

KIBERA GIRLS SOCCER ACADEMY



2018 ANNUAL
REPORT

Asha reads a passage from Ellie Roscher's *Play Like a Girl* at the Worldreader Office in San Francisco

**"The only difference
between girls in Kibera
and girls in America is
opportunity!"**

- Asha Jaffar

KGSA Alumna, Class of 2011

Launch of *Play Like a Girl*,

August 2017



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ABOUT THE KGSA FOUNDATION

supporting the Kibera Girls Soccer Academy since 2009

Board of Directors

Ryan Sarafolean Banning, Founder

Senior Development Associate
City Kids Wilderness Project

Rebecca Albright, Chair

Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Tri-Lakes Collaborative Counseling

Cathy Huber

Director of Global Opportunities (GO) Minnesota
University of Minnesota

Daniel Harris

Medical Doctor - Internist
St. Mary's Medical Center

Nadia Martyn

Senior Legal Counsel
Delta Dental of Minnesota

Hosain Lipson

National Director of Sales
Massimo Zanetti Beverage Corp.

Sean Rush

President *Emeritus*
Junior Achievement

Staff

Shanon Murphy

Executive Director

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.

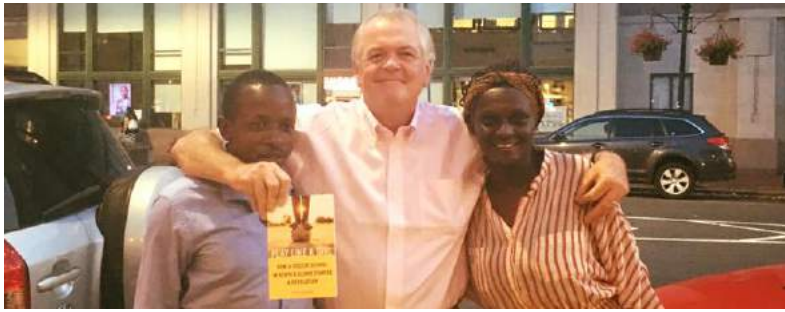
Our History: From Soccer to Secondary School

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 Organization

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.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS



August 2017 - Play Like a Girl Book Tour

Ellie Roscher's book, *Play Like a Girl*, was released in August. We were very fortunate to have KGSA's Director, Richard Teka, and alumna, Asha Jaffar, visit the US to promote the book. In five weeks, we held 25 events in 13 cities in 7 states and sold over 750 books. In total, we raised over \$60,000 for the school. Thank you to Ellie and to all of KGSA's supporters who helped make this trip a success!



June 2017 - Coed School Purchase

The coed school next to KGSA was sharing space, staff, and resources with KGSA. This began to infringe on KGSA's mission to educate girls. After a year of careful consideration and negotiation by the board and KGSA leadership, the KGSA Foundation purchased the coed school building and land for \$24,000, ensuring KGSA remains a safe space for girls and doubling the school's space to accommodate for future growth.



September 2017 - Next Step Scholarships

With funding raised from the book tour, KGSA was able to offer eleven scholarships for students to pursue either a two-year or four-year university program. We are so excited to help these students pursue higher education after high school! Check out the full list of scholarship winners and the different paths they are pursuing on page eleven.



March 2017

KGSA's soccer team participates in "Global Goals" World Cup in Nairobi - a women's soccer movement to promote the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



April 2017

Richard Teka, KGSA's Director, was an education expert featured on a panel at Worldreader's Digital Education Summit in Nairobi.



June 2017

The Nubian community was given the land deed for 288 acres in Kibera. KGSA's Founder, Abdul Kassim is a Nubian community leader. KGSA was built on his ancestral land.



July 2017

KGSA's business club won Junior Achievement's Entrepreneurship competition, beating out over 27 schools in the Nairobi region with their organic mosquito repellent.



October 2017

KGSA's leadership was honored as "Visionary Leaders" by Hearts on Fire, an organization that showcases inspiring individuals working to change the world for the better.



November 2017

Another successful year at KGSA concluded with 29 seniors sitting for their graduation exams. We are so proud of them!

Dear Friends,

This past year was a momentous year for KGSA; one filled with much excitement and also a few challenges. The highlight was traveling across the country with KGSA Director, Richard Teka, and alumna, Asha Jaffar and sharing KGSA's story with so many supporters. We were so touched by the generosity the many individuals who hosted us and came to our events. It was an incredible experience that we will never forget!

