



ANNUAL REPORT 2017



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Executive Director's Message

Dear KGSA Supporters,

It has been such an honor for me to serve as the KGSA Foundation's Executive Director. I feel so lucky to have been welcomed into this wonderful community of individuals that care so deeply about a small school across the world. It has been a privilege to work alongside KGSA's staff, who are incredibly talented and dedicated to helping girls in their community. I also feel so blessed to be supported by such an amazing board of directors who have helped guide me through my first year at KGSA.

There is so much excitement coming in 2017, including starting construction on the dormitory and the release of Ellie Roscher's book, *Play Like a Girl*. It is sure to be a great year and I hope you all will continue to support KGSA along the way!

Thank you,
Shannon Murphy



About the KGSA Foundation

KGSA KEY MILESTONES

OUR MISSION: GIRLS EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT

The KGSA Foundation provides financial and technical assistance to support the Kibera Girls Soccer Academy (KGSA), a community center in the Kibera slum of Nairobi that offers secondary education along with artistic and athletic programming to over 130 girls annually.

OUR HISTORY: FROM SOCCER TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

In 2002, Abdul Kassim started a soccer program to get girls from the slums off of the streets and into something productive. Four years later, Abdul met a group of Americans studying abroad in Kenya. Abdul told them about his girls' soccer team and his dream to create a free school for girls. Since that serendipitous meeting, the school has grown from a soccer team, to a single classroom with 13 girls, to a secondary school providing free education to over 130 girls each year.

OUR PHILOSOPHY: A LOCALLY LED, COMMUNITY DRIVEN MOVEMENT

We believe local problems need local solutions! We recognize the expertise of community leaders and invest in their ability to respond to problems on their own terms. When local leaders are given the chance to lead, they create innovative solutions to poverty that outsiders may miss, they earn community buy-in leading to meaningful relationships and support with surrounding stakeholders, and they illuminate the possibility that everyone is an agent of change, empowering others to help strengthen the community.

2002 - Abdul Kassim starts a soccer team for girls in Kibera.

2003 - The girls win their first game, beating the boys by one goal.

2006 - Ryan Sarafolean studies abroad, meets Abdul, and helps construct the first classroom.

Richard Teka (KGSA's current director) is hired as one of KGSA's first teachers.

2009 - KGSA begins offering lunch to all students daily.

2010 - KGSA completes the school building with four classrooms and capacity to serve 130 girls annually.

2011 - The KGSA Foundation officially registers as US nonprofit.

2013 - KGSA partners with Worldreader to provide students with e-readers.

2014 - Abdul visits the US to spread the word about KGSA.

KGSA is honored as one of the first 13 Ashoka Changemaker Schools in East Africa, the only one in Nairobi.

2015 - Abdul, Ryan, and 24 KGSA supporters climb Mt. Kilimanjaro to fund the development of a boarding dormitory and community center.

2016 - KGSA partners with a local clinic to provide all students with free primary healthcare services

Ten years after meeting Abdul, Ryan steps down as Executive Director and joins the Board of Directors. Shannon Murphy is hired as the Executive Director.



2016 Highlights



HEALTH CLINIC PARTNERSHIP

In 2016, KGSA began an important partnership with a local health clinic. The partnership provides students with wellness exams, immunizations, screening for STI's/HIV and sexual education, along with other primary care services.

The most common health issues the students faced were malaria, typhoid, and parasitic amoebas. These issues tended to flare up among the students after school breaks when some students returned from visiting their families in the rural areas of Kenya. Some students had serious health and safety concerns arise during the medical check-ups including instances of sexual assault. Without this new partnership, KGSA students may not have gotten the critical medication and support they needed.

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER - GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK INTERNSHIP

Two graduate students from the University of Denver's Graduate School of Social Work - Sophia Weidner and Dacarie Roberston - spent their summer interning at KGSA. They helped facilitate KGSA's first alumni association meeting and identified areas in which the school can work to improve the transition from high school to career for students at KGSA. They also connected KGSA to Femme International and other community resources. As part of the graduate program they did a research study with KGSA's alumni and among other things found that KGSA's graduates have a strong sense of self-determination to work towards a better future for themselves and their families.

