

KGSA FOUNDATION



**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2023**





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MISSION & VISION

Education transforms lives.

The KGSA Foundation partners with the Kibera Girls Soccer Academy (KGSA) to provide a free, holistic high school education to 150 girls every year in Kibera, Kenya - one of Africa's largest informal settlements.

Through financial and technical resources, the Foundation supports KGSA's academic programming in addition to nutrition, health care, extra-curricular and leadership initiatives along with higher education scholarships for graduates to unlock potential, expand opportunities, and enable each girl with the ability to shape her future.

Together with KGSA, we are working to break the cycle of poverty for the girls and their families, empowering them to become stronger, more independent and resilient women.



HISTORY

In 2002, Kibera resident Abdul Kassim started a soccer program to get girls off the streets and into something productive. His dream was to create a free high school for girls as a way to promote self-awareness, empowerment, and equality. He felt that through active participation in education, the arts, and athletics, the girls would have the opportunity to develop confidence and strong minds, bodies, and spirits; empowering them to become inspiring leaders in their own communities and country, advocating for a brighter future for Kibera and Kenya.

PHILOSOPHY

We believe local problems need local solutions. We believe in the power of the #girlffect. We believe that all girls have the right to a quality education in which their rights are respected and they feel safe and protected. We value transparency and accountability.

WHERE WE WORK

Kibera is the largest informal settlement in Africa. It is a diverse and vibrant community full of caring and hardworking individuals and families. However, Kibera faces many challenges including high unemployment, poverty, overcrowding, and insecurity. It is underserved by health, education, and sanitation services.

WHY GIRLS?

44% of girls in Kenya don't finish high school. Research shows that girls who earn a high school degree are more likely to earn more, marry later in life, practice family planning and raise healthier children.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I enter my fourth year leading the Foundation, I am overwhelmed by gratitude for our dedicated supporters that continue to invest in girls' education in Kenya. Because of you, the Kibera Girls Soccer Academy celebrated its 400th graduate this year. These bright young ladies would not have received a high school education if it wasn't for your generosity. Thank you for believing that girls in Kibera matter. Your donations will have a tremendous impact on Kenyan girls for generations to come.

This year, KGSA also celebrated its first female Director! I am honored to work in partnership with Madame Claris, who has excelled as a leader since being promoted to the role in August. Claris is the girl effect coming full circle. Educating girls leads to female leaders. This is what KGSA Founder Abdul dreamed of when he welcomed the first students back in 2006. Together we are educating, inspiring and empowering girls in Kibera.

Truly, we could not do this important work without you. Thank you for being a part of the KGSA family. We look forward to your continued partnership in the years to come. We welcome you to visit KGSA to witness the power of the girl effect.



KATY TROYER WITH CLARIS AKINYI

KGSA Foundation Executive Director and KGSA Director

MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

I am truly overwhelmed and honored to serve as Chair of the KGSA Foundation and deeply grateful for your generosity and commitment to educate girls in Kibera. I visited the school twice in 2023 to see the impact you are making on the other side of the world. The first trip was a celebration with 40 supporters in February. It included connecting deeply with the girls and the KGSA team, witnessing the reality of the hardships in Kibera, and realizing the profound impact of the dormitory on the girls' education and well being.

In October, Becky Albright (board member and former Chair) and I returned to support Madam Claris and KGSA Founder Abdul in the leadership transition. We gained deep insights from the staff, girls and alumni on how to better serve KGSA. Our conclusion - the future is bright with the school's first female Director leading the way. The Board is excited for this next chapter - Claris' strong relationship with the community, the staff's commitment to the mission, and the support of local and international partners. My life is forever changed by spending time at KGSA. Because of your support, KGSA is so much more than a school, even though that would be enough!

As more supporters visit the school and more Kenyan partners become involved in the KGSA story, Abdul's dreams are being fulfilled in even more powerful ways than were imagined. We invite you visit the school and beautiful Kenya sometime soon. We humbly thank you for your generosity and ask you to continue walking alongside the KGSA girls as they transform into empowered, future women leaders in their community.

DIANE GORDER, BOARD CHAIR



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Donor Engagement Officer
Habitat for Humanity Portland Region

Cathy Huber, Secretary

Director of Global Opportunities
University of Minnesota

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Rebecca Albright, Chair Emeritus

