



Nuru Center

Changing Lives, One Child at a time

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



Word from the Executive Director:

One of the best feelings in the world is to know that you are making a difference in a child's life. It's even more gratifying when you can clearly see that impact. When we started Nuru Center four year ago, it was with a humility and faith that we can reach like-minded people and together we can change many children's lives in rural Kenya. I am always humbled when I see how many people have embraced that vision and placed their faith in us to see it through.

It is therefore with a lot of pleasure that I announce that the first Nuru Center Elimu scholarship recipients will be completing their secondary school education and sitting for the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (K.C.S.E) in 2012. We wish the Susan Wangui, Carol Nyanchama, Emily Apuke, Josphat Keith Monica, and Daniel Nyangweso all the best as they sprint to the finish line. I stand with you eagerly awaiting the results of our vision, hard work, and a lot of support from generous family, friends, and strangers alike.

2011 was a year of continuity as well as new firsts. The Elimu Scholarship program added four new students for a total of eleven. The Kikapu Holiday Giving program was successful once again with 85 families and 50 patients receiving food equivalent to over 4000 meals. Thanks to your support, we made great strides toward acquiring the Nuru farm. I am happy to announce that we closed the deal in the early part of 2012. Nuru Center now owns a 5 acre land that we will use to generate some income that will go towards the programs and reduce our dependence of donations as we continue towards our long term goals.

For the first time, Nuru Center organized an official mission trip. Ka-Ryn Escovedo, Christine Kibui, Mercy Mutua, and Gladys Orwenyo officially represented Nuru for the Kikapu program in Kenya. The mission trip was successful in many ways. Not only did U.S. representatives experience the impact of both the Kikapu Holiday Giving and Elimu Scholarship program first hand but the organization created a framework for future mission trips in terms of planning, fundraising, and execution. We're truly grateful to everyone who supported the group that went to Kenya through donations and prayers.

I am proud to say that we continue to make great stride on efforts that are 100% on a volunteer basis both in the U.S. and in Kenya. Nuru Center does not have any paid staff. Board members double up as staff by handling the operational details of the organization. A few people volunteer their time and skills to assist the board out wherever they are needed. Operational costs are covered by the founders' while 100% of your donations are allocated towards the programs. We continue to set the standard on transparency and accountability among our peers.

2012 comes with it new challenges. We realize that we have to double our efforts towards becoming self-sustaining. It is imperative then that we invest in the land we acquired wisely and maximize its utility. We also have to start thinking about the students who will graduate from secondary school at the end of the year. Precisely, what are we going to do to make sure the investment we made in them in the last four years and the dreams we've helped them build in the process do not go to waste after secondary school. Are we going to see them through college? Are going to partner with organizations that deal with college scholarships and grants? We have to do all these while working towards our long term goals.

The good news is that I have no doubt that with the commitment of the board and the generous support from our donors and volunteers we're going to have another great year and come up with the answers and resources we need. Our improvement and successful track record year after year gives us the confidence and faith to continue to dream big for the children in rural Kenya. Our commitment to our mission has never been stronger.

In this annual report you'll learn more about the impact of Nuru's work as well as our future goals and plans. You'll get to know a little bit about the scholarship recipients and we're certain that their stories will inspire you as they inspire us everyday.

On behalf of everyone at Nuru Center, we thank you for helping us change lives. Your support continues to make a real, positive, and long lasting impact in the lives of many children. We look forward to continuing to change lives, one child at a time, TOGETHER!

Shem Orwenyo
Executive Director and Founder,
Nuru Center, Inc

2011 Achievements

Strides in the Nuru Center Elimu Scholarship Program

The Elimu Scholarship program was created to offer a lifeline to children from very poor background that would not have had an opportunity to get secondary school education. For the first two years, the program focused mainly on need and paid minimal attention to performance. In a change of focus, the student's performance factored more heavily in deciding which ones get a scholarship as of 2011. The basic reason for combining both need and performance is that the brightest needy student will have a better opportunity of achieving more hence investing in their future will pay more dividends in the community.