"I am so happy to work with KGSA because the teachers are cooperative and the students are well-behaved and eager to learn."

- Naomi, Program Coordinator of the Macheo Achievement Programme

STRATHMORE UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

We are thrilled to announce a partnership with Strathmore University's *Macheo* (sunrise) Achievement Programme where students will receive academic tutoring, personal mentorship, and leadership development during their senior year. Last year, 82% of seniors in the *Macheo* program received grades that qualify them for university education. When funding was available, Strathmore has provided scholarships in past years for high achieving *Macheo* graduates.

Seven KGSA sophomores were selected to participate in the 2016 *Macheo* program. On Saturdays, students go to Strathmore where they are provided lunch before meeting with volunteer student mentors from the university. Professional teachers from top high schools in Nairobi provide the academic tutoring. The university also incorporates sports and field trips into the program. On the last Saturday of each month, students participate in an educational trip or a community service project.

FEMME INTERNATIONAL

KGSA has partnered with Femme International, an organization that provides the girls with training on women's health and safe sex practices. Femme reports that without access to feminine hygiene products, girls in Kenya will miss up to 4 days of school each month. All students received "Femme Kits," which include a reusable menstrual cup as well as a cloth, soap, and a pot for cleaning.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Pictured below are attendees from KGSA's first Alumni Association meeting. The meeting was attended by 26 of KGSA's former students. The alumni discussed ways to stay connected to the school as well as ways to support the current students and each other.



2016 Financial Update





Sports and Clubs

SOCCER

KGSA's soccer team is still a staple of the school's afterschool program. Here they are scrimmaging with the senior girls' team, made up of some KGSA graduates and other young women in Kibera.

"I had the privilege of studying in Nairobi in Spring 2013. The highlight of my time there was scrimmaging every week with the girls at KGSA. Having played soccer my entire life, I was beyond impressed with the talent and demeanor of the young ladies from the academy. They were strong willed, competitive and rock solid on the ball – and smiley and excited after each game. Seeing the school was an eye opening experience as well. It's amazing to see it continue to grow." - Ben Bauch, KGSA Supporter



JOURNALISM / PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

The photography club worked with volunteers, former alumni, and staff to build skills in photography and journalism. Here a student is taking a picture for the Annual Report!



COOKING CLUB

In 2016, KGSA started a cooking club to teach students about cooking skills. They took a field trip to the Hilton hotel to learn about working in the hospitality industry.



BUSINESS CLUB

The business club participated in a JA business competition and started a company called Eco-Mats, which upcycles discarded hair weaves into rugs.

COMPUTER CLUB

Every Friday the computer club worked with volunteers from Tunapanda, an IT training program, to build basic computer skills in MS Word, Google, and email.



DRAMA CLUB

Here the drama club is rehearsing a skit they have prepared on the dangers of tobacco for a competition at a neighboring school.

The Stories of KGSA Students



WHITNEY, FORM 2 (SOPHOMORE)

Whitney is sophomore with a contagious smile. She's an only child living with an uncle in Kibera after her mother passed away when she completed 8th grade. When asked her about her experience at KGSA, she simply replied, "This school helps us." She is especially fond of the teachers who go out of their way to make sure the students understand the lessons and also appreciates the students who treat each other like family. Whitney enjoys acting in the school drama club and her favorite subject is history. She is particularly interested in learning about politics, government, and civics. She aspires to be a lawyer and wants to stop corruption in Kenya. She is hopeful that her public speaking skills from the drama club and her interest in history will help her achieve her dream.



'Us girls must help each other!' - Whitney

ELSA AND RACHEL, FORM 3 (JUNIORS)

Elsa and Rachel are friends and top students in their class at KGSA. Both were selected to participate in Strathmore University's mentoring program, where they go every Saturday to receive mentoring and tutoring, as well as build their leadership skills and most importantly, have fun. Both girls live with an older sister in Kibera. Their parents live upcountry in the rural areas of Kenya, but their families couldn't afford the fees to send the girls to school there. Rachel and Elsa struggle with challenges of life in Kibera. "There is inadequate space to live," Rachel explains. "We don't have a bathroom; we have one room that serves as the bedroom, the dining room, the kitchen, and the living room." At times there are water shortages. She is responsible for house chores such as fetching water, cooking, and cleaning. The neighborhood is noisy. All these factors make it difficult to study at home. The girls stress that due to the difficult home lives of the girls, the school needs a dormitory. Despite the challenges of their situation they have found a bright spot in Kibera at KGSA. "We have a nice school!" Elsa declares. Like Whitney, Elsa and Rachel talk about their teachers. They explain that the teachers at KGSA sacrifice a lot; they wake up very early and sometimes stay at school as late as 7pm - even