In 2017, after a year of discussions, we were finally able to come to a resolution on the issue with the coed/boy's school next to KGSA. We also struggled with the insecurity and uncertainty surrounding the Kenyan elections, which delayed the start of the dormitory (again!). We are happy to have overcome these hurdles and are excited about what is to come in 2018! Thank you for your support and encouragement along the way!

With gratitude,
Shannon Murphy
KGSA Foundation Executive Director



"I will be forever grateful for this incredible KGSA community, both in Kenya and throughout the US. To know that KGSA students' voices have been etched into history through the launch of *Play Like a Girl* is beyond remarkable. They made this moment possible, and they continue to serve as an inspiration to so many young women around the world. Together, we have accomplished something remarkable, something that we all couldn't have imagined was possible. That's what I'll take away from this year, that together we can accomplish great things if we work together and trust and listen to each other."

- Ryan Sarafolean Banning
Founder of KGSA Foundation



"With the alumni association we have seen great growth in terms of getting partners to sponsor some of the students to go to coding school and also being able to have trainings on business to equip the members with skills that can help them either start or run their own business. "

- Asha Jaffar
KGSA Alumna, Class of 2011



"I'm so proud of all that KGSA has accomplished this year, facing so many varied obstacles. We've seen tremendous dedication from staff, students and graduates to continue advancing excellent educational opportunities."

- Rebecca Albright
KGSA Foundation Board Chair



It was a mountaintop moment for me as a writer to have Teka and Asha at my side in Minneapolis addressing a full room at the launch of *Play Like a Girl*. Listening to them, so poised and brilliant, speak to both strangers and dear friends in the audience about creating a book version of their story will always be one of the deep honors of my career.

-Ellie Roscher,
Author of *Play Like a Girl*



REFLECTIONS ON 2017

STUDENT STORIES



Bethlinea and Brenda are both in their final year at KGSA. Bethlinea is from a family of eight kids—four girls and four boys. She is proud to be the oldest girl to step foot in a high school. Her older sister got married at 18 and her brother didn't finish school. She believes she is lucky to have beaten the odds and made it to her last year at KGSA, as the pressure for girls to drop out of school and get married is very high in Kibera. Ellie Roscher highlights this phenomenon in *Play Like a Girl* when she writes, "Some parents in Kibera simply didn't see daughters as long-term financial assets to the family. It's cheaper to have a daughter marry when she starts menstruating so that she becomes the financial responsibility of her husband—one less school fee to pay and one less mouth to feed. These are not heartless sentiments, but rather cultural norms driven by financial scarcity. Families can't always wait four years while a daughter studies to financially benefit from a job earned with that secondary degree."

Bethlinea stresses the importance of building the dormitory. "Living in Kibera is a challenge," she explains. The neighborhood is noisy, and with eight kids, her house is too small and crowded to study, plus she helps cook for her family and take care of her younger siblings. Her mother works selling vegetables, and her father works as a mason when he can find work. She is hopeful that he may be selected as a laborer to help build the dormitory. Bethlinea speaks fondly about KGSA.

"KGSA has really helped me," she says, "If it were not for KGSA, my education would have ended after primary school."

She admires her teachers and is grateful for what they have taught her throughout the past three years, "The teachers are very friendly – to me, they are good; they are perfect," she exclaims. She wants to be a lawyer and advocate for the rights of women in Kibera, because there are many problems with gender-based violence,

but women often do not have the resources to seek legal help. Many challenges lie ahead for Bethlinea; however, she is optimistic.

"I hope to have a bright future. I hope to succeed and to make the name of the school proud."

Brenda is the oldest child in her family with two sisters and one brother who look up to her. She too has grown up in Kibera and feels lucky to have found KGSA. Her father takes care of her and her siblings, but as a painter, the jobs he finds are usually temporary. Growing up with the struggles of life in Kibera, she is practically-minded and joined KGSA's computer club so that she can develop a skill and start working after high school. "It is an evolving world and computers are used in every office," she explains matter-of-factly. Seeing successful KGSA graduates inspires Brenda to work hard and hope for success.

"In form one [freshman year], we could see that the school has empowered many girls. Many are working and others have gotten the opportunity to go to university."

Someday she would like to start her own business, but her true passion is singing. She is blessed with a beautiful voice and loves gospel music and praise songs from her church. She sings a beautiful rendition of the contemporary Christian hymn, "You Raise Me Up," and her eyes light up as she sings the words, "You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains; You raise me up to walk on stormy seas; I am strong when I am on your shoulders; You raise me up to more than I can be." She is thankful for all who have given her the opportunity to get her high school education. She is hopeful that she will find a steady job after she finishes so that she can help her family.



