



Zawadi Fund International



2022 Annual Report

cyec.net

Background and Mission

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.

Zawadi Fund International (ZFI) was established in 2009 as a US-based non-profit organization 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 partners with the CYEC to create innovative models for program sustainability, including mobilizing local resources and developing entrepreneurial initiatives for the Centre.

2022 Accomplishments and Activities

We were excited to have things return to a new normal in 2022. We welcomed back students from Penn State and Kansas State, and we had our first college graduate of those who started with us as young children. Our polytechnic had its first full year of operation and is fully subscribed – we'll have to add facilities to take on additional students! Across all our programs, with your support, we cared for, educated and empowered 221 young people in 2022!

Education and Centre Life

In 2022, we had 41 children in primary school (14 girls and 27 boys) and 49 in high school (15 girls and 34 boys). Eight of our young adults were in college and another 14 were at the polytechnic in Rathithi, along with 78 local youth. We took in 32 children from the streets (or who were at high risk of being pushed to the streets) and nine of our children rejoined their extended families while continuing to receive financial support and guidance from the Centre. An additional 16 youth were also supported by the Centre as they started small businesses, volunteered at the Centre and/or prepared for employment or further education.

In addition to academics, our students participate in co-curricular activities including soccer, agricultural production, community service, religious engagement, and cooking. We appreciate the ability to provide our young people with opportunities for growth, self-awareness and life-skills development!



Medical Clinic

Our medical clinic continues to serve both our Centre and the community. All of our children are screened as they enter the program, and our clinic provides check-ups, vaccinations and basic healthcare. Our clinic also provides basic care for the community, enabling our neighbors to receive care and strengthening our community connections. ZFI helps purchase medicines and supplies for the clinic so this critical work can continue!

Student Highlight

This past year, we had our first college graduate from those who came to us in elementary school. Nancy came to the CYEC when she was 13, after losing her mother at 8 and spending several years with her grandmother. After excelling at elementary school, she attended a boarding school for high school, then completed a diploma in hospitality management last fall.



Nancy is one of several successful graduates of our program who has given back through volunteering at the Centre. Nancy spent several months working with the children at the Centre to help them take on more responsibilities and learn life skills. She organized them into mixed-age groups, with the older students taking leadership roles and guiding the younger ones. She helped them learn problem solving skills and conflict resolution, along with basic tasks such as serving and cleaning up after meals.

Nancy says, “I am very grateful to the CYEC. It’s like a family to me. They’ve given me advice and have been very supportive. I don’t know where I would be if I hadn’t come here. I’ve benefited from the support of others, so I want to give back and make things better.”

Nancy has since taken a position at a high-end restaurant in Nairobi, but she continues to visit the Centre to mentor younger children. She’s such an inspiring role model for our younger kids!

Rathithi Polytechnic

After an initial opening late in 2019 and closure for most of 2020 (into 2021), our polytechnic has finally completed a full year of operation! We had 92 students in 2022, 14 from the CYEC and the remainder from the local area. Our school plays a critical role for young people and the community as it gives students both the technical and leadership skills to be able to provide for themselves and contribute to their communities.

The exceptionally high rates of unemployment (and underemployment) for young people in Kenya, which is even higher for youth from disadvantaged backgrounds, means there is need for special effort to ensure our young people are prepared for their futures. Our programs

include catering, tailoring, computer operations, masonry and plumbing, electrical technician, hairdressing and beauty therapy, all with life-skills and leadership. Of these, the most popular programs are masonry and plumbing and computer applications. Our agriculture program provides vegetables and milk for the poly and the Centre as well as income from higher value production.



Students in technical schools in Kenya take national exams for certification. In 2022, 17 of 19 students passed. This speaks to the quality of our programs and instructors as the national pass rate is just over 60 percent!

Many of our graduates will be going into business for themselves. Students from Penn State facilitated a business development workshop for all our students in 2022 so they could learn the basics of business plan development, financing, and marketing. Students from Kansas State also provided leadership workshops for our polytechnic students.