'If not here, I can't come to school.' - Elsa

coming in on Saturdays to help the girls. Breaking traditional gender stereotypes, Rachel's favorite subjects are math and physics and she aspires to be an engineer. Elsa enjoys math and business and would like to become an accountant.

The Stories of KGSA Alumni

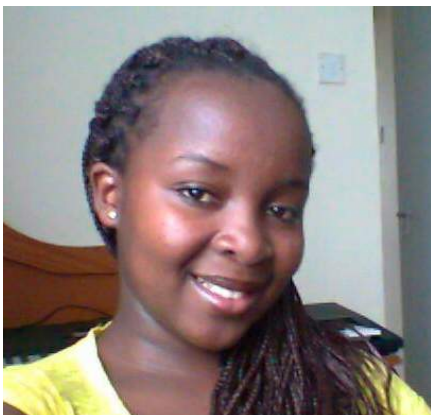


BEATRICE AWINO, CLASS OF 2014

Beatrice, orphaned at twelve years old, was taken in by her aunt and uncle who eventually brought her to KGSA. After graduation, she interned at a flower farm and worked in sales for a stationary company. Of her sales skills, she jokingly remarked, "I can even sell you a stone and you'll buy it at a very high price." Seeing her talent, KGSA helped Beatrice find a sponsor for her to continue her education in business. She graduated with the Kenyan equivalent of an associate's degree in 2016 and is now studying for her bachelor's degree. She is very grateful for the opportunity she has been given, and said that her main objective is to make KGSA proud and to give back!

KHADIJA ABDULLAHI, CLASS OF 2015

Khadija, a 2015 KGSA graduate and soccer player, is in her third month of a one year intensive IT training program. The program is run by AkiraChix, a nonprofit that selects 30 bright and talented girls from low-income areas and trains them in computer programming, graphic design and entrepreneurship. Students are mentored by women in the tech industry and are placed in community organizations for internships upon completion of classroom training. Khadija is planning to do her internship at KGSA!



IMMACULATE WANDERA, CLASS OF 2015

With a bright smile and optimistic outlook, Immaculate exudes positivity. Her work ethic and perseverance in the face of challenges are sure to take her far. At KGSA, she discovered her passion and talent for performance arts. She recently signed a three month contract that she took to the rural areas of Kenya teaching classical texts to students through drama. Though the instability of performance makes it a difficult career to pursue in any part of the world, she hopes to continue performing as a hobby as she looks for other work opportunities. Her dream is to go to school to study law. We are so proud of her for working hard and pursuing her passion!

The Stories of KGSA Staff



MR. RICHARD TEKA, DIRECTOR

Teka had a keen eye for what he called “lifers.” After years of seeing teachers come and go, Teka knew that Musa and Claris were lifers. They were not at KGSA for the salary; they were there for the students, the lifestyle, and the chances for personal growth that the school encouraged. They found a sense of family there.

- Excerpt from Play Like a Girl

MR. MUSA RASHID, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Musa was raised in Kibera by his mother, who passed away in his senior year of high school. After his mother's death, his uncle took him in. To earn a living, he started selling homemade juice to schools and businesses in Kibera. It was through his juice business that he met Teka, who was impressed with his work ethic and his proper Swahili. Teka recruited him to teach Swahili at the school. Hesitant at first, as he was young with no teaching experience, Musa has lived up to the challenge and is still with KGSA today!

Richard Teka, was born in Kibera, one of eight children. At a young age, he moved with his mother to the rural area for school where, despite a life of hunger and poverty, he excelled in academics. He passed his high school exam with 64 points, just two points shy of receiving a government scholarship to university. Without financial help, he couldn't afford the tuition, and could not continue his education.

