

CYEC  ZFI

Zawadi Fund International



2014 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.

Dear Friends of the CYEC,

As I look back on five years' of Zawadi Fund activities with the CYEC, I'm reminded of Margaret Mead's words, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." In our case, this 'small group' includes dedicated staff and volunteers at the CYEC, faculty and students from Penn State, Kansas State and Kenyan universities, and friends and supporters from Kenya and around the world.

Zawadi Fund International was established in 2009 because several of us who had spent time at the Centre wanted to have a systematic way to support the incredible work we saw being done there. Over the past five years we have seen growth both in individuals and in the programs at the Centre. While there have certainly been set-backs, the progress has been inspiring.

Five years ago the Zawadi Youth Enterprise Programme (Z-YEP) was just a concept. Now, as an organization, it has the capacity to provide training, manage loans and operate independently. Youth members of the Z-YEP have developed business plans with the help of Penn State students, received funding through the Kenya Youth Fund, and started several small businesses. Some have also found formal employment. They have opened a shop just outside the Centre, and continue to farm land owned by the Centre to supply vegetables, fruits and grains to the Centre. We have seen them grow in maturity, confidence and ability over the years.

Education is a key concern of the CYEC, and their students excel. Two students have received the Equity Foundation's scholarship for secondary education, and the number of students in secondary school has increased from none in 2009 to 39 in 2014. The nursery school, opened in 2011, helps ensure disadvantaged children from the neighborhood are ready to start school. Co-curricular activities in the arts and sports as well as life skills and peer mentoring programs help children develop their interests, express themselves and grow into healthy young adults. Thanks to students from Kansas State, Penn State and local universities, a variety of programs have been implemented for these children.

Finally, development at the first eco-village site in Othaya is underway. This provides a location for youth completing their time at the CYEC to use their skills and support themselves as they transition into independent living. With this development, the CYEC shall have a comprehensive system including a drop-in center, primary care and education, and an effective exit strategy. The support of all of you over the past five years has made this possible – we certainly couldn't have done it without you!

Sincerely,



Janelle Larson, ZFI President

2014 Accomplishments and Activities

Thanks to your support, the CYEC was able to have an exciting and successful year across its programs! Development at the first eco-village site, Othaya, has taken off, children expressed themselves through the arts and writing, and the young people shone in educational activities inside and beyond the classroom.

Othaya Eco-Village

The CYEC has made exciting progress at our first eco-village site in Othaya. 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. In 2014 we started development of the site, beginning with traditional huts for guest housing, a kitchen facility, a dining hall and latrines. Several of our young people have worked with skilled workmen to learn traditional building techniques. There is also agricultural land at Othaya, currently growing vegetables for the Centre. Four 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.

In early 2014 the Z-YEP initiated a system of 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. Penn State students provided professional skills workshops for youth to equip them for the job market.

Significant accomplishments in 2014 include:

- Agriculture: Youth produced enough vegetables to supply the Centre and sell to the local market.
- Outreach: Z-YEP youth partnered with students from Penn State University to provide basic business workshops to single mothers in the Nyeri slums. Youth also provided leadership training to local schools.
- Employment: Seven youth have found employment in Nairobi and others within Nyeri.
- Loan servicing: The \$1,235 loan received from the Kenya Youth Fund has been fully repaid.
- 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. Penn State students also partnered with youth in marketing surveys to learn more about demand for hay and silage in the Nyeri region.

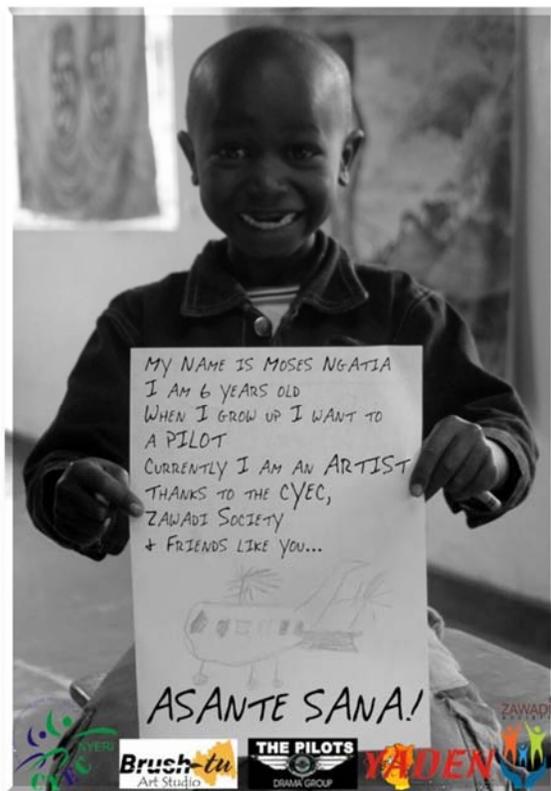
Education

The nursery school helps ensure young children in the community enter school ready to learn! Our 66 children in primary school continued to be recognized for excellence in academics and co-curricular activities. We were very pleased that one of our primary school graduates received a competitive scholarship from the Equity Foundation to attend secondary school.

While primary education is free in Kenya, secondary education is not. We had 39 students in high school in 2014, and 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 2014, some 130 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.

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 two part-time counselors for psychosocial support. ZFI supported the purchase of medicines and supplies for the clinic in 2014.

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, drama club, wildlife club, scouts, football (soccer) club and acrobatics club. There are also clubs for adolescent girls and boys to teach them about puberty and healthy relationships. Youth participate in discussions and team-building activities.

Creative Writing: Students from Penn State led CYEC children in creative writing sessions, which allowed the young people to express themselves – their thoughts and feelings – through story telling.

Leadership and Peer Mentoring: The CYEC offers Leadership for Life training program to CYEC youth and community members. Nearly 100 young people have been trained so far! In addition, a peer-mentoring program started by Penn State students provides support for younger children and leadership opportunities for youth.

Basic Needs: In 2014, 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!

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 of higher learning including Penn State University, Kansas State University, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Mt. Kenya University, University of Nairobi and Kenya Methodist University.

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.



2015 Priorities and Initiatives

Development activities in 2015 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 2014 Financial Statement

Donations	
Direct donations	\$53,781.85
Indirect donations (Global Giving & Network for Good)	6,501.14
Total Income	\$60,372.99
Expenses	
Dispersal to CYEC	\$53,876.88
Residential care	33,888.56
Education and Training	9,482.33
Enterprise Development and Infrastructure	10,505.99
Business & consulting expenses (logo, website, etc.)	570.68
Bank, transfer and on-line collection fees	622.50
Direct purchases (sports and eco-village)	284.15
Total Expenses	55,354.21
Net Change in Assets	\$5,018.78
Assets at the beginning of the year	\$2,397.31
Assets at the end of the year	\$7,416.09

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!



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