This change in strategy has resulted in the schools Nuru Center partners with submitting better candidates for the scholarship as the 2011-2012 as sponsors can attest. Of note though, is that we are very optimistic about the chances of 4 out of the 5 graduation student. They have consistently performed well in the past 3 years and we're confident that they will perform well in their final year and earn admission to national universities. The five graduating students are Carol Nyanchama, Daniel Nyangweso, Emily Apuke, Josphat Keith Monica, and Susan Wangui. As the 2012 progresses, please keep them in your prayers so that they can perform well in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (K.C.S.E) exams at the end of the year. It is based on the results of this exam that they will be selected to the university.

Another important achievement in 2011 was the launch a formal mentoring program for the scholarship recipients. While this will ease the load on the regional volunteer coordinators, the bigger impact will be on the kids. They are now surrounded by successful people that they can look up to and approach for guidance. While we've seen the student's confidence improve over time, this new program will accelerate the same and provide the students a channel to seek advice on career planning and on general life topics.

Here are the students who are benefited from the Elimu Scholarship in 2011



Susan Wangui

Susan is a 17 year old who lives with her mother and three siblings. She has never known or met her father. Often she was forced to miss school to care for her younger siblings while her mother looked for work. Susan took and passed her KCPE 2007, but she lacked the money needed to pay for

secondary school. However, she was determined to get an education. Susan repeated 8th grade even though she knew her mother could not afford secondary school and didn't know how she would pay for high school if she passed the 2nd time. Susan's goal is to become a doctor and research a cure for HIV/AIDS in order to help others who are in her situation. Susan will be completing her high school education in 2012.



Carol Nyanchama

17 year old Carol Nyanchama Monari is one of 5 siblings born to a single mother, who is disabled and unable to work. In 2005, her mother took her youngest sibling and abandoned Carol and her sister.

The girls went to live with an aunt but were expected to work to pay for their share of the rent. Three months later Carol and her sister were kicked out of the house, because they were unable to earn the rent their aunt required. The girls then moved in with a cousin. Every weekend these girls worked all day on a farm to earn money for food. Carol dreams of becoming an engineer and helping others in need. Carol will be completing her high school education in 2012.



Daniel Nyangweso

Daniel Nyangweso was born to farmer parents, as one of 3 siblings. When Daniel was a little boy, his father died in a tragic car accident. His mother died soon after, leaving his sister and him to live with his older brother. His brother was eventually kidnapped and killed. Following his death, the man

who employed Daniel's brother was willing to care for his sister. Daniel was left to fend for himself. Daniel's dream is to finish school and become a lawyer. Not only is Daniel a beneficiary of the Elimu Scholarship but he has been taken in by one of the Nuru Center volunteers while he attends secondary school. Daniel will be completing his high school education in 2012.



Emily Apuke

Emily Apuke lives with her father and stepmother. Her mother died when she was very young. Emily's stepmother does not support education, making it difficult for her to study. Because of her test scores, Emily's teachers

encouraged her father to find a way to pay for her secondary education, but he was unable to make enough money for the fees, uniforms and books. On many occasions after joining high school, Emily missed school due to lack of school fees or had to walk 6 miles one way to get to school. Emily wants to become a doctor. Emily will be completing her high school education in 2012.



Josphat Keith Monica

17 year old Josphat Keith Monica lived with his grandmother in Kitui at the time of receiving the Nuru Scholarship. His mother abandoned him when he was 2 years old.

Because of his grandmother's age, Keith has been mostly responsible for earning money and taking care of his grandmother. They are so poor that they sometimes go days without food. Keith did not get his first pair of shoes until he was in the 7th grade. Keith was so determined to go to secondary school that he sold the family's only possession, a goat, to cover some of the school expenses. His plan was to show up at the school with a few supplies and beg the principal to allow him to start school without the required tuition. In his 2nd year of high school, he came back home to find his grandmother had moved because she had gotten too old and needed to be taken care of. Josphat has since been taken in by a Nuru Volunteer. Josphat will be completing her high school education in 2012.



John Jane Kariuki

20 year old Jane John Kariuki lives with his mother and four younger siblings in one small rented room. His mother is a casual laborer and barely makes enough to pay the rent. The children, sometimes, have to go days without food. Jane John

started primary school prior to the government introducing free elementary education. His mother could not afford the fees, so he had to quit school. Once free primary education was introduced in 2003, John enrolled and repeated 2nd grade at the age of 11. He was older than the students in his grade but he embraced being a leader and became a role model. He has a deep appreciation for health issues and was elected Secretary of the Health Club in his primary school. John is in the 3rd year of secondary school and his dream is to become a neurosurgeon and help his family and members of his community.



