



# Kakenya's Dream

Empowering Girls, Transforming Communities

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

## LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER



Dear Friends,

2017 was a year of growth and transformation at Kakenya's Dream. Our vision of a world in which every girl can thrive continues to guide our path ahead. From our first group of students graduating high school to beginning construction on a second campus, we are achieving bigger dreams than ever before.

This, my friends, is all because of you. Thanks to the generosity and positivity of the global Kakenya's Dream family, we are driving lasting change. Together, we will keep dreaming until every girl, in every family, in every community, in every nation in Africa has the tools, support system, and environment she needs to thrive.

When you empower a girl, you transform a community. This is Kakenya's Dream. Hand in hand, heart by heart, I know we can achieve it.

With gratitude,

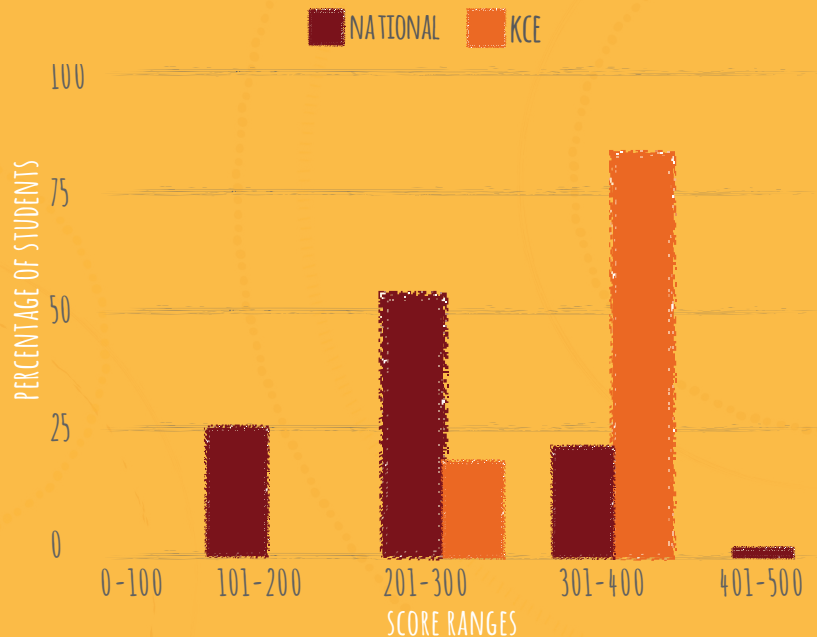
Kakenya Ntaiya, PhD  
Founder and President

# EMPOWERING girls

In 2017, we fully supported 182 girls through our Kakenya Center for Excellence (KCE) boarding school (grades 4-8) and another 131 young women through the Network for Excellence program (grades 9-12). From healthcare, nutrition, and safety to a high-quality education and leadership trainings, we are empowering girls holistically through our multi-faceted approach. 100% of our girls are still thriving, free from female genital mutilation and child marriage.

Our students consistently score among the highest in the country on the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE), a national test that determines high school placement:

## 2017 KENYA CERTIFICATE OF PRIMARY EDUCATION National Distribution vs. KCE Students



## ACADEMICS

At the Kakenya Center for Excellence, each and every student receives a high-quality education from the best teachers in the field. From science and history to music and art, our well-rounded curriculum empowers our girls to think critically and creatively.

## KCE STUDENTS ARE ENERGIZED IN MATHEMATICS CLASS!



## HEALTH & RIGHTS

Promoting and protecting our girls' health, rights, and dignity lies at the core of our programs. We utilize a range of formal and informal tools to help girls realize their full potential, including providing check-ups by a physician's assistant, serving nutritious food, and promoting self-care and good hygiene.

At weekend and weeklong Health and Leadership Trainings, vulnerable girls and boys from our underserved county participate in a series of high-impact activities. The sessions include small and large group work, role playing, skits, and testimonies, designed to challenge misinformation and impart vital knowledge on topics including self defense, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, and life-skills. Highly-trained facilitators also introduce key documents protecting children's rights, including the Constitution of Kenya's Bill of Rights (2010) and The Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act (2011).

1099 GIRLS  
570 BOYS



served at Health and  
Leadership Trainings in 2017



KCE STUDENTS ENJOY THEIR  
HEALTHY LUNCHES OUTSIDE  
ON A NICE DAY



At each training, the facilitators include valuable time for self-reflection. By the end, students exude confidence. Vivian, a 6th grade participant in the December 2017 weeklong camp, wrote in her entrance survey that she believed female genital mutilation (FGM) was the "thing that you do to get a child." At the end of the week, she was asked on her exit survey, "Do you want to undergo FGM? Give reasons for your answer." This is what she wrote:

"NO!! NO!! NO!! I HAVE LEARNED THE MEANING OF F.G.M. BECAUSE THE EFFECT ON GIVING BIRTH WILL BRING PROBLEM, WILL BE VERY PAINFUL. SO I WILL SAY NO!!! NO!!! NO!!!"

Responses like Vivian's testify to the transformative impact of the trainings. Each year, we continue to reach farther and wider in our otherwise marginalized and rural community.