Licensed Clinical Social Worker
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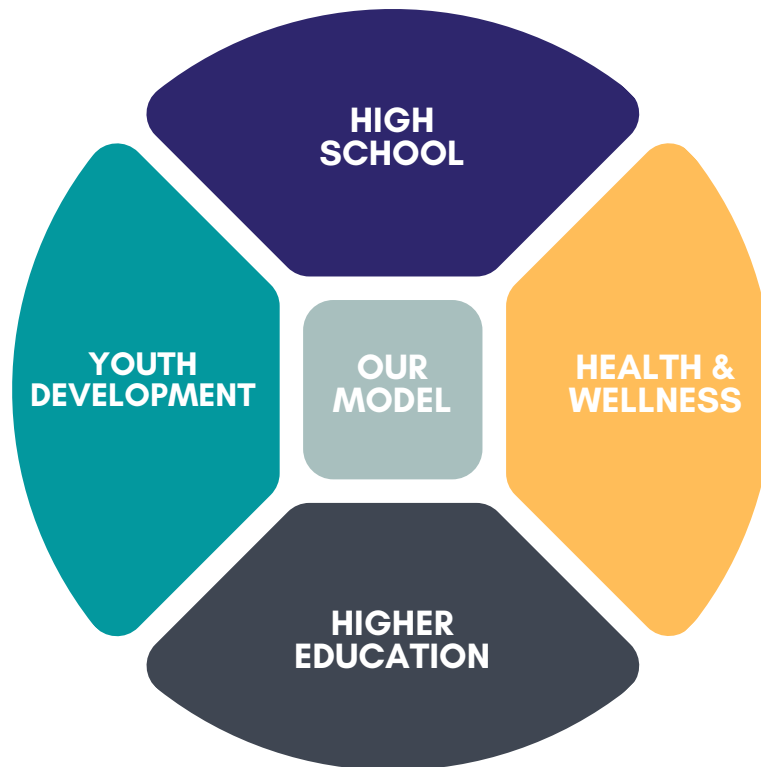
Sean Rush

Retired Senior Executive
PwC, IBM & JA Worldwide

Anne Baldwin

Data Integration Engineer
Baldwin Healthcare Consulting

KIBERA GIRLS SOCCER ACADEMY'S HOLISTIC MODEL



KGSA'S IMPACT

FIRST FREE HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS IN KENYA

412 GRADUATES SINCE 2009

100% OF SENIORS PASSED THE KCSE EXAMS

100+ ALUMNAE HAVE PURSUED HIGHER EDUCATION

I CANNOT SEEM TO HAVE THE WORDS TO EXPRESS HOW THANKFUL I AM FOR YOUR HELP. I HAVE BEEN INSPIRED TO CONTINUE WORKING HARD SINCE THERE IS SOMEONE WHO BELIEVES IN ME AND BELIEVES THAT I CAN MAKE IT IN LIFE.

-BETTY, CURRENT KGSA STUDENT

2023 Highlights

KGSA is more than a school - it's a home, a family, a community.



KGSA'S FIRST FEMALE DIRECTOR

Madame Claris Akinyi (far left) is the school's first female Director! Claris played soccer with KGSA before it evolved into a free high school for girls. She attended secondary up country and joined the KGSA staff in 2007. During her 15 plus years working with KGSA, she obtained a Bachelor's Degree of Education and Counseling and was promoted to Head Teacher, Principal and now Director. She is a beloved colleague and mentor and loves playing soccer with the staff and girls. Her favorite part of her job is when alumnae visit.

REMARKABLE ROSE

Play Like a Girl author Ellie Roscher teamed up with artist Lily Banning to share Rose's story in this beautifully illustrated children's book. Rose grew up in Kibera playing soccer against all the odds. A proud KGSA graduate, mother of two and professional soccer player, Rose is deeply committed to empowering girls in Kibera. Visit our website to purchase this incredible book that celebrates diversity and girl power.



HANDS-ON LEARNING

Students learn best when lessons come to life. The KGSA girls enjoyed field trips such as the Nairobi National Museum and the Nairobi International Trade Fair. In addition, each skills club received their wishlist like an oven for the catering club and costumes for the drama club. Finally, we invested in STEM by equipping classrooms with projectors and whiteboards and purchasing science equipment and student computers. Thanks to all our partners for helping us enhance learning!



Visiting Kenya

Many supporters witnessed KGSA's mission in action in Kibera

KGSA hosted many visitors in 2023. In February, a group of 40 supporters inaugurated the dormitory. Amongst the group were the 2015 Mt. Kilimanjaro climbers who raised the funds to build the boarding facility. The week-long trip included participating in KGSA classes and clubs, playing soccer with the school team, visiting families in their homes and sightseeing in Nairobi.

In the summer, Macalester College Soccer Coach Buckley and senior player Ella volunteered at KGSA to support Coach Mohammed and the school soccer team. They placed third out of 43 schools in Nairobi - way to go girls!

Long-time supporter Stephany helped transform the library into a cozy study place called the Yellow Lounge. It's the girls' favorite place to hangout, read and play games.

Big thanks to everyone who visited KGSA, carried in-kind donations in their suitcases and shared their KGSA story back home. Stay tuned for details on our next trip to Kenya in early 2025.



With so many unmet needs and opportunities to give to worthwhile organizations, domestically and abroad, we choose the Kibera Girls Soccer Academy. We know youth in Africa, especially women and girls, will shape the future of Africa's role in the world. While we give to an assortment of nonprofit organizations, we feel our investment is most impactful by supporting the KGSA Foundation than any other organization.

-Mark and Donna Bruning who visited KGSA in 2023

ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHT

Mercy, Class of 2022

MERCY PARTICIPATED IN THE TAILORING CLUB ALL FOUR YEARS AT KGSA AND IS A TALENTED SEAMSTRESS. SHE COMPLETED A SIX MONTH FASHION DESIGN PROGRAM AT PASSION TO SHARE FOUNDATION IN KIBERA. MERCY AND HER AUNT MODELED DRESSES SHE DESIGNED FOR HER GRADUATION CEREMONY.



