



Zawadi Fund International



2017-18 Biennial Report

www.cyec.net

Background and Mission

In the autumn of 2006, a small group of dedicated volunteers established the Children and Youth Empowerment Centre, Nyeri, to fill specific gaps in the care and support of street-dwelling families in Kenya. The Centre is dynamic and innovative – much more than a children’s home. They started with eight girls, and over more than ten years, they have touched the lives of hundreds of highly vulnerable children and youth in Kenya.

Zawadi Fund International (ZFI) was established in 2009 as a US-based non-profit corporation to support the CYEC 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 their community.

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.

2017-18 Accomplishments and Activities

Thanks to the support of friends around the world and the dedication of the staff, the past two years have seen progress in a number of areas, especially through the Drop-In Centre and in education and youth development.

Education

Education is the foundation of the Centre's mission. Children enter the program at varying ages and levels of education, so they are placed in the educational system as appropriate. They appreciate the opportunity to learn, and they work hard!

The nursery school prepares our children and those of the surrounding community for school, ensuring they are ready to learn. In the past two years, there have been 15 to 20 children in the program. Local families appreciate having this program in their neighborhood.



We had 58 students in primary school in 2018, including 16 students who completed eighth grade. High schools in Kenya are selective, and placement is determined by a high-stakes exam at the end of eighth grade. We had 45 students in a number of high schools, both day and boarding. Of these, 11 graduated in 2018. We're very pleased that four of our young people are in university. While primary education in Kenya is free, high school is not – we appreciate those who provide scholarships for our students! Higher quality education opens many doors for them.

For students not headed to university, the Centre has a skills training program to prepare students for employment. In 2018 we offered a program in metal working and welding for 11 students; 10 of these are fee-paying students from the community. (The carpentry and tailoring programs were on hold this year due to staffing issues.)

Zawadi Youth Enterprise Programme

The Zawadi Youth Enterprise Programme (Z-YEP) was established in 2010 to provide 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 manage and grow 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. Over the years, dozens of youth have benefited from Z-YEP training and access to loans from the Kenyan Youth Fund. There are currently seven senior members and one junior member, and several youth have found employment or moved on to start their own businesses.

In 2018, youth learned how to make silage to ensure a supply of feed for the dairy cows during the dry season. 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.



Othaya Eco-Village

Development of the first eco-village site in Othaya started in 2014. 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.

Drop-In Centre

The transition from life on the street to living with the norms of an institution like the CYEC isn't easy for young people. With that in mind, in 2017 the Centre opened a drop-in center in Nyeri town to connect with children currently on the street. They offer meals and activities such as arts, sports, basic academics, and life skills such as cooking and cleaning to prepare the young people to either enter school (through the CYEC) or (when possible) to reunite with their families. In just over a year, they have enabled 10 children to return home and 34 children to join school, while two are employed locally. This program is literally life-changing for these young people.

Residential Care

The CYEC's residential program 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 to be healthy, empowered, contributing adults.

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

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 supports the purchase of medicines and supplies for the clinic.

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, scouting, football (soccer) club and acrobatics club. There are also gatherings for adolescent girls and boys to teach them about puberty, goal



setting and healthy relationships.