ALUMNI UPDATES



Pauline - Class of 2011

Pauline is a single mom with of a two-year old boy, Noel, born on Christmas day. This is her most important job and she takes it very seriously. After high school she got her diploma (associates degree) in web and graphic design. She enjoyed the work, but struggled to find a job in the design field. Thinking of her son, she said, "Any job that comes my way, I had to take it," She was lucky to find steady employment as a receptionist in an auditing office. She worked in the office for two years, and though she was not using her design skills, she learned new administrative skills to build her professional resume.

She attends the monthly alumni association meetings at KGSA and in fall 2017, her classmate told her about a sponsor who was offering to send some KGSA graduates to an intensive IT programming course, called the Moringa School. Given her IT background, she was an ideal candidate and excited about the opportunity, but had concerns. She would need to give up her job to attend classes, and was worried about losing her income. "I needed to think about it because I have a son and responsibility to take care of him."

Fortunately, she made an arrangement with the sponsor to take out a loan for the amount of her salary, about \$200 per month, so that she could enroll in the 6-month course.

"This is my opportunity and I need to grab it!" she said.

The program is rigorous. It runs from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. each day. Pauline lives at home with her mother, who helps care for her son while she is in class. After class, she has homework, but as a single mom, Pauline can't take out her laptop to start the homework until her son is in bed. This means that she often works late into the night, sleeping only a few hours. Taking only the strongest students, the program does not tolerate absenteeism or tardiness, so even when Pauline's son was sick, she had to make it to class. As any mother understands, it is difficult to concentrate when you have a little one sick at home. The hope for a better future for her son is what keeps her going through all of challenges! The Morigina School boasts a 95% job placement rate after completing their program. These jobs can pay more than triple what Pauline was earning as a receptionist. Pauline says she is strongest in front-end programming and would love to work at Google. She also would love to come back to KGSA and teach the girls what she has learned. She is expected to graduate in April.



Naima - Class of 2016

Naima has been out of school just over a year, and like Pauline, is thrilled to have gotten the opportunity to join the Moringa School. After high school she took a course in cooking and hospitality, but couldn't find stable work. She tried her hand at sales, selling mobile internet access passes in Kibera and was quite good at it -rising to become the best sales person at her office. She saved enough money to take a driver's education course and got her license to drive cars and even "big trucks". She applied for the army, but wasn't accepted. Finally, she decided to try web design. She was almost finished with her course when the opportunity to join the Moringa School arose. She describes the program as "really exciting and quite challenging!"

Naima lives at home with her parents and younger brother. Her mother was the breadwinner, but fell sick and is unable to work. Her father does odd jobs when he can find work, like carrying luggage, but the income is sporadic and the family struggles to be financially stable. Naima is naturally entrepreneurial. "You have to survive!" she says. To help out, she gets up early and makes traditional Kenyan donuts and samosas. She brings these with her to class and sells them to her classmates and gives her parents the money to help with their living costs.

For the Moringa School program, students must have their own laptop. Teka, KGSA's director, lent Naima his personal laptop for a month until a generous sponsor was able to get Naima her own. Now that she has one, she is amazed at how the world has opened up. "You can search anything," she exclaims gleefully. She believes that to be successful, you just have to have a passion to learn. Like Pauline, Naima wants to share her skills and passion with the school and give back when she can. **"They are ones who have helped me to get where I am," she explained.**

OUR WORK AND IMPACT

Education



KGSA provides free secondary education to 130 girls annually. The school emphasizes leadership and character development through extracurricular activities and employs university trained teachers, setting it apart from other schools in the slum.



High School Education

Over 200 girls have received their high school diploma from KGSA.



Safe Space for Girls to Grow and Learn

School is a safe place and provides girls with an alternative to idleness that can lead to drug use, criminal behavior, and teen pregnancy. The World Bank reports that Sub-Saharan Africa has the world's highest adolescent fertility rate, but girls in school are less likely to have an unintended pregnancy.

Increasing Earnings and Reducing Poverty



A high school diploma is essential for employment in today's economy and for each year that a girl stays in school, her income can increase 15-25% (USAID). Educated women are more likely to send their children to school and invest their income in their families.

Health and Nutrition



Students need healthy minds and bodies in order to learn. KGSA provides a daily lunch and partners with a local health clinic and other organizations to provide students with primary healthcare, reproductive health education, and feminine hygiene products.