Irene, Class of 2021

IRENE IS STUDYING TO BE AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN AT KENYA MEDICAL TRAINING COLLEGE IN NAIROBI. HER KGSA EXPERIENCE WAS IMPACTED BY THE PANDEMIC. SHE LOOKS FORWARD TO HELPING WHEN THE NEXT HEALTH CRISIS HITS HER COUNTRY.

Faith, Class of 2020

FAITH IS IN HER THIRD YEAR OF COLLEGE PURSUING A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ECONOMICS AT MASINDE MULIRO UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN WESTERN KENYA. WHILE AT KGSA, FAITH WAS ACTIVE IN THE COMPUTER CLUB. HER DREAM JOB IS TO BE A DATA ANALYST.



Elsa, Class of 2018

ELSA GRADUATED IN DECEMBER OF 2023 FROM KENYATTA UNIVERSITY WITH A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH. SHE RECEIVED A FIRST CLASS HONOR, WHICH IS THE HIGHEST SCORE IN UNIVERSITY. SHE IS PASSIONATE ABOUT PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOPING TO FIND A JOB IN THAT SECTOR.

Young women who want an education will not be stopped.

Freida Pinto



YEAR IN REVIEW

\$440,877

TOTAL 2023 REVENUE

From 300+ donors mostly in the USA - families, businesses, churches, Rotary Clubs, non-profit organizations, foundations and individuals.

153 STUDENTS

ATTENDED KGSA IN 2023

Since 2006, KGSA has grown from one classroom with mud floors where two volunteer teachers taught 13 girls to 28 paid staff serving 153 girls at the KGSA campus.

\$395,241

TOTAL 2023 EXPENSES

To provide a holistic high school education to 153 Kenyan girls, board 93 girls, provide college scholarships to alumnae and run the KGSA Foundation. The school's biggest expenses are feeding the girls and staff salaries. We believe in living wages and healthy school meals.

93 GIRLS

BOARDED IN 2023

Since the dormitory opened in July 2021, KGSA has doubled the number of boarded girls. Our vision is to expand room & board to all girls.

4 STAR RATING

ON CHARITY NAVIGATOR

The KGSA Foundation is in good financial standing with a healthy reserve.

THANK YOU 2023 PARTNERS

Abby Larner
Adam McNeil and Candice Chacon
Amanda Farinelli
Amanda Straigis
Amy Betts
Andy Wiegand
Dr. Andy and Janet Ruth
Anette Bachmeier
Anita Shen
Anne and JP Feve
Anne Baldwin and Dan Wiegand
Anne Bodnar
Anonymous
Barbara and Greg Lewis
Barbara Rush
Beatrice Ourada
Beatrice Hines
Becky Albright and Phil Tedeschi
Becky Murphy
Ben Pousty
Beth and Steven Gannon
Beth Loy
Bethany Lutheran Church
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Caitlin Bradshaw
Candy Campbell
Carole Boyum
Catherine Epstein
Cathy Huber and Chad Weinstein
Celia Baldwin and Bruce Catania
Chris and Patty Tremaroli
Chelsea and Mark Geraghty
Christian Cramer
Christine Elliot and John McNeil
Cobb Family
Connie McNeil Family and Friends
Corinne Carbery
Craig and Beverley Miller
Danielle St. Laurent and Paul Dinello
Dr. Dan and Jen Harris
David Gies
Denise Cox
Denver Zumba Community
Diane and Pete Gorder
Dillon Lerach
Donna Wilson
Dorothy Renstrom
Douglas Kunkel
Ella Thomson
Ellen Weber
Ellie Roscher and Dan Ruth
Emily Cannon
Esbeck Family
First Unitarian Church Of Providence
Gail Matheson

Gary Schauer
Germaine Jackson
Global Give Back Circle
Google
Gordie and Jo Bailey
Hadley Maclean
Heifer International
Dr. Hill Harris
Hope Wisneski
Hosain Lipson and Angie Weber
Jack Merrifield
James and Polly Gorder
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Jenni and Ed Ryan
Jill Eckert
John Andrew
Joy and John Birkeland
Judith Bearman
Julia Treen
Julie Klaus
June Nery and Rick Strittmater
Karen Kishpaugh
Kathleen Gajewski and Matthew Petsos
Kathy and Jeff Wiegand
Katie and Cory Rutledge
Kemp Peterson
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Maddy Buckley
Map Kibera
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Margie Roscher
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Martha McCandless
Martha Rogers
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Priban Family
Ralph and Trish Scorpio

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Ronald and Tamara Schwartz
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Rotary Club Of Lansing
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Strathmore University
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Tim Kotowski and Moira Cullen
Trinity Lutheran Church
Tom Baldwin
Tracia and Jamie Burke
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Westminster Presbyterian Church
Whaley Family Foundation
Wiegand Family
Wishwall Foundation
Women Supporting Women in Science
Wendy Kisicki
Zee McLeod



Educate. Inspire. Empower.



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