Jackson K. Mwangangi

16 year old Jackson Mwangangi and his little sister live with their alcoholic uncle. The children's parents died when Jackson was three years old. His uncle does not encourage the children's education. When Jackson

was in the 8th grade his uncle wanted him to quit school so that he could work and bring home money. Jackson is in the 3rd year of secondary school and his goal is to finish university and find a job so that he may help other orphans, victims of HIV/AIDS and the mentally challenged.



Veronica Chepkemoi

Veronica comes from a single parent home where the mother does not value education. She was picked for a scholarship when an opening availed itself after another recipient decided they did not want to go to school. Veronica was already missing school because of lack of fees.

The little money she had saved from you stint of casual labor was not enough to pay for her fees. She says she's eager to learn and become someone important in the community.



Michael Wang'ombe

15 year old Michael lives with his mother and three siblings. Their father died in 2005 leaving their mother with four young children. The mother is a casual labor who takes on odd jobs to provide for the family.

Michael's older brother dropped out of school in the 6th grade to help provide for the family while his older sister was married young without the chance of finishing her school. Michael will be the first child in his family to have an opportunity to attend secondary school. He aspires to be a computer technician.



Jenipher Muhonja Amoi

A mild mannered and soft spoken 15 year old Jenipher has been brought by her grandparents after her father died in 1997. She struggled to finish her primary education as she missed chunks of time while she worked to provide basic needs for herself and

aging grandparents. At times she accepted clothes and food from her fellow students. She feels abandoned by her mother who remarried after her father's death and has never checked up on her. She aspires to become a doctor.



Maureen Wairimu

15 year old Maureen is an orphan. She lives with her grandmother. Her mother died of HIV/AIDS and she has never known her father. Her grandmother ensured that she finished her primary school education but cannot afford to take her through secondary school. Maureen aspires

to be a pilot as well as helping orphans; she hopes to build a children home in the process.



Daniel Abuguza

14 year old is an orphan who lives with his aging grandmother. The grandmother also takes care of his elder sister but his younger brother is under the care of an uncle in a different part of the country. Because of poverty, the

grandmother cannot always afford to pay for his sister's secondary school education. She is therefore forced to do casual labor to help out. Daniel is an ambitious boy who aspires to be a doctor



Maureen Kavindu

Maureen is one of five children in her family. With the father moving to the city to sell used clothes for a living and a mother who is sick and spends most of her time in the hospital, the family finds it hard to make ends meet. The older siblings are constantly sent home from school due to lack of school fees

because the money the father makes goes towards their mothers medical expenses and basic needs. Maureen aspires to be a teacher or an optician and hopes to use her success to give back to her community.



Richard Kimani

16 year old Richard had already been admitted to secondary school but could not attend due to lack of school fees due to his father's drunkenness and negligence. While he has both parents, his father is a drunk who does not take care of the family leaving the load to his mother.

His father works in a hotel where he eats and does not bring the family any food. He spends his salary at the bar. For most days, Richard survives on one meal but managed to pass his national exams the second time around to be admitted to a very good school. He aspires to be a pilot.



The 2012 seniors take a tour at Lake Nakuru National Park as part of a motivational weekend during their April school break. This is the first time they every left their home area.



The girls enjoy the view of lake Nakuru



The boys share a moment with the Molo coordinator

Nuru Center Holiday Kikapu Mission Trip a First

2010 marked the first time we had volunteers from the USA who were vacationing in Kenya participate in the Holiday Kikapu program. These volunteers had such a profound experience that they came and shared it with their friends. As a result, there were many people who wanted to go and participate in this program in 2011. This was the genesis of our very first mission trip to Kenya.