Free Primary Healthcare

In 2016, KGSA began a partnership with a local clinic to provide all students with annual wellness exams, immunizations, and STI/HIV screenings.



Daily Lunch and Tea

The World Food Programme reports that a daily school meal provides a strong incentive to send children to school and allows children to focus on their studies rather than their stomachs, as well as helps to increase attendance, decrease drop-out rates, and improve cognitive abilities.



Women's Health and Hygiene

Providing feminine hygiene products to adolescent girls has been proven to reduce absenteeism and increase academic performance.

Youth Development



KGSA started as a girls' soccer team and continues to champion the importance of sports and extra-curricular activities. The school's after-school program includes girls' soccer and journalism, debate, drama, cooking, computer and business clubs.



Fosters Critical Thinking, Creativity

In 2016, KGSA began a partnership with a local clinic to provide all students with annual wellness exams, immunizations, and STI/HIV screenings.



Increases Self-Esteem, Wellbeing

Participation in sports can reduce stress and increase a girls' self-esteem and emotional wellbeing. It has also been shown to be impactful in improving academic performance.

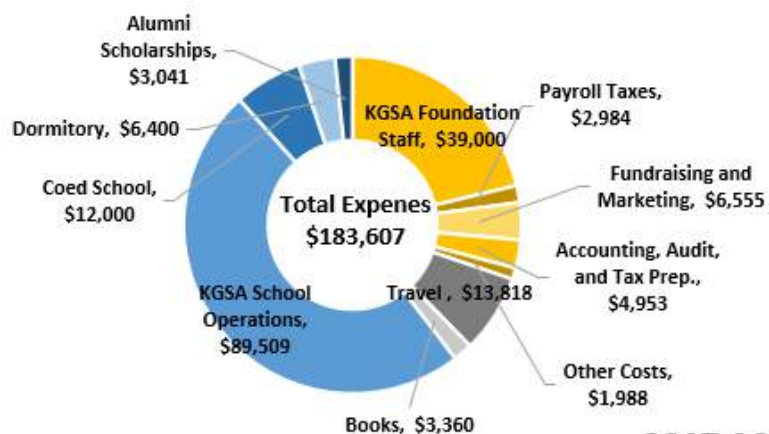


Reduces Risky Behavior in Teens

Involvement in sports and clubs also reduces incidences of drug use, violence or criminal behavior, and teen pregnancy.

FINANCIAL REPORT

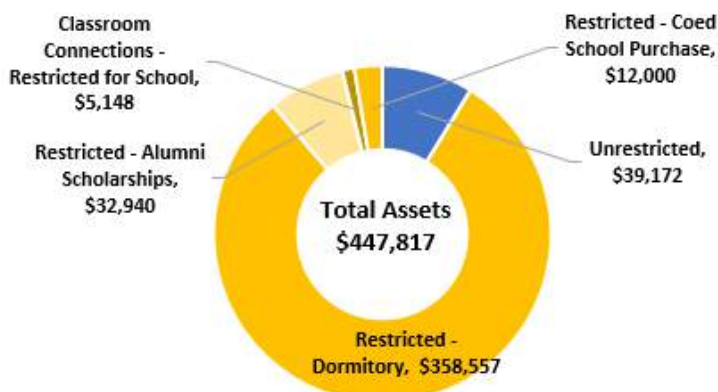
2017 EXPENSES



2017 INCOME



2017 ASSETS



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2018

DORMITORY AND COMMUNITY CENTER PLANS

The Dream: In KGSA's earliest days, girls would often stay at school until dark. Abdul asked them for a solution. They told him they wanted him to rent a one room shack near the school for them to sleep at.