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

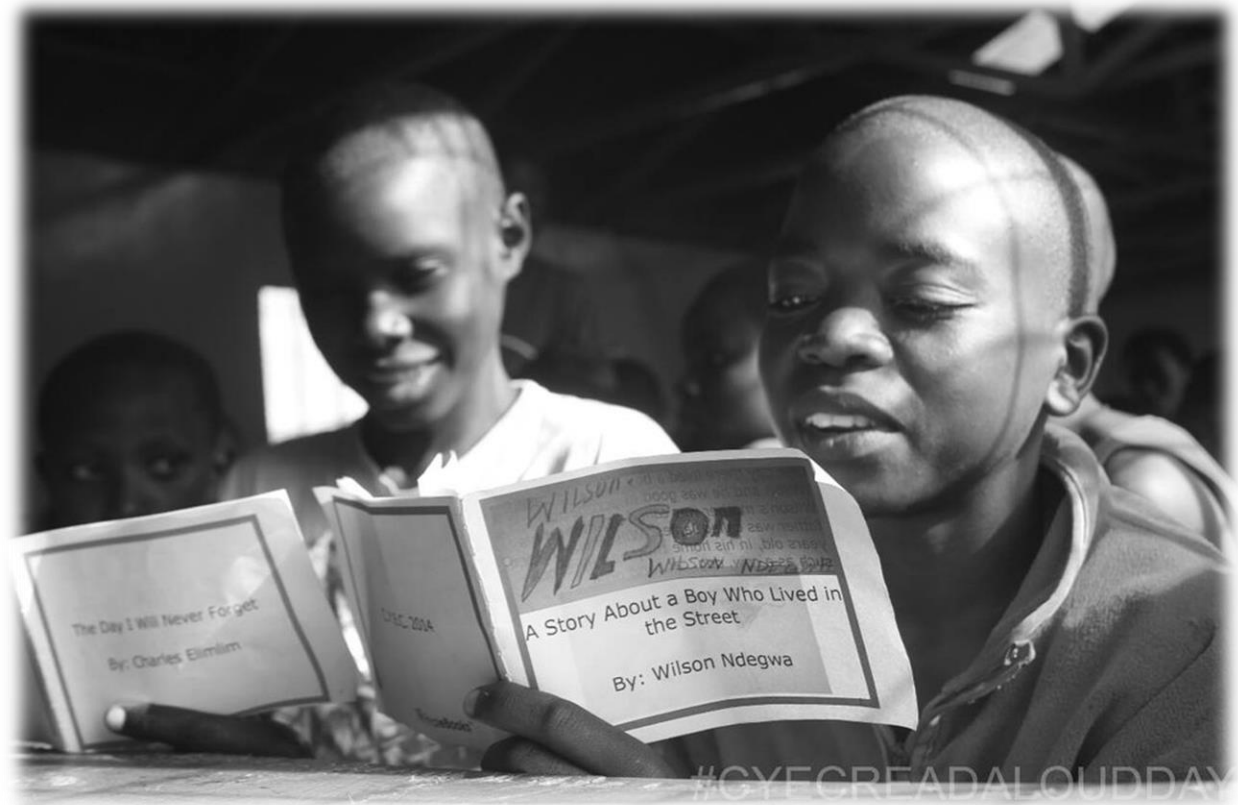
Partnerships

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 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.

2019 Priorities and Initiatives

The priority for 2019 is the development of a new polytechnic to provide 21st century training opportunities for young people from the Centre and other youth. This poly is a partnership with the community of Raithithi, about 30 minutes from the Centre. The first set of classes started in early June with some 30 students. Initial courses include masonry, computers, culinary arts and tailoring, with all students being involved in leadership development. Future programs include agriculture, carpentry, welding and mechatronics. We are very excited to provide these opportunities to our students, as well as other young people in the area.



Zawadi Fund International 2017/2018 Financial Statement

Donations	2017	2018
Direct donations	\$34,935.14	\$37,891.71
Indirect donations (Global Giving & Network for Good)	8,335.40	11,623.19
Total Income	\$43,270.54	\$49,514.90
Expenses		
Dispersal to CYEC	\$40,475.64	\$46,158.70
Residential care	33,368.93	36,280.12
Education and Training	5,093.86	6,092.78
Enterprise Development and Infrastructure	2,012.85	3,785.80
Business expenses (website, etc.)	\$58.00	\$19.17
Bank, transfer and on-line collection fees	699.52	\$1291.32
Total Expenses	\$41,233.16	\$47,469.19
Net Change in Assets	\$2,037.38	\$2,045.71
Assets at the beginning of the year	\$7,209.58	\$9,246.96
Assets at the end of the year	\$9,246.96	\$11,292.67

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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