In 2006, Abdul hired Teka as one of KGSA's first teachers. Bright and hardworking, Teka advanced from teacher to principal, and 10 years later, he is KGSA's director!

“If I had gotten those two more points, I would have gone to college and gotten some boring office job. I got the job at KGSA because I was two points shy. I feel lucky because I love my job.”

-Richard Teka in Play Like a Girl



MS. CLARIS AKINYI, HEAD TEACHER

Claris was born in Kibera, and was the sixth of 15 children. Her father, an alcoholic, died of HIV/AIDS, leaving her mother to raise the kids on her own.

Claris met Abdul, who she now calls “father,” and played goalie for his “Girls Soccer in Kibera” program, the precursor to KGSA. Claris did well on her primary school exams and Abdul helped her find a sponsor to go to high school, where she learned to love math.

After she finished, she came back to KGSA and Abdul hired her to teach math. Having grown up in Kibera, she could easily relate to and empathize with the students. To this day, she acts as a teacher, role model, counselor, and coach to the girls at KGSA!

“I told them [the students] that I'm holding my family together. I teach them math, but I also show them that staying in school pays off.”

-Claris Akini in Play Like a Girl



With support from the foundation, in 2014, nine KGSA staff, including Teka, Musa, and Claris, graduated from the University of Nairobi.

Our Impact



SECONDARY EDUCATION

KGSA has provided access to education to over 300 girls in Kibera

A high school education is essential for employment in today's economy. USAID reports that for each year that a girl stays in school, her income can increase 15-25 percent. Additionally, educated women are more likely to send their children to school, and invest 90% of their income in their families. The World Bank reports that Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest teen pregnancy rate in the world. Girls in school are less likely to experience teen pregnancy.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

All KGSA students participate in after school sports or clubs

Extra-curricular activities have proven to be impactful in improving academic performance and emotional well-being, and reducing incidences of drug use, criminality, and teen pregnancy. Read more about KGSA's clubs on page 6.

HEALTH

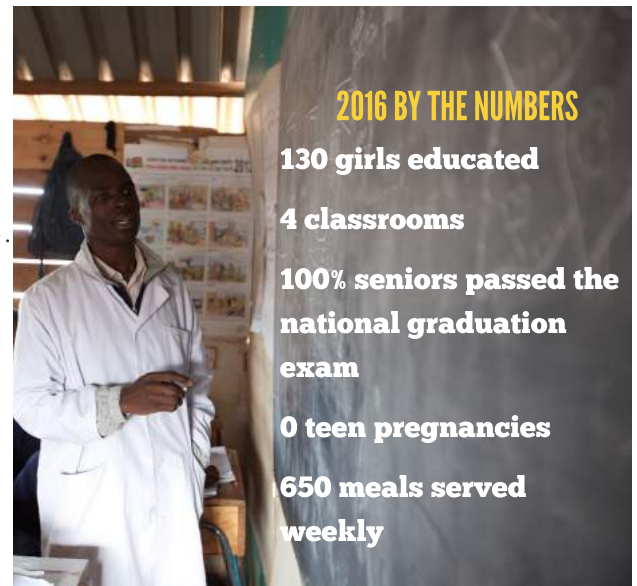
All KGSA students have access to free primary healthcare

Through our health clinic partnership, KGSA students receive a wellness exams, immunizations, screening for STI's/HIV and sexual education, along with other primary care services. Read more about the partnership on page 3.

NUTRITION

All KGSA students receive a free lunch at school daily

The World Food Programme reports that a school meal provides a strong incentive to go school, increasing attendance and decreasing drop-out rates, as well as improving cognitive abilities.



HIGHER EDUCATION

KGSA graduates have gone onto higher education

100% of KGSA students have passed their high school graduation exam. The KGSA Foundation and its supporters have funded university education for 5 students and 9 teachers. More students have had the qualifying grades, but without scholarships could not afford tuition.



Looking Ahead 2017

CONSTRUCTION OF THE DORMITORY AND COMMUNITY CENTER

It's finally happening! In January 2017, we signed a contract with a Nairobi-based, UK architectural design and construction management company, Orkidstudio, to oversee the project. Orkidstudio has similar values to KGSA: developing skills of local laborers, empowering women, and using sustainable development materials and designs. We are thrilled to be working with them! The official groundbreaking is set for September 2017, and we can't wait!!

