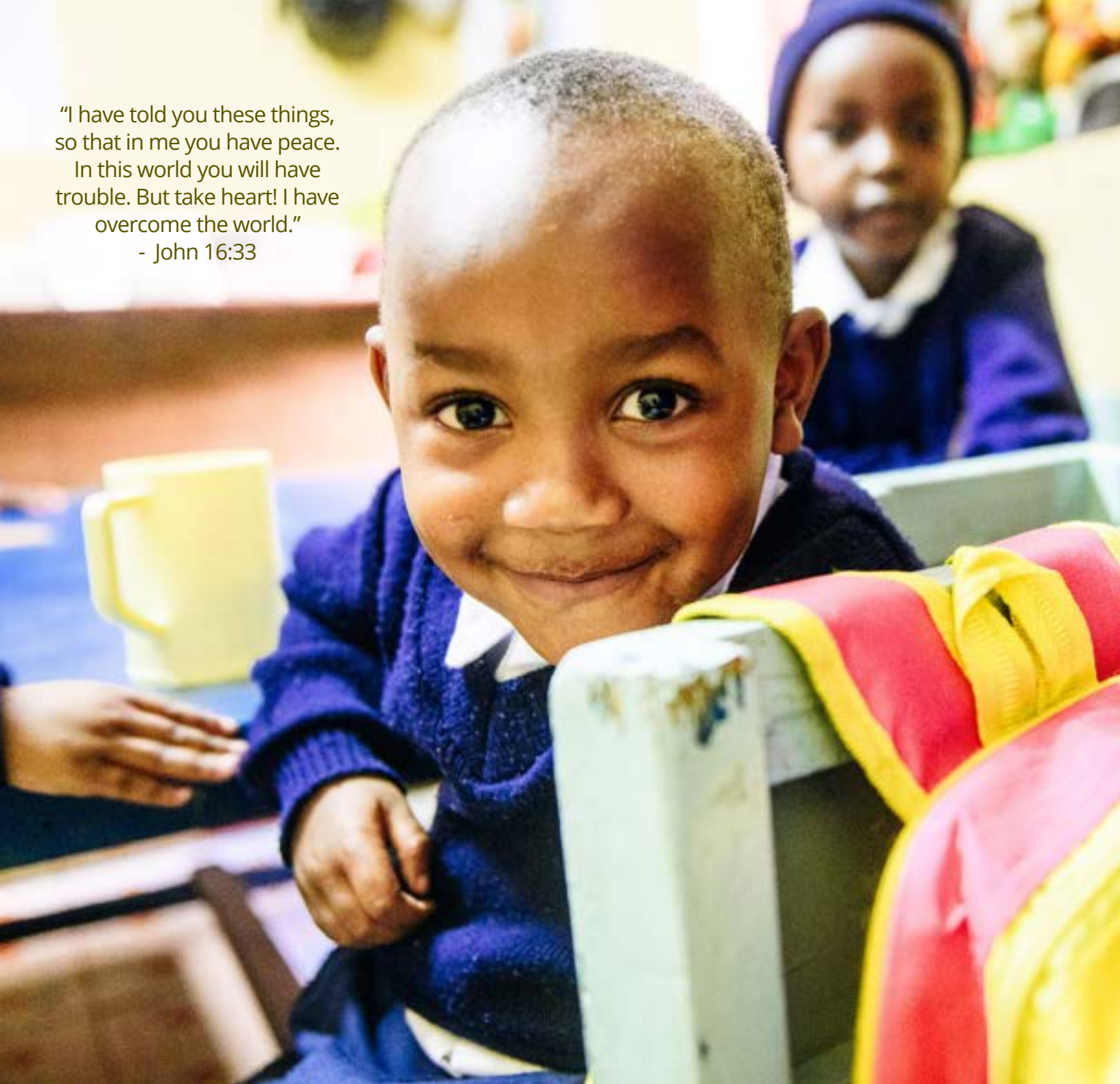


"I have told you these things,  
so that in me you have peace.  
In this world you will have  
trouble. But take heart! I have  
overcome the world."  
- John 16:33



# Annual Report 2020

More Than We Could Ask or Imagine



## *Friends,*

The events, responses and decisions of 2020 pushed the world's most vulnerable populations to even more dire, life-threatening situations. The community we serve in Mathare was not immune to that. While I can spend a lot of time sharing about all that was wrong with 2020, I'd like to focus more on resilience and hope in the midst of incredible difficulty. As Kenya went into lockdown and students were sent home from schools for an indefinite period, and as the stock market dropped further and further each day, and people began to lose jobs, I began to wonder what the future of eduKenya would be. I immediately began to pray and ask that God would provide enough to keep all of our 60+ staff in Kenya fully employed and that we would have enough resources to provide food for families we work with, as the possibilities for income, including day labor, were disappearing at an alarming rate.

