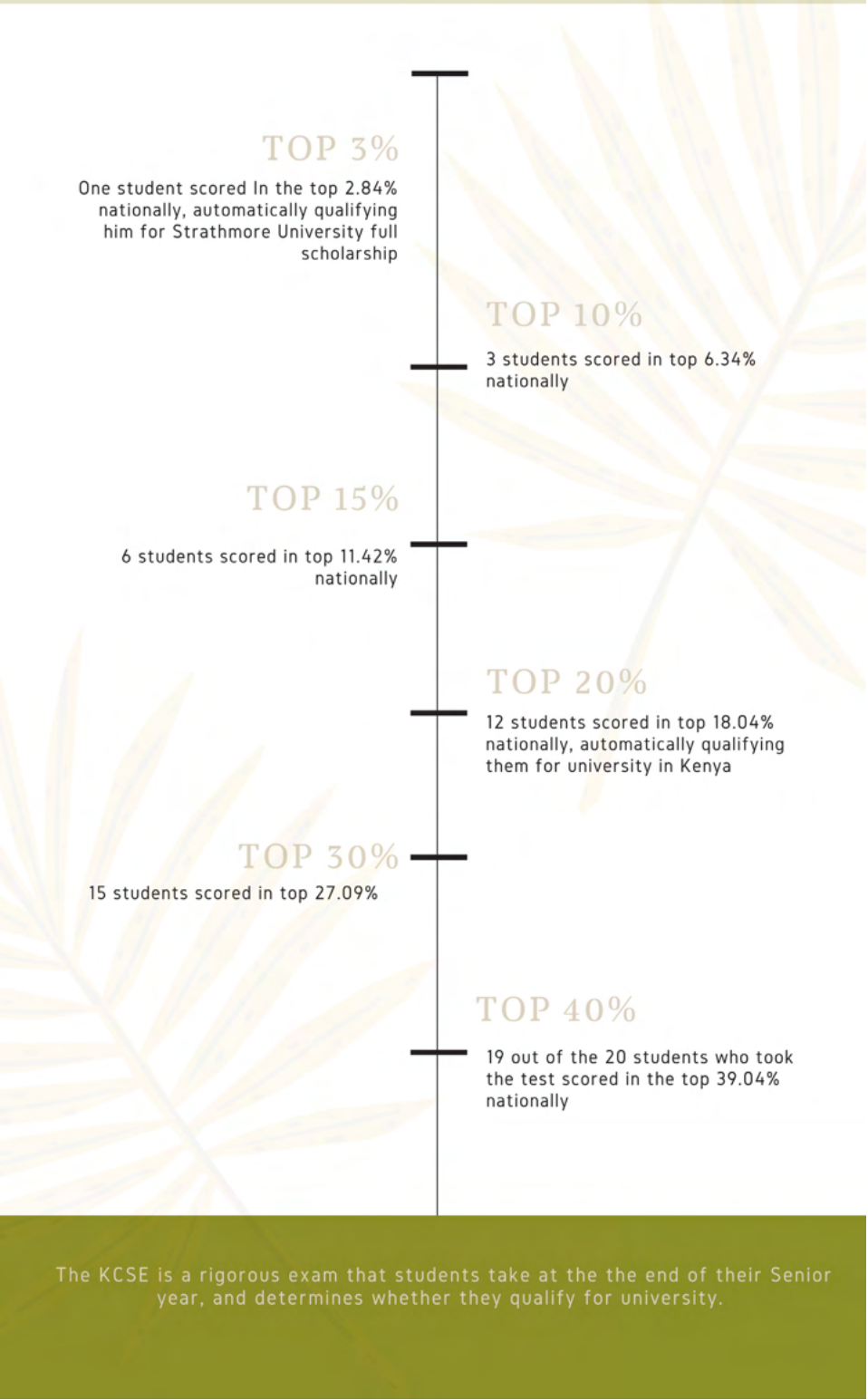
One of my favourite stories is the story of a child who is now in Grade Two. His name is Magendo. When he first came he was notoriously difficult. It wasn’t his fault, but the environment that he grew up in. He grew up around a lot of violence and abuse, so he, in turn, was violent and abusive. He would hit and trip the other children all the time. We took him through the milestones; we walked with him all the three years of his preschool, talking about Jesus and who Jesus wants us to be, and we began to see a change. By the time he was leaving, he was a completely different boy. Now he is in Grade Two, and he is polite and kind.

I find my job very fulfilling – I love to see the children grow up well and be nurtured into who God called them to be.



HOW WE RANKED

2019 KCSE TEST SCORES



The KCSE is a rigorous exam that students take at the the end of their Senior year, and determines whether they qualify for university.



A Story of Faith

Mathare is a difficult place full of people trying to make the world better for themselves. Each day is focused on simply making it to the next. It can feel like a hopeless place, especially to the youth. It is easy to see that there is nowhere else to go and so few things to achieve. But this is not true for Faith Muasya.