# Futures with PROMISE & POTENTIAL

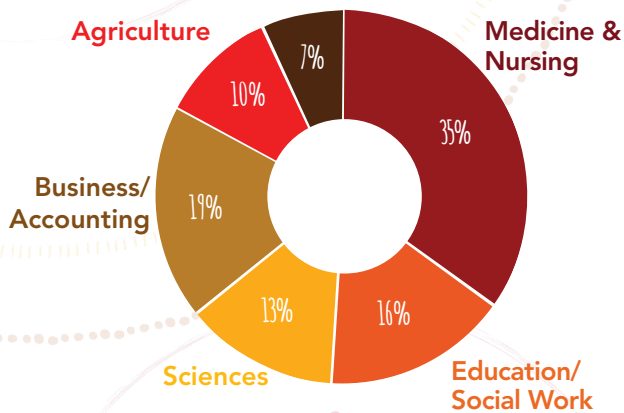
We are committed to equipping every girl for a future with promise and potential. Whatever her goal, we provide the mentorship, counseling, and academic support to empower her to achieve it – and it's working. In December 2017, our first group of students graduated from some of the best high schools in Kenya. They studied for weeks to prepare for the Kenyan Certificate of Secondary School, including returning to our campus for intensive tutoring sessions with our teachers. Their hard work paid off; all scored well above national averages and in 2018, they will enter universities in Kenya and around the world.



SELF-DEFENSE IS A FUN  
AND EMPOWERING  
SESSION AT EVERY TRAINING

## CAREER PLANS BY CATEGORY CLASS OF 2017

Tourism Management



MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2017  
FROM THE NETWORK FOR EXCELLENCE

# MEET Sharon

Sharon, age 18, is one of the 24 pioneer Kakenya's Dream students who graduated from high school in December 2017. As part of the first class to enroll at KCE, Sharon represents the power of education, holistic support, and passion working together to transform lives.


Sharon grew up in a polygamous family with 25 siblings and three step-mothers. Sharon is the second-youngest of her mother's nine daughters. With her very traditional family, especially as one of many daughters, it was very unlikely that Sharon would be able to continue her education beyond primary school.

That all changed in 2009 when Sharon joined KCE's first class. She finished grades four through eight at KCE and was then accepted to a prestigious national high school. In November 2017, she took the national high school exam and did extremely well. Her performance earned her a scholarship to study at the University of Technology Sydney. Starting in July of this year, Sharon will pursue a degree in Health Science.

After completing her studies in Australia, Sharon plans to become a pharmacist and return to her community, where she would like to help increase access to medicine and quality healthcare. This is what is possible when girls like Sharon are given the tools and support they need to achieve their full potential.





A photograph of Jonathan, an adoptive father, blessing his adopted daughter, Everlyn. Jonathan is wearing a blue and black jacket with yellow accents and a white beanie. Everlyn is wearing a red sweater and a red and white checkered skirt. They are standing in front of a traditional Maasai hut with a thatched roof.

Jonathan, adoptive father of 6th grader Everlyn, age 12, became a proud advocate after Everlyn enrolled at KCE. "I am so grateful to Dr. Kakenya," he says. "Kakenya's Dream provides for all her needs so she can concentrate on her studies. Now, I see her achieving her potential."

Another way Kakenya's Dream supports the whole community is by forging partnerships to improve life for the village. This year we partnered with We Share Solar to provide reliable, sustainable energy at our school and four others nearby. Together with Bridging the Gap Africa, we built a bridge over a dangerous river crossing, helping local students reach school safely. Partnerships like these help us make an even bigger impact in our community.

JONATHAN GIVES  
HIS ADOPTED  
DAUGHTER, EVERLYN,  
A TRADITIONAL  
MAASAI BLESSING

## TRANSFORMING Communities

Our vision does not end with our girls. To ensure that our girls are truly empowered to learn, grow, and lead, we engage their families and community in our work. Our impact stretched further than ever this year, touching the hearts of parents, community leaders, and other vital stakeholders in the fight to educate girls and end harmful traditional practices.

Take Martha, a local nurse. Thanks to the community dialogues and educational resources provided by Kakenya's Dream, she's helping her patients say "no" to FGM.



"I REFUSE FGM BECAUSE IT DENIES THE GIRL CHILD EDUCATION"

-Martha, Local Nurse





# DREAMING BIG

## Construction begins on a new, K-12 campus

Since 2008, Kakenya's Dream has grown from a single dream to a true movement. From just 30 girls to more than 350, demand for the life-changing education offered at the Kakenya Center for Excellence is far exceeding its capacity. We know it's time to make our bigger dreams a reality.

In summer 2017, construction began on a new school that will serve students from kindergarten through the 12th grade. This exciting expansion, coupled with growth in our Network for Excellence and Health and Leadership Training programs, will empower us to better serve girls and young women, create sustainable change in our community, and set an example of transformative leadership for everyone seeking to make a difference where it matters most.

## COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS OFFICIALLY BREAK GROUND ON THE NEW CAMPUS SITE



## FINANCIALS:

**\$1,583,478**  
CAMPAIGN CASH  
& PLEDGES\*

**\$9,312**  
CORPORATIONS

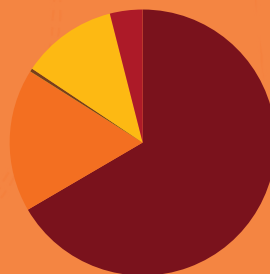
**\$94,277**  
BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS

**\$413,913**  
FOUNDATIONS

**\$277,252**  
INDIVIDUALS &  
COMMUNITY GIVING

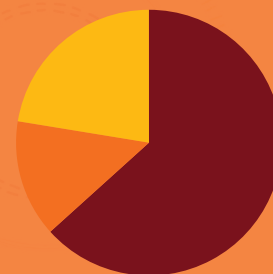
**REVENUE\*: \$2,378,232**

*\*includes \$1,211,439 campaign pledges  
and contributions receivable due within  
one to five years*



**EXPENSE: \$983,300**

*includes campaign expenses*



**\$576,974**  
PROGRAM

**\$265,986**  
FUNDRAISING

**\$140,340**  
GENERAL/ADMIN

2017 figures are audited

LEARN  
to empower myself

GROW  
to uplift my village

LEAD  
to change the world



KAKENYA'S DREAM



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