April and May are typically not good months for us when it comes to fundraising – they tend to be part of a dry season. We went from having the best financial December, January and February we have ever had to having the worst March in our last 4 years. Where I saw the possibility lacking, God saw fit to share His abundance. We had the largest two months of giving we have ever had (outside of November and December) in the history of our organization in April and May. In Kenya, where the economy was hit even harder than the US, an organic market began donating fresh fruits and vegetables and goat's milk. We also received cash donations from Kenyans wishing to help the most vulnerable in their community.

Through your faithfulness here in the US and our brothers and sisters in Kenya, we distributed thousands of pounds of food, along with other basics like soap, to all of the families we are privileged to work with. Our end of year giving in 2020 was the largest we have ever had. We were able to fulfill government

based COVID protocols for reopening our schools because of your generosity. We were able to modify, but continue to do our important character building Senior Leadership program. My prayer was for just enough, when I wasn't even sure if eduKenya could exist, and God said, "I'll give you more than you could ask or imagine." There is no guarantee that this will always be the result, but we are so grateful for the way you all responded to God's leading.

The hardship of human loss, income and job loss, the indignity of being on the verge of starvation, increasing teen pregnancy, and only 50% of students nationwide returning to school after months of lockdowns reminds us that life is fragile and not to be taken for granted.

We have been fighting massive uphill battles, but we continue to see God's hand and experience his comfort in difficulty. It is always easy to lump everything together and identify it as bad or good, positive or negative, desirable or undesirable. There was a lot about 2020 that brought sorrow, difficulty and discouragement. Yet, if we take 2020 piece by piece, I have no doubt that, as you will see in the pages of this report, God's faithfulness is everywhere. His redemptive work never ceases and His love is all around us if we are willing to see it.

Thank you for being a visible expression of God's love to eduKenya in 2020!

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.**

# The Little Girl in the Blue Dress

Doris walked into the office and said, "Mike, there is a girl who wants to see you." Everyone's ears turned, their curiosity piqued. We teased him about it, wondering which girl had come to see Mike in the office. Ajema was the first to investigate. It was to her surprise that the girl who had come to see Mike wasn't a lady as we had assumed. In the waiting bay sat a little girl in a blue dress.

She sat with her back straight and her head held high. Ajema said hello and asked her her name. "Daisy," the little girl replied.

"She wasn't shy, that is what struck me the most. She looked me in the eye, I asked her if she was here to see Mike and she said a straight 'yes,'" said Ajema.

So Ajema called Mike to come to see her. At this point, the rest of the staff were very curious and like

children listening to a conversation through a keyhole. We kept our ears listening to hear from Daisy in a blue dress.

"I would like to be admitted into Mawewa School. I'm in grade four." This was Daisy's opening line. It had us all baffled. She is no more than 10 years old and has come to ask to be in school. In most cases, the children would do anything to stay home and play with their friends. Daisy's mum was at home unwell and unable to look for a school for Daisy. Daisy decided to take matters into her own hands and find the best school she knows in Mathare. Daisy had not been a stranger to the eduKenya halls however. She was once in our preschool, but when her family moved out of Mathare she had to move schools. Her family just recently moved back into Mathare to stay.

Daisy went on to explain that the school she was in shut down due to the pandemic and she wanted to continue to learn. Daisy was very determined to meet with Mike. She had come into the office at 8am sharp that morning. Because of the pandemic, no one was in the office, so Doris told her to come and check at 11am. She left and at 11:00 she was back. Mike had arrived but was in a meeting, so again she was asked to come back – this time at 2pm. And as sure as the sunrise, she was at the office at 2pm in a blue dress talking to Mike.

When Daisy left and Mike walked back into the office with everyone, we all said unanimously that even if the class has 1,000 students, Daisy Hamesi would be student number 1,001. Welcome to the family Daisy Hamesi.