In December 2011 we had four people go to Kenya for the first official mission trip. The trip achieved the following:

- ✓ Successfully ran our first official mission trip. Three ladies from Sacramento, California – Ka-Ryn Escovedo, Mercy Mutua, and Christine Kibui – and one board member from Atlanta, Georgia – Gladys Orwenyo – travelled to Kenya specifically to participate in the program.
- ✓ We distributed baskets of food to 85 needy families. This is equivalent to over 3400 meals; the baskets can feed a family of four for at least 10 meals. This brings the total meals distributed through this program to over 17,400 to more than 335 families and over 140 patients in the last 6 years.
- ✓ We distributed food (fruits, bread, milk, yogurt etc) to 40 inpatients at Molo Hospital.
- ✓ Provided an economic boost to the poor mothers and grandmothers at the local market by making lump sum purchases they rarely see. This in turn blesses their families.
- ✓ We had a record number of volunteers (25) participate; most of the volunteers were from different parts of Kenya majority of whom are college students. It is becoming evident to us that many young people in Kenya want to help and give back. We just have to nurture the culture and provide the opportunity.
- ✓ Most importantly we got to learn a lot about the community we serve from the feedback we got from new perspective of new volunteers as well as our old volunteers. This information is invaluable in helping us understand the needs of the community and in planning future programs that can help the community rise from poverty.

In addition to the direct impact the program had, the volunteers who went on the mission met a crippled lady who's a single mother that we've served for the past 5 years. Although the lady is crippled, she works very hard to as a seamstress to provide for her and her child. For the past two years she has been making payments towards the purchase of prosthetic legs. She's had the pair she owns for over 20 years and has outgrown the prosthetic making it very difficult to walk. She needed \$120 and she had only been able to put down \$24 so far. Some of the ladies were so touched about her plight that they, through Nuru Center, pledged to buy the woman the prosthetic legs so that she can be able to walk from her house to her work more conveniently; they have since fulfilled the pledge and Nuru Center assisted the lady purchase the new prosthetic legs. It is stories like this that continue to inspire us to keep giving back





The Future

Focus on Children and Sustainability

Nuru Center's future is guided by our strategic goals. When Nuru Center was founded, the short term goals were to start a scholarship program and the Kikapu Holiday Campaign. The mid-range plans were to purchase a farm that would generate income to defray much of our operating expenses. The long term goals were have an orphanage and community center that will have a great impact in shaping the future of the thousands of children in rural communities we serve.

The Elimu Scholarship and Kikapu Holiday Giving programs have been running successfully for a few years. A mentorship program for the Elimu Scholarship recipients has also been launched and we hope to measure its success from 2012. It is with great pleasure to announce that the mid-range goal of attaining a farm for generating revenue for the organization was accomplish in the beginning of 2012. The first crops will be harvested in the third quarter of the year and hopefully the profits will start accounting for some of the program costs.

The next steps are to acquire a one or two acre land that will be more accessible to the community than the farm. On this land, we'll build a state-of-art community center. The community center will have a library, computer lab, gym, basketball court, and space for meetings. It will be staffed with counselors that children in the community can approach for guidance on anything about life. The goal is to have the community center up and running by the end of 2013. In the meantime, we're doing some analysis of several orphanage models and hope to pick one that give the best chance for success for the orphans that will be adopted into this program while at the same time keep the community involved in the upbringing of these children.

Nuru Center continues to recruit and build its board to the optimum number of seven or nine. The goal is to open the organization to people from all background and to ensure that the organization is led by people with a passion for the mission, people with integrity. Our eyes are on the prize and that's the future of kids like the ones in the picture below.



THE VISION
The vision for the Nuru Center farm, orphanage and commun

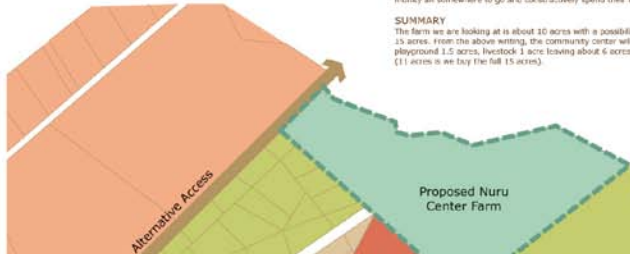
HORTICULTURAL FARMING
Majority of the land will be used for farming. Horticultural crops like cabbage, carrots, and potatoes will be cultivated and sold to support the cost of running Nuru Center programs. The farm will cover 11 acres.