We're continuing to develop the physical infrastructure at the polytechnic and the formal registration process is nearly complete. In 2022, an access road to the poly was completed, we planted some 500 trees (mostly indigenous) and we installed water harvesting infrastructure and solar panels, funded by the Safaricom Foundation.



We also received 100 macadamia nut seedlings from The Village Nut to generate income over time. We appreciate the support from friends near and far, and we're looking forward to additional development in 2023!

Othaya Eco-Village

Development of the first eco-village site in Othaya started in 2014. 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. The fertile agricultural land at Othaya produces a variety of vegetables for the Centre and is a key component of our efforts to produce much of the food needed for our program.

Zawadi Youth Enterprise Programme

Through the Zawadi Youth Enterprise Programme (Z-YEP) youth start businesses (individually or in teams), develop leadership skills, and learn how to manage and grow their businesses. In 2022, our youth received training from the Kenya Youth Fund and the Kenya Youth Empowerment Program. Alex, a former youth at the Centre, used the knowledge and skills he obtained through the Z-YEP to start a small business in 2022.



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 universities including Penn State University, Kansas State University, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology and Kagumo Teachers' Training College. We're thrilled that students from both Penn State and Kansas State could return in 2022. These collaborations help young people learn and grow, and form genuine connections across cultures!

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. In 2022, local supporters provided valuable in-kind support, especially in the provision of food. A local macadamia nut processing company, The Village Nut, has become a valued partner in our education, outreach and sustainability initiatives at the polytechnic. The CYEC is a valued local institution!



2023 Priorities and Initiatives

We are excited for what 2023 holds! We anticipate registration of the polytechnic, enabling us to expand our offerings to provide programs tailored to the needs of our community, and we have more young people graduating and taking on leadership roles. That said, the macro-economic conditions in Kenya are the worst we've seen – food prices have roughly tripled (due to the war in Ukraine) and the national government is facing a fiscal crisis. We are doubling down on our commitment to supporting and equipping the most vulnerable, including children at the Centre and young adults at the polytechnic.

Our priorities for this year are further development at the polytechnic, with a focus on sustainability through water harvesting and solar installations. Your support has enabled us to build a strong foundation, to help us survive these challenging times. Please join in this commitment to our shared future by supporting the vital work of the CYEC as you are able.



Zawadi Fund International 2022 Financial Statement

Donations	2022
Direct donations	\$99,875.69
Indirect donations (Global Giving & Network for Good)	\$15,425.71
Total Income	\$115,301.40
Expenses	
Dispersal to CYEC	\$97,114.90
Residential care	43,043.61
Education and Training	14,803.29
Enterprise Development and Infrastructure (including poly)	39,268.00
Business expenses (PA registration, website, etc.)	\$197.17
Bank, transfer and on-line collection fees	\$1,413.61
Total Expenses	\$98,725.68
Net Change in Assets	\$16,575.72
Assets at the beginning of the year	\$17,526.51
Assets at the end of the year	\$34,102.23

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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Blair Weikel

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Simone Pope

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Vanessa Rickenbrode

2022 Zawadi Fund International Donors

Because we are a lean, grass-roots organization, every donation goes far and makes a real difference in the lives of our young people and in our programs. Every *Friend* matters to us and is changing lives. Those who give \$1,000 or more a year are *Sustainers*, ensuring that our children and youth have a safe home, nutritious meals and care. Those giving \$2,500 a year or more are *Builders* enabling us to invest in our young people, providing education and development. *Investors*, donating \$7,000 or more a year, allow us to invest in opportunities to grow our programs in a meaningful way.

Investors

Mary Lynn and Warren Staley
James Murphy, III
Johnson & Johnson Foundation, match

Builders

Babcock Family Foundation
Susan and Vic Burriss
John Downey and Shannan Seely
Glaxo Smith Kline, match
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