## Caroline Wanjiku Form Four Class of 2020

I am so happy to be back in school. School is a safe place for me, a ticket to my way out. This COVID period has been hard – hard to study, hard to keep learning and hard to survive. I come from a family of five. I am the eldest among my four siblings; my dad left us a while ago. That has left a bitter taste in my mouth. But that is a story for another day.

My mum has carried my siblings and me on her shoulders on her own. She works so hard. I hate to see her struggle like that. I feel responsible for my mum and for the family when she is gone. I want to be successful and be able to fend for my family. However, my time is yet to come. I need the education to get where I want to go.

During this pandemic, I helped my mum run her small hotel in Kiambu where we live. I wanted my mum to make the most profit from my free labor so we could sustain the house and feed all my siblings. This, although noble, took a toll on my studies. I worked long hours keeping the customers happy. I served them food and tea. I served all temperaments and all kinds of people. It was tiring. I really wanted to go

back to school. I remember when I went to see my mum's friend and after my visit, I thought about my life and how it would be if I didn't have an education. I thought to myself, "I must make something of myself."

I want to be a doctor when I grow up, but I used to be afraid of the sciences. Society has said that women cannot do science and I had become a part of that thought. It had really weighed me down as I wondered how I would make my dreams come true. One time a female lawyer came to talk to us and share her story, and she told us that she did all three sciences: Physics, Biology and Chemistry. I felt so inspired. She is a woman and managed to do Physics. I no longer felt limited because of my gender. One of the girls in the pioneer class of 2019 told me to be brave, to put my best foot forward. She told me I could do it.

The community here in school is so loving and caring. In my experience in other schools, people aren't that great, but here at Chelezo High I have found family. I have found acceptance and belonging. The teachers have really encouraged me – they have been kind to me and to my fellow

students. I see them making so much effort to not only teach us what is required, but to also teach the things that aren't taught in the textbook. They care about my well-being, and I am forever grateful. I hope that by the time I have children, Chelezo is still open. I would like to bring my children here as well. I would like them to experience the same kind of love and support I have received.

My life has changed a lot because of this school. When I first started, I had an apprehension toward people. I was untrusting and very guarded. As the years have gone by, I have learned to love and to be loved. I have learned that people can be kind and supportive. The other day my classmates told me about how I am not as apprehensive. I am more relaxed and less guarded. I see my transformation. I believe in myself more. I am not afraid to achieve all that I can. My teachers have been a great inspiration to me. They have encouraged me, corrected me, and given me advice. I am grateful to even the eduKenya staff who have brought mentors to guide me. I have a lot of hope for the future, and Chelezo is my ticket out.

# A Safe Place

While schools were shut down, many of our students had to help their parents make ends meet. Students being in school lifts a burden off their parents, because they are fed two meals a day in school. But since schools, businesses, and shops were all closed, students had to find a way to help make a living. Such was the case for Faith Nguno. Faith started her own boiled egg and smoked sausage business. She sold them on the side of the road in Githurai, Nairobi. Faith shared with us a little about her life at home and with eduKenya.

"Most of my money would go to keeping the house stocked and my siblings fed. I am the eldest currently in the house. My older brother and sister have left my mother's house, and now it is up to me to help mum with everything.



I am happy to get back to school. I want to pursue a career in finance, I want to put my love for mathematics to good use. I'm not sure what exactly I want to do yet, but I am going to figure it out. I am excited to help my mum on a larger scale. My older brother and sister are doing it as well, and I want to follow in their footsteps.

My dad passed on recently, and after that school has been a good escape. It is a place I can concentrate on the future. I guess I needed an escape, and that is what eduKenya has always been to me – a safe place. There are no worries here. I can leave the hustle and bustle of Nairobi life at home. I can concentrate on doing the exams."







## Anne Wambua

There was this little girl at the beginning of my teaching career. Her name was Whitney. Whitney couldn't sit still to save her life! She made my classes fun. While I taught the class, she would be a little Houdini, now you see me, now you don't. I would call Whitney so many times in a day I began calling my children Whitney! She made teaching fun.

Every morning with her backpack still on her back, and water bottle in hand, Whitney would come to my desk before she did anything else and give me the morning report. She would update me on all the happenings in her life from the time she went home the previous day to the time she got to school that morning. It was Whitney that got me to love the teaching profession. I have enjoyed my work ever since.

