



Zawadi Fund International



2015 Annual Report

www.cyec.net

Background and Mission

The Zawadi Fund International (ZFI) was established in 2009 as a US-based non-profit corporation to support the Children and Youth Empowerment Centre and affiliated programs in Kenya. ‘Zawadi’ is the Swahili word for ‘gift’ and was selected to represent our desire to develop the gifts of each child for the betterment of the community.

The Children and Youth Empowerment Centre (CYEC), Nyeri, is a dynamic and innovative residential and educational program for street-dwelling children and other highly vulnerable young people in Kenya. Created in 2006 as a public-private initiative to address specific gaps in the care and support of disadvantaged children and youth, the CYEC is partnering with local civic organizations, the private sector and Kenyan and U.S. universities to find *effective, sustainable solutions* for this population.

The Children and Youth Empowerment Centre (CYEC) is focused on the comprehensive development of its target population, including life skills and entrepreneurship training, to enable these young people to lead fulfilling lives and contribute to the well-being of their communities. Zawadi Fund International is partnering with the CYEC to create innovative models for program sustainability, including mobilizing local resources and developing entrepreneurial initiatives for the Centre.

2015 Accomplishments and Activities

Thanks to your support, the CYEC was able to have a successful year across its programs! In many ways it was a year of consolidation – at the eco-village site of Othaya, with the Zawadi Youth Enterprise Program and across the Centre’s educational programs.

Othaya Eco-Village

Development of the first eco-village site in Othaya started in 2014 and continued in 2015. The eco-village provides a place for the youth to live, work and save as they transition to independent living. Othaya has a beautiful natural environment, and one of our main income-generating activities will be eco-tourism, with hiking, river rafting and biking, as well as agri-tourism. We have built traditional huts for guest housing, a kitchen facility, a dining hall and latrines. There is also agricultural land at Othaya, currently growing vegetables for the Centre. Several youth live at the eco-village now, and we will soon have capacity for more.



Zawadi Youth Enterprise Programme

The Zawadi Youth Enterprise Programme (Z-YEP) provides business incubation services for youth at the CYEC. Through the Z-YEP, the youth start businesses (individually or in teams), develop leadership skills and learn how to grow and manage their businesses.

The Z-YEP has two levels of membership – junior and senior membership. Junior members live within the Centre, receive support for an income-generating project and are required to save regularly. After one year, they become Senior members and are required to live outside the Centre. As Senior Z-YEP members, youth are eligible for capacity-building services and government-sponsored youth development programs. There are currently seven senior members, and two youth have moved on to start their own businesses.

Significant accomplishments in 2015 include:

- **Agriculture:** Five youth are renting land in the shamba to grow vegetables. They sell their produce to the Centre and local markets, earning enough to pay their school fees and put some away for savings.
- **Dairy:** The two cows produce enough milk for each child to have a cup for breakfast, with the surplus sold locally. Dan, the nurse, notes this has improved their nutrition significantly.
- **Hay baling:** With a faculty member from Penn State, youth in the hay baling business received a grant from the USDA to expand their business to other youth centers in Kenya. New mowers have been purchased, and three locations have been identified. Additional youth will be trained early in 2016.
- **SWOT Analysis:** With the help of a faculty member from Penn State, the officers of the Z-YEP analyzed the organization's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. This reflection will help them incorporate new members and develop opportunities.
- **Skills Training:** The CYEC provides programs in carpentry, welding, tailoring and computers. Currently there are five fee-paying students from outside the Centre and eight CYEC youth in these programs. Another youth is attending a program for hair-dressing locally. After completing these programs, the youth will be able to be employed or self-employed.

Education

Education at all levels is fundamental for our children. They appreciate the opportunity to learn and they work hard! The nursery school helps ensure young children in the community enter school ready to learn. We had our first graduation of 12 students, ready for first grade last fall. Our 67 children in primary school continued to be recognized for excellence in academics and co-curricular activities. Nine of our students completed eighth grade in the fall of 2015 and are look forward to new adventures.



While primary education is free in Kenya, secondary education is not. We had 50 students in high school in 2015; six of these completed their studies at the end of 2015, and we're awaiting their final results. We greatly appreciate the support of sponsors who make this possible!

Residential Care

The CYEC has a residential program based on a boarding school model, which provides a safe and healthy environment for children who are homeless or from difficult domestic backgrounds. Through its programming, the CYEC strives to develop values and behavior patterns to prepare these young people for successful reintegration. In 2015, some 140 children were in residence at the CYEC.

Nutrition Support: Thanks to the generous support of Zawadi Fund donors, all of the children at the Centre have fruit four days a week while the younger ones have regular servings of nutritious porridge in the mornings.