Faith sits behind her sewing machine stitching her way to a better life – she has been a part of eduKenya for the last 2 years. We were offering sewing classes to the parents and community members when Faith first joined us; she was a tenth grade drop-out unable to complete her high school education. Her father was no longer able to pay her school fees, so Faith became a seamstress to earn some money for herself.



Faith was later employed by eduKenya in the Community Sustainability department where they stitch school uniforms, retail and wholesale clothing, and bags for retail and wholesale. While working at eduKenya, Faith has been able to put her daughter Gift through school at our pre-primary school. Not only that – she also earned her GED. At the age of 24, Faith is providing for herself and her daughter, ensuring Gift has all that she needs.

“...We will never forget that when individuals work together, the group achieves more and what is seemingly impossible becomes possible. Perhaps more than anything else, the greatest lesson we learned is that together, when we have Christ at the center, we are able to combine our talents, gifts, and abilities into something powerful, resulting in academic excellence, athletic achievement, and community spirit. Class of 2019, remember Mt. Kenya and look for the opportunities behind the challenges.”

Diana Osura
Valedictorian, Class of 2019

Financial Snapshot

Fiscal Year 2019

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 and we were recently accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA).

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, 2018.

REVENUE		ASSETS		EXPENSES
Individual	\$516,680	US	KENYA	\$490,980 School, Skills Training, Community Support
Business/Corporate	\$26,000	\$134,340 Current	\$125,558 Current	\$123,038 US Administrative
Church	\$102,690	\$10,108 Fixed	\$312,523 Fixed	\$102,192 Fundraising
Nonprofit	\$22,707	\$144,448 TOTAL	\$438,082 TOTAL	\$10,719 Kenya Administrative
Rental Income	\$14,068			\$726,929 TOTAL
School Fees	\$25,089			
Skill Training	\$3280			
TOTAL	\$ 710,516			
		\$134,311 US		
		\$39,007 Kenya		



Dr. Mary Ochieng

Going Against the Grain

Dr. Mary Ochieng is the Director of Research and Graduate Studies at the Strathmore Institute of Mathematical Science (SIMS), where she also lectures in Mathematics. She holds a PhD in Mathematics and a Masters in Mathematics and in Statistics. Dr. Mary has recently joined eduKenya as a member of the International Board.

“In my line of work, I am used to being the minority. As Director of Research and Graduate studies at Strathmore, I am used to being the only female sitting in the meetings. While I was studying in the US I was used to being the only black person, and in the mathematical industry I am used to being the only woman. I guess I am used to standing out and going against the grain.”

In April of 2019, our Senior class had the opportunity to visit Dr. Mary at SIMS where she kindly hosted math workshops for them. We were delighted when Dr. Mary accepted to further connect with our high school students and math teachers.

“I was attracted to eduKenya when I realised that the students are from where I am from. I wanted to be a part of spreading hope and building quality education in Mathare. When I was asked to visit the school, I was delighted. When I was asked to join the board I thought why not, I can do so much more than just meetings and workshops.”

Dr. Mary’s story begins in a similar way to our students, in the Mathare Slum. She was the eldest girl of five siblings living in a one-bedroom shack. “I would look at people like my Aunt who was a secretary in those days, and she would drive a nice car, and I would think to myself...there is something more out there, there is more to life than what I see in Mathare.” Dr. Mary went on to explain to our students, “This is what motivated me to work really hard and get where I am today.”

We could see the glow in the eyes of the students when she began to tell her story and the battle with poverty



in Mathare. Their hope surged as they leaned in, as if they saw who they could become and it just dawned on them that they have a chance to leave as well. Dr. Mary continued to explain how it was difficult for her to juggle her home life and the demands of education. She told how they sometimes didn’t have enough kerosene for her to burn to finish homework.

Dr. Mary attended a private school called St. Teresa that was near the Mathare Slum for both her Primary and Secondary School education. “Since St. Teresa was a private school, the neighbours would call my father crazy for taking me to such an expensive school.” She continued to explain, “In those days, the school fees at St. Teresa were about 150 shillings, while the public schools in Mathare were only 20 shillings. Thankfully, my father only had to pay for 40 shillings for my school fees due to the generosity of individuals that gave toward financial assistance.” Dr. Mary expressed, “While I was younger, I didn’t see the difference between my other classmates and me. It was as I grew older that I realized there was more to life than what I knew, and that I really wanted to achieve it.”

Dr. Mary is passionate about the quality of teaching and learning of Mathematics.

“Mathematics is for everyone – not only for the elite few. Neither is it for just the boys. I want to help students overcome their fear of math, and build their confidence in the subject. I had a teacher who believed in me and was able to help me change my grades and perception of math. So I am personally aware of the importance of an empowered teacher. I am excited to improve the quality of teaching so we can improve the attitude towards learning. You never know, women might stop being a minority in my field.”