LIVESTOCK FARMING
A portion of the farm will be used for livestock farming. Space for milk and chicken for eggs and meat. Zero grazing technique means that the cows would not need such a big area to graze enough to accommodate the cow waste, cow grazing area, and

COMMUNITY CENTER
Part of the land will be used for a community center. The center will serve as a small library, computer area, game area, office will be open to children in the neighboring community provide resources they'd otherwise not have. It will also be a way to get them busy and out of trouble.

PLAY AREA
Another part of the land will be used as a play area. There will be little kids with swings sets, monkey bars and such. There will be sports like soccer, tennis and basketball. The idea is to give the kids somewhere to go and constructively spend their time.

SUMMARY
The farm we are looking at is about 10 acres with a possibility of 15 acres. From the above setting, the community center will occupy 1.2 acres, livestock 1 acre leaving about 6 acres (11 acres in all for the full 15 acres).



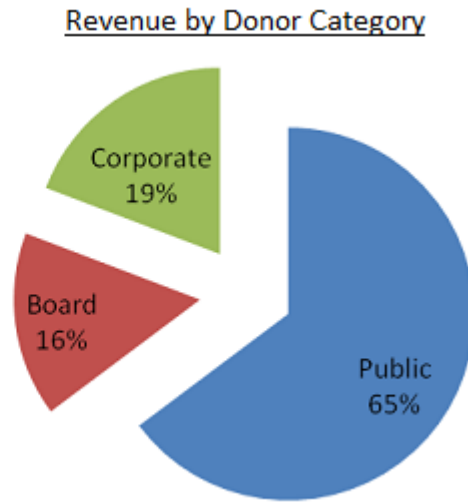
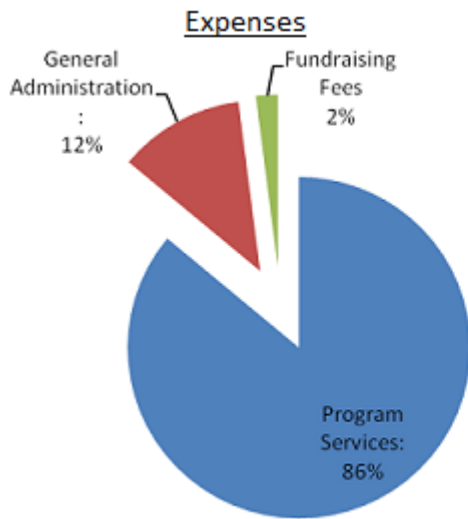
Financials

PUBLIC SUPPORT AND OTHER REVENUE

Public Contributions	\$2,122.19	10.76%
Kikapu Holiday Giving/Mission Trip	\$5,789.10	29.37%
Elimu Scholarship Sponsorship	\$3,932.00	19.95%
Special events (Gala, Park, Golf)	\$7,870.71	39.92%
Total Revenue	\$19,714.00	100.00%

EXPENSES

Program Services:		
Elimu Scholarship	\$7,542.75	48.21%
Kikapu Holiday Giving/Mission Trip	\$5,916.00	37.82%
General Administration:		
Fundraising Fees	\$318.76	2.04%
Total Expenses	\$15,644.45	100.00%



NOTES

- Compared to previous year, the percentage of administration costs went down. However, these costs are covered 100% by board member contributions ensuring that 100% of the public donations go to the program
- The fundraising cost is only 2.0% which is well below industry standards which is a good thing.
- Although the Kikapu program expenses looks high, almost half of it was towards the travel for the mission program. However, all the travel expenses were donated by the people who were part of the mission.
- In 2011, Nuru Center had three board members whose contribution attributed to 16% of overall revenue. This is a testament to the commitment the board has to the cause.
- Nuru Center had \$0 in salary expenses because 100% of work both in the United States and in Kenya was done on volunteer basis.

ASSETS	
Cash at Hand	\$15,308.19
Pledges Receivable	\$8,000.00
Total Assets	\$23,308.19
LIABILITIES	
Elimu	\$4,200.00
Total Liabilities	\$4,200.00
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	\$15,308.19
Temporary Restricted	\$4,900.00
Permanent Restricted	\$0.00
Total Net Assets	\$20,164.86
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$27,508.19

Notes:

- Liabilities listed are mainly towards the 2011 costs of Elimu Scholarship for the existing students
- Pledges Receivable constitutes amounts pledged to Nuru Center for Elimu Scholarship by the associated children sponsors and through the AT&T United Way giving campaign.
- Most of the cash carried forward is designated towards the capital campaign of buying land for the Nuru Center farm.