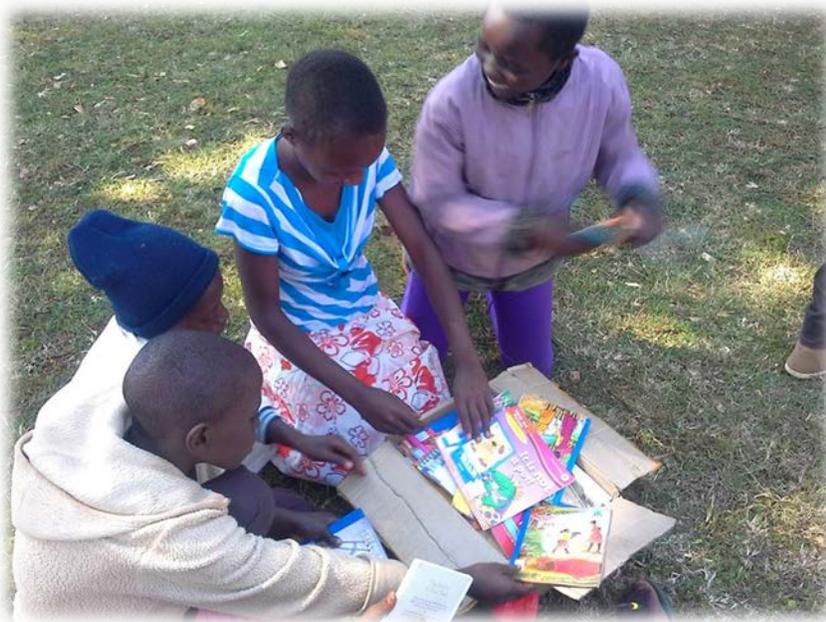
Drop-In Center: The CYEC partners with a center in Chaka to ensure children are ready to transition from life in the streets. We support roughly 35 children through this program.

Health Services: The CYEC provides for the physical, mental and emotional health of the children under their care. The Centre has a medical clinic for basic healthcare, managed by a qualified and experienced nurse and a part-time counselor for psychosocial support. ZFI supported the purchase of medicines and supplies for the clinic in 2015.

Zawadi Shop: Children and youth at the CYEC have the opportunity to earn and save Zawadi points to buy toys and non-essential clothing at the Zawadi Shop. This initiative, with in-kind and financial support from ZFI donors, rewards children's effort and good behavior and promotes a saving culture.

Clubs & Sports: The CYEC has an active club and sports program to engage the talents and special aptitudes of the children and youth at the Centre and to facilitate their self-understanding. These clubs include a reading club, wildlife club, scouts, football (soccer) club and acrobatics club. There is also a club for adolescent girls to teach them about puberty and healthy relationships. Several of the girls participated in GLOW – Girls Leading our World – a leadership program sponsored by USAID.

Basic Needs: In 2015, ZFI donors helped to meet critical operational expenses including food, clothing, shoes, utilities and staff expenses when needed. Your support gives these children a place to call home!



Outreach

We've rented a small facility in the nearby community of Ngaini to provide outreach to children there as well as special events for our own children. Our weekend events make reading fun!

Maize and other produce grown here is also used for food at the Centre.

Partnerships

The Centre continues to benefit from the network of partnerships it has created to bring together creative, dedicated people and institutions to develop and implement innovative programs. Key among these are US and Kenyan institutions including Penn State University, Kansas State University, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Nyeri Technical Training Institute, and Kagumo Teachers' Training College.

The Zawadi Society is a Kenyan organization through which local civic groups, businesses, religious bodies and individuals support the Centre's programs through volunteering, mentoring, financial or in-kind support.



2016 Priorities and Initiatives

Development activities in 2016 will be focused on the following areas:

- Further development of the Eco-village site in Othaya.
- Expansion of the community outreach program through the Zawadi Society.
- Further integration of non-formal learning activities in the Centre's program in order to better reach those with special needs.

Zawadi Fund International 2015 Financial Statement

Donations	
Direct donations	\$49,198.09
Indirect donations (Global Giving & Network for Good)	21,170.95
Total Income	\$70,369.04
Expenses	
Dispersal to CYEC	\$64,948.30
Residential care	44,319.81
Education and Training	12,943.07
Enterprise Development and Infrastructure	7,685.42
Business expenses (website, etc.)	36.34
Bank, transfer and on-line collection fees	585.05
Total Expenses	\$65,569.69
Net Change in Assets	\$4,799.35
Assets at the beginning of the year	\$7,416.09
Assets at the end of the year	\$12,215.44

ZFI has no paid staff, keeping our overhead expenses to a minimum. That means your donations go straight to support the children and programming at the CYEC!



Zawadi Fund International, 571 Foxwood Lane, Paoli, PA 19301

EIN: 27-0726956

Personnel

Children and Youth Empowerment Centre Staff

Paul Maina King'uru

Director

pmaina@cyec.net

Edward Njoi

Head, Finance & Administration

ednjoi@cyec.net

Daniel Waithaka

Head, Residential Services

dwaithaka@cyec.net

Issa Adam

Acting Head, Training & Education

issaadam@cyec.net

Bernard Odour

Acting Head, Partnerships, Production & Enterprise Development

bernardo@cyec.net

Gladwell Anangwe

Logistics Officer

gladwella@cyec.net

Mercy Nyaga

Centre Secretary

mercyn@cyec.net

Zawadi Fund International Board Members

Mary Hale Tolar

Director, Staley School of Leadership Studies

Kansas State University

mtolar@ksu.edu

Paul Maina King'uru

Founder & Director, CYEC

pmaina@cyec.net

Janelle B. Larson

Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics & Head,

Division of Engineering, Business & Computing,

Penn State Berks

jnblarson@gmail.com

Zawadi Fund International Advisory Board Members

Sanjay Chauhan

Nora Frumento

Alayna Schroeder

Andrew Bonneau

Caroline Gimmillaro

Stephen Suffian

Jonathan Colston

William Langford

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