I can be so invested in my students. I want nothing else but for them to succeed. This weakness comes with the job, I take everything to heart, the success, the failures I take them as if they were mine. Sometimes my students can keep me up at night. I wonder what I can do differently so that they improve or do better or keep the momentum.

It was my mothers' idea for me to become a teacher, my father wanted me to become an accountant like he was. He did all he could to try and get me into the profession, but my mother convinced him otherwise and I am glad she did. I am so happy to deal with people every day and talk to them. Be a part of their lives and someone instrumental at that.

It was in class six that my math teacher encouraged me to be the mathematician that I am today. She made math easy. She had just transferred from another school so she treated me with a new set of eyes. My love for math started there, then when I got to high school I found an old man who loved to teach. He made math seem easy, like 1, 2, 3. I know greatly who I am because of the teachers who moulded me. So I know what power I hold over my students.

I still think about Whitney every now and then, I wonder who she has become, I wonder if she is still as jumpy as she used to be. That is the thing about being a teacher, your students take a seat in your heart and they never leave.

# The Class



## Meet Susan Munyori

When Stella first asked me to be a partner at eduKenya and she went on to explain to me about the situation in Mathare, my heart was moved for many reasons. I thought about how hard I have worked to make sure my daughter is taken care of, and how that privilege isn't given to these children. I wanted to be a part of eduKenya in giving the same kind of love and support to these children who are growing up in an environment that seems to be against them.

It sounded as though eduKenya was giving the children a chance to be children. It was giving them a chance to not be little adults trying to make ends meet, and I was ready to



s of 2020



give that to a child. Eventually, when I went to visit Chelezo High school in Wote, I met the high school boys and girls and was given the chance to hear their stories. I could see what Stella was talking about. I was happy to partner with them about something that I feel passionate. In the same place, I met Ivy and Mercy who told me about their experiences at school. They talked about it as though it was the best thing to happen to them. I was roped in – Chelezo High School seemed to be a safe place for these kids. It seemed like a place that they could be themselves – a place where they are taken care of. I find this to be so important to a child's development. This is the reason I agreed to the girls' request

to mentor both of them. I decided to do more than just fund eduKenya. I wanted to be a part of it.

One of my most fulfilling jobs was when I was working with the Turkana people and was able to empower them to be ready for the job market and business opportunities. It was a real eye-opener to the struggles they faced. Although, it was also so beautiful to see them grow, and see them be able to provide for themselves and their families in a way they were not able to before. This did nothing but enhance my passion for people-development and when Stella asked me to be a part of eduKenya, I couldn't say no.



Robert Making a Table in Wote



Meet Robert! He is our resident handyman. He has taken time to go to our high school and build some more tables for the students. This is one of the ways that eduKenya takes advantage of the local resources that we have. Robert is a great resource and we thank God for him and his great workmanship.



# Financial Snapshot

## Fiscal Year 2020

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, 2020.

### SUPPORT & REVENUE

<i>Individual</i>	\$565,604.70
<i>Business/Corporate</i>	\$30,775.00
<i>Church</i>	\$114,372.00
<i>Nonprofit</i>	\$21,525.00
<i>Rental Income</i>	\$12,714.81
<i>School Fees</i>	\$19,679.19
<i>Skill Training</i>	\$2354.63
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 767,025.40</b>

### ASSETS

US	KENYA
<i>Current</i>	<i>Current</i>
\$192,682	\$64,478
<i>Fixed</i>	<i>Fixed</i>
\$3247	\$288,140
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>\$195,929</b>	<b>\$352,618</b>

### EXPENSES

\$444,217	<i>Program (School, Skills, Community Support)</i>
\$105,429	<i>US Administrative</i>
\$97,507	<i>Fundraising</i>
\$14,333	<i>Kenya Administrative</i>
<b>\$661,486</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

### LIABILITIES

\$85,746	<i>US</i>
\$7,642	<i>Kenya</i>







### **EduKenya International Board of Directors**

Pete Zimmerman, *Chair*  
Eric Mirangi, *Vice Chair*  
Steve Gould, *Treasurer*  
Adam Gould  
Alice Kariuki  
Luke Michael  
Dr. Mary Ochieng  
John Rosacker  
Caroline Omondi  
Danny Mutisya, *ex-officio*

### **Contacts:**

[edukenya.org](http://edukenya.org)  
[info@edukenya.org](mailto:info@edukenya.org)  
[facebook.com/edukenya](https://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