DOUBLING OUR SPACE

In 2016, we shared that we were facing a challenge as another organization had built a coed school next to KGSA. After surveying the students and much discussion among the board and school leadership, we are interested in purchasing their school. This ensures that KGSA remains a safe space for girls as well as gives us room to grow and double the number of students served when we are able to secure sustainable sources of funding to finance this growth. We are excited about the possibilities that this additional space could bring for KGSA's future!

BOOK RELEASE AND BOOK TOUR

Ellie Roscher's book about KGSA's history, *Play Like a Girl*, is available for pre-order at Barnes & Noble, Amazon, or your local bookstore. We are hoping to bring the school's director over to the US for a book tour! If you have or know someone in a book club, be sure to spread the word! If you'd like Ellie to come speak at your school, office, soccer club, religious institution, or anywhere else, please let us know!



PLAY LIKE A GIRL

HOW A SOCCER SCHOOL
IN KENYA'S SLUMS STARTED
A REVOLUTION

BY ELLIE ROSCHER

RELEASE DATE: AUGUST 8, 2017

AVAILABLE FOR PRE-ORDER NOW AT BARNES & NOBLE,
AMAZON, OR YOUR LOCAL BOOKSTORE

KGSA Partners and Supporters



Ziyana and Shezan Samanani of Vancouver bringing donated soccer equipment to KGSA

"I am the father of two teenage girls who are soccer players and scholars. I have seen first hand how important both sport and education have been for all aspects of their personal development. When I first learned of KGSA, their story was so compelling that it brought me to tears and I had to get involved ... and so did my daughters! The more I learn about the KGSA team, the more it validates my first impression. This is community development reaching society's most vulnerable, with a ripple effect that will benefit these girls, their families and their communities for many years to come."

-Dr. Salim Samanani, CEO, OKAKI Health Intelligence Inc.

THANK YOU

**WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO ALL OF OUR
PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS FOR
ENABLING KGSA TO BRING QUALITY
EDUCATION TO GIRLS IN KIBERA!**

Board of Directors



BECKY ALBRIGHT

KGSA's Board Chair, Becky, joined in 2013 after visiting KGSA upon the urging of her husband, Phillip Tedeschi, who annually visits the school while in Kenya with his University of Denver students. They live in Colorado and have three children in high school and college. Becky is a clinical social worker.



DAN HARRIS

Dan got connected to KGSA through his wife, Jen, who learned about the school while studying social work at the University of Denver. In 2015, Dan climbed Kilimanjaro for KGSA and joined the Board shortly after. He is a physician in Grand Junction Colorado, where he lives with his wife and daughter.



CATHY HUBER

Cathy is the director of GO Minnesota at the University of Minnesota's Global Programs and Strategy Alliance. She joined the Board in 2015 while working at the Learning Abroad Center, and managed the University's study abroad program in Kenya. She lives in Minnesota with her husband and family.



HOSAIN LIPSON

After being invited by Becky's husband, Phil, his grade school friend and former high school soccer teammate, Hosain signed up for the Kilimanjaro climb and then joined the Board in 2016. He lives in Minnesota and is the National Director of Sales at Massimo Zanetti Beverage, USA. He has also worked with Corner House, an organization supporting survivors of abuse.



NADIA MARTYN

Nadia joined the Board in January 2015 after being introduced to KGSA by a former board member and fellow soccer enthusiast. She is the Senior Legal Counsel for Delta Dental of Minnesota and lives in Minnesota with her husband and two year old son.



SEAN RUSH

Sean first visited KGSA as the CEO of Junior Achievement in 2010. Since then, he has supported the school in many ways, filling the library with books and computers, and most recently, supporting the health clinic partnership. He joined the Board in 2016 and lives near Boston with his wife.



RYAN SARAFOLEAN

KGSA Foundation Founder, Ryan, transitioned to the Board this year. He is living in DC working as the Operations Director for City Kids Wilderness Project. He plays keyboard in a funk, soul band, *AZTEC SUN*, and is planning his wedding for 2017.



1263 Osceola Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55105