Board Members and Volunteers

Nuru Center would like to recognize the people who make sure the organization was running and functioning optimally on a day to day basis. This consists of the board members and volunteers. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our mission!

Board Members

- Shem Orwenyo – Executive Director & Founder
- Gladys Orwenyo – Director, Treasurer, & Founder
- Jennifer Brown – Director and Secretary

Nuru Center would also like to recognize and welcome Angela Karanja who is our newest board member as of February 2012.

Volunteers

Anastasia Wandui
Bob Brown
Camik McNeill
Christine Kibui
Dan Kairu
David King'ang'i
Eric Nyandat
Florence Kairu

Helen Njoki
Jane Kibunja
Jennifer Njoki
Mary Bowers
Mary Powell
Mercy Mutua
Nyce Keiyoro
Reginald Harris

Robbie Karume
Sally Carter
Shawn Toombs
Tony Chavez
Ursula Spratling
Veronica Wandui
Veronica Watuku
Wahuria Chege



Donor Lists

\$1,000 - \$3,00

Businesses

Ivory Chevrolet
Kuck Immigration
Partners

Individuals

Christine Kibui
Shem & Gladys
Orwenyo

\$500 - \$ 999

Businesses

Githehu Consulting
Guard Dogs MFS LLC
Merchant's Walk Chevron

Individuals

Amy & Shawn Toombs
Bob & Jennifer Brown
Camik McNeil
Idah Mutiso
Ka-Ryn Escovedo
Paul Macharia
Rose Kimani

\$250 - \$499

Businesses

Chavez Graphics
Frank Tax & Financial
Services
MainPro Construction

Individuals

David Shaw
Elijah Angote
Geoffrey Kimani
Lisonyi Diaz King
Naomi Lucchi
Mark Gloor
Ursula Spratling

\$1 - \$249

Businesses

Alpha Courier Of Atlanta Inc
Burkett Oil Company Inc.
David O. & Associates LLC
Healthy Youth USA Foundation Inc.

Mawe Stone Consultants LLC
Network Real Estate Administration/Contracts
Pace Financial Partners

Individuals

Alex & Mercy Muchunu
Andrew & Debra McLaughlin
Angela Karanja
Annah Henderson
Carol & Kessel Stelling
Catherine Maina
Claudia Bordin Campbell
David & Tonya King'ang'i
David Hester
David Nti-Berko
Don & Nancy Fuqua
Durga Yerramilli
Eddie Muchori
Elizabeth Ndamai
Elizabeth Njuguna
Elizabeth Schuhr
Eric Mwangi
Evans Obino
George Kinyua

George W Kimani
Grace Thiongo
Hellen Gikaria
Hellen Muchemi
Jane Gatimu
Jane Kibunja
Janissa Schempp
Jason Hamilton
Jennifer Munyao
John Arnold
John Harman
John Macharia
Joy Weaver
Julius Muthami
Karen Gitau
Karen Reed
Keith Weber
Leah Kamau
Lincoln Nyingi

Linda & Thomas Hunt
Lucy Gitundu
Lucy Walsh
Lynn & Mary Powell
Macharia & Jane Migwi
Martin & Rebecca Smith
Mary Bowers
Mary Hodges
Mary W Mwangi
Mercy Mutua
Mike Mceuen
Mike Seymour
Muchugia Machua
Mundia Kahiga
Nicole Melonson
Njoki Kairu
Ramesh Ramchandran
Raul Thomas
Raymond & Martha Escovedo

Reginald Harris
Robbie & Anne Karume
Rose Musyoka
Salome Carter
Sarah Dickey
Sharon Tucker

Sherry Anglin
Steve Mayo
Steven & Lori Backers
Tarsha Bruce
Tito Mbugua
Vera D W Jenkins

Veronica Wandui
Victoria Kioko
Wairimu Chege
Wendy Sorosinski
William & Janet Theuri
Winnie Patta