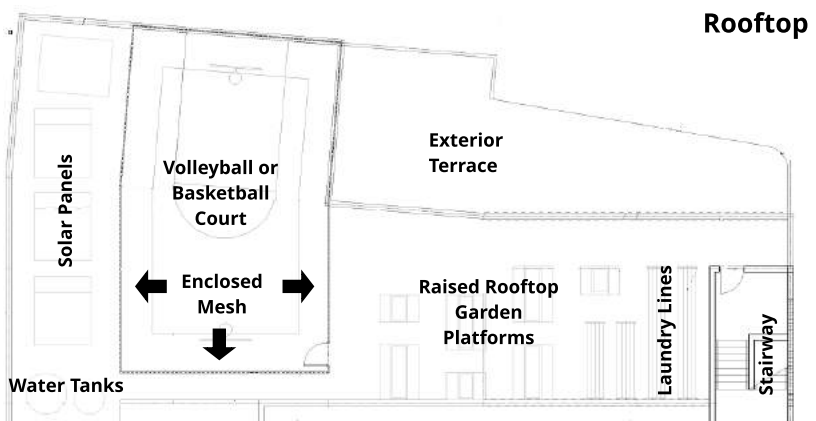
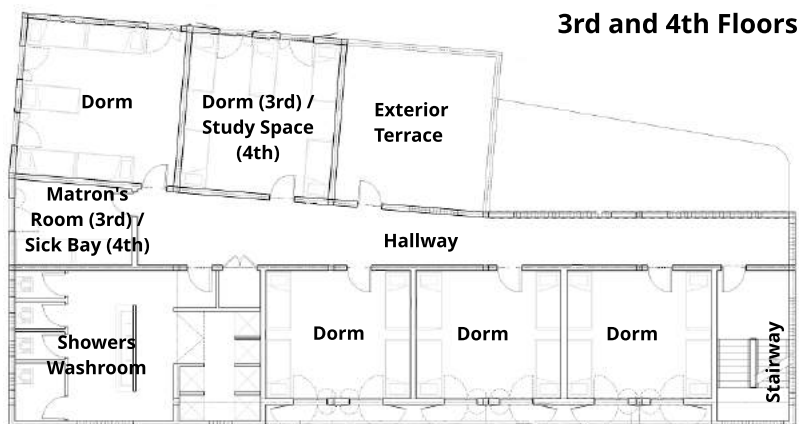
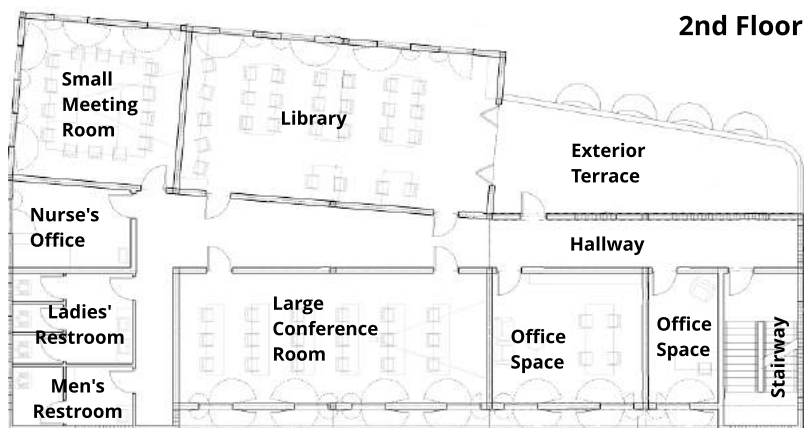
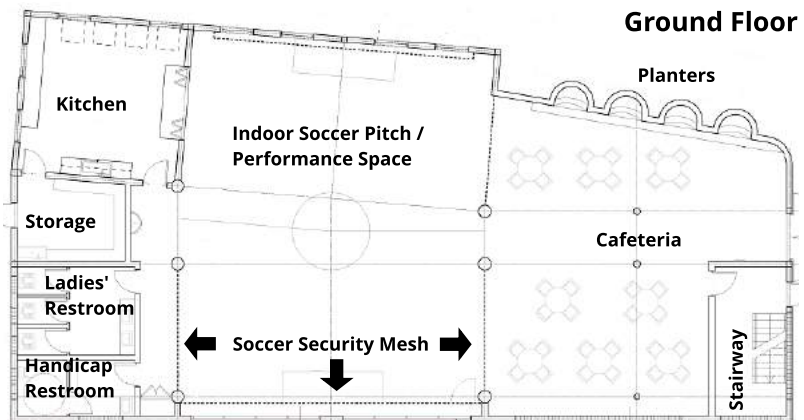
The Climb: In February 2015, Abdul, Ryan, and 24 KGSA supporters climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro to raise money for a new building to provide safe and stable housing for the girls at KGSA.