Our prayer is that Dr. Mary inspires the students to see that there is more to life than what they see in the slum, and to be the best version of themselves. Dr. Mary Ochieng is a good example of someone going against the grain and not going alone; we pray our students follow.

Graduation 2019 Class Representative Speech

My name is Diana Osura and I have been a student at the Chelezo High School since 2016. We’ve had a wonderful four years at this institution. I remember vividly when these pioneer students first arrived in Naivasha, young, naïve and looking more like primary school pupils than high school students. How time flies! It seems like yesterday that we had orientation at the Mawewa School Hall in Mathare as we prepared to start this new phase of our lives. Little did we know that the month spent in Mathare during orientation would set the foundation for our transformation as individuals and as a class, and eventually shape the culture that is now set in Chelezo High School. We thank God for those small beginnings.

With just twenty students in the entire school, we learned to take up positions of leadership, ensuring that our new school ran smoothly and in an orderly manner. As a group, we’ve been through a lot. We’ve been through ups and downs, shared happy times and sad moments together and in the process, learned to appreciate the little things and the opportunities God has given us. We may have started small, just twenty students, but who knew that it could turn into something so beautiful and bonds so strong that they are almost unbreakable. I don’t want to alarm you, but the Class of 2019 has a serious problem. It’s not an intellectual problem; nor is it an academic problem. The class of 2019 has the problem of being AWESOME. Much as we were a school of only 20 competing with what is known as “big” schools, we beat them at the soccer pitch, during volleyball tournaments, at the basketball games, and even during inter-school debates. We learned well that no one should despise the days of small beginnings. It is what shaped us.

With the help of our equally awesome and one-of-a-kind teachers and other staff, great values were inculcated in us. These fine

young gentlemen and ladies sitting at the front have been able to make it this far due to the collective effort of a great team working together to bring about a generation of people with character. The eduKenya management have been remarkably incredible; we never faced a problem regarding our studies in school. They have given us so much and I must say that we are very grateful for all they have done for us.

Certainly, our parents have a lot to be proud of. We went to Chelezo as children, barely thirteen and fourteen years old. We come out as young men and women, educated, empowered and transformed to change our communities and make them a better place for all. In less than a year many of us will be heading off to universities, colleges or to get a job that will help us contribute to our families, community and society. We are aware that we go out into a world that is difficult, where we may not have the eduKenya staff and teachers of Chelezo to instruct us, guide us or even correct us in love. We expect challenges to come our way, but we are not afraid. If every single one of us made it up the third highest peak of Mount Kenya, in the worst kind of weather, at the worst time last August, what could be too difficult for us to accomplish if we put our heart, mind, soul and strength to it? We will look for the opportunities behind every challenge and with God’s help, accomplish what is seemingly impossible.

I would like to make special mention of our partners from Kenya and the US who have provided resources for us to successfully complete our high school education. You have worked hard and made personal sacrifices, believed in us and played an important role in making us young people of worth. We say a big thank you and may God reward you for your faithfulness in walking this long four-year journey of transformation with us.

I would also like to thank our eduKenya Executive Director, Mr. Adam Gould and others who have worked closely with him. They have made this institution a source of inspiration and blessing to us, giving us the confidence to step out into a world of unknowns without fear. Thank you, Adam, for giving us this wonderful opportunity to be a part of the transformation of Mathare and other communities that we are a part of. We have grown into shining examples of people who choose to be transformed through the journey we have walked. Without the love, compassion, understanding and support of our directors, teachers and staff, the journey would have been near impossible. We are grateful to you all.

In closing, when I think of our class, I don’t think of only one person. I think of us as a team and a family. To the Class of 2019, remember that every community has expectations of its people. We are very aware of the responsibility that we now carry. Today, as we walk off into the wider community that is the world out there, let us not forget the responsibility we have towards our community, to make it a better place and to bring about positive change and transformation. Over the coming years we may forget some scientific facts or mathematical formulas that we learned, but we will never forget that when individuals work together, the group achieves more, and what is seemingly impossible becomes possible. Perhaps more than anything else, the greatest lesson we learned is that together, when we have Christ at the centre, we are able to combine our talents, gifts and abilities into something powerful, resulting in academic excellence, athletic achievement and community spirit.

Class of 2019, Remember Mt. Kenya and look for the opportunity behind the challenge.

Thank you all and God bless you richly!



EduKenya International Board of Directors

Pete Zimmerman, *Chair*
Chege Waiganjo, *Vice Chair*
Steve Gould, *Treasurer*
Adam Gould
Luke Michael
Eric Mirangi
Danny Mutisya
John Rosacker

Contacts:

edukenya.org
info@edukenya.org
facebook.com/edukenya
Instagram: @edukenya_official
610-765-1126

Tennessee Office

2620 Cortlandt Court
Nolensville, TN 37135

Kenya Office

P.O.Box 1993
00200 - City Square
Nairobi, Kenya

Donations

7090 Nolen Park Circle
Nolensville, TN 37135