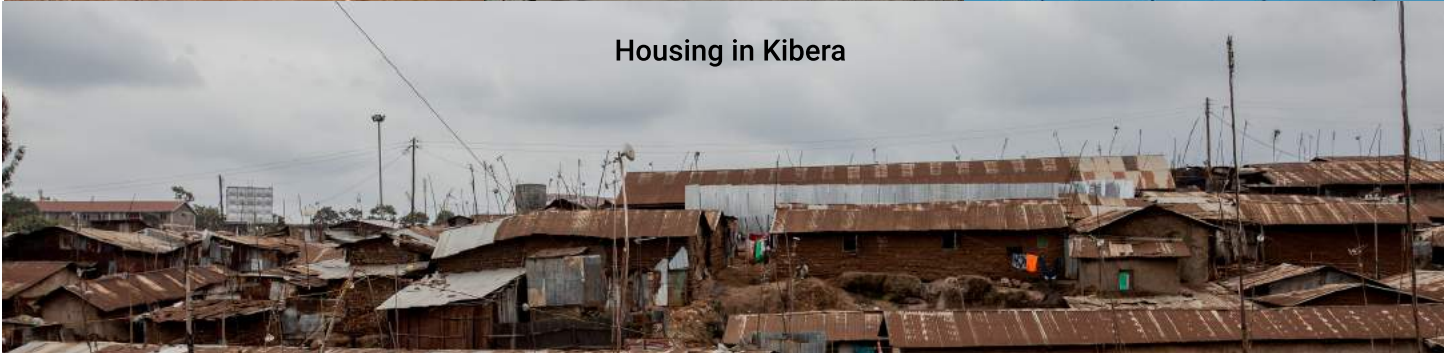
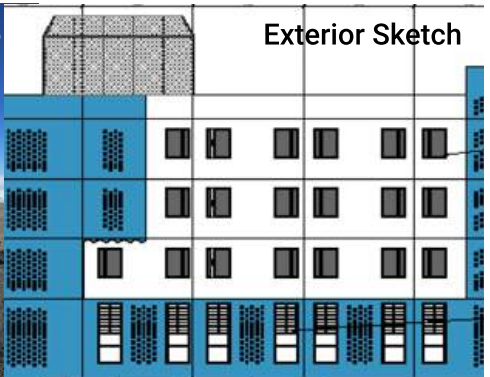
The Hope: A stable home with consistent electricity, water, health-services, and academic resources will help students excel academically and improve their physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing.

The Space: The Dormitory and Community Center will be a 4-story building with a functional rooftop. The first floor will act as multi-functional space with a kitchen and cafeteria for the school along with an indoor soccer court and performance area. The second floor is an academic area with a library, two conference rooms, office space, and a nurse's office. The third and fourth floors are living spaces with 80 beds for students as well as a matron's room and sick bay. The rooftop will house solar panels, water tanks, and laundry lines. It will also include a small, mesh-enclosed sports court for play as well as social space and raised gardening platforms.

The Team: In January 2017, the KGSA Foundation hired Orkidstudio, a not-for-profit company in Kenya, to design and construct the building. They use sustainable, eco-friendly construction materials, build the skills of local laborers, and empower women by ensuring that at least 50% of their workforce are female. Mookie Tierney of Snow Kreilich Architects in Minneapolis has been volunteering his time and expertise for this project since the beginning and also did the climb!

The Timeline: Construction is set to begin in 2018 and complete in 2019.





Next Step Scholarship Recipients for 2018

In 2018, with support from the book tour, the KGSA Foundation is able to provide 11 graduates with scholarships to continue their education after high school. This brings the total number of post-secondary scholarships that KGSA has been able to provide our graduates to 16, along with 9 teachers and staff. We are so happy to be able to help these exceptionally bright and hardworking students transition to the next step after high school!



Lucy - Class of 2015
Diploma in Education
Nyandiwana Teacher's College

Habiba - Class of 2015
Computer Programming
Moringa School



Doris - Class of 2014
Kenyatta University

Rebecca - Class of 2015
Diploma in Accounting
Kisumu Polytechnic



Diana - Class of 2015
Diploma in Project Management
Zetech University

Faith - Class of 2017
Bachelor's of Education
in Physics and Math
Maseno University



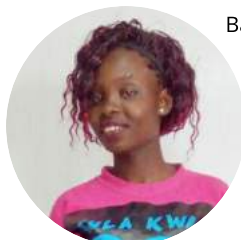
Cynthia - Class of 2017
Diploma in ICT
East Africa School of Aviation



Khadija - Class of 2017
Bachelor's of Arts in
Business Administration
Dedan Kimanhi
University



Lovender - Class of 2014
Diploma in Community Development
Zetech University



Rahma - Class of 2017
Diploma in Tourism Management
Cooperative University



Emma - Class of 2017
Diploma in ICT
Cooperative University



**THANK YOU FOR BELIEVING IN GIRLS
EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT!**



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