

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends

Eight years after establishing EdPowerment, I think it is useful to revisit our mission statement to see how we're doing.

EdPowerment Inc. creates educational paths for neglected adolescents, young adults, and villagers who otherwise have no way to gain skills needed for advancement. Through (1) the Kilimahewa Educational Center, (now a fully internet-capable "Open School" that employs active and motivational classroom strategies), (2) Tomorrow's Scholar-Leader long-term Sponsorship Program, and (3) educational advocacy for those with autism and developmental disabilities, we enable those whom society has rejected to reclaim lives of dignity and security.

In 2017 we continued to hone each of the above programs for deeper reach and impact:

The **Kilimahewa Educational Center** served several hundred adolescents, young adults, villagers and even professionals. Every day, individuals previously left to languish realized that they too could make something of their lives. The proof of Kilimahewa's success are the many students who, having completed some type of coursework, report that they have found employment, job advancement, or a way to resume studies at a higher level.

Tomorrow's Scholar-Leader Sponsorship Program refined its programs to better serve an older group who now are navigating the post-secondary Tanzanian educational maze. In addition to academic and systemic stresses, our students are learning how to handle family and personal challenges as young adults. EdPowerment's role increasingly involves coaching in "soft skills," career preparedness, practical living lessons and self-care, physically and psychologically.

Connects Autism Tanzania and its Director, **Grace Lyimo**, have become recognized trailblazers for special needs advocacy in Northern Tanzania. In 2017 Grace Lyimo took a leading role in forums, seminars and other events targeted to creating channels to serve the autistic and reinforce the message that the developmentally disabled have a rightful claim to education and a place in society.

Thank you once again for helping EdPowerment to sustain its life-changing mission,

Moira Madonia, the EdPowerment Board, and our Tanzanian team



TODAY'S KILIMAHEWA EDUCATIONAL CENTER

Update:

From a circle of children and mamas under a tree in 2006, the Kilimahewa Educational Center has grown into a thriving hub of academic and skills training for the poor and otherwise ignored. In 2017:

- ✓ Nearly 300 students, many of whom had never before touched a computer, took some type of computer and IT training.
- ✓ Nearly 50 students studied in the QT/PC secondary school equivalency program.
- ✓ Over 25 students benefitted from an innovative THRIVE program specifically designed to help post-secondary (Form 4) and high school (Form 6) students prepare for independent living, job-searching, the workplace and college level studies.
- ✓ Close to 80 primary school "leavers" attended Kilimahewa's Pre-Form 1 (Secondary School) classes in the fall.
- ✓ Neighboring students, motivated to learn more and use critical review books to improve their performance on the all-important national exams, have begun to use our library.



Dickson cataloguing books in Kilimahewa's expanding library



Parent-Teacher Conferences in the library



One of Kilimahewa's two classroom buildings

Impact:

Students of all ages and backgrounds now use the Center as a stepping stone to more secure lives of dignity and hope. Course and skills instruction combined with individual mentoring offer all learners a way forward. They are proceeding in college and vocational studies; they are advancing in careers already begun in the education and other sectors; they are securing jobs that require a basic level of computer, English and math skills; and they are learning how to improve and expand agricultural and husbandry income projects. Kilimahewa means something different for each student. The common thread is that it enables a better future.



TOMORROW'S SCHOLAR-LEADER SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Update:

As our student body progresses through higher-level studies, EdPowerment has stepped up to address a changing set of challenges. In 2017 we faced an increasing number of health issues including cases of TB, typhoid, stomach ulcers, dermatological and gynecological conditions. Thanks to our Liaison, Grace Lyimo, who has a background in health, and the steadfast care of our operations manager, Tom Kway, we secured quality medical care and provided ongoing support for each student facing frightening situations with limited parental support. Second, in 2017 we worked on strengthening life-skills instruction and coaching that can be more pivotal than academics. We developed "soft skills" and practical ones to better enable our young people to succeed post-graduation.

Impact:

In 2017 EdPowerment's sponsored students moved closer to claiming independent futures. Two of our young women completed their university studies, one with a law degree and the other an accounting degree. One of our first sponsored students is now married, teaching primary school while collaborating on Gospel music CDs, while another has been posted by his employer, IT trainer, ACTT, to another area of Tanzania. Fourteen (14) other students now pursue college diplomas or university, while 20 move forward into Advanced Level High School or other programs. EdPowerment views impact as the readiness to seek or create one's own employment. Our young people, who came to us as adolescents with no future many years ago, are now emerging as adults prepared to sustain a productive life.



Dativa and her mother celebrate at high school graduation. She now studies for a BA Degree in Education - Sciences.



Jesca, now a married teacher, with Director, Cocoa, and Mary and Kelvin, students at Kilacha Agriculture Institute.



Mary Munishi celebrates her graduation with a BA in Accounting.



CONNECTS AUTISM TANZANIA (CAT)



CAT plays a leadership role in bringing together stakeholders



Mama Grace and Kerri continuing to advocate for the autistic



Getting the word out

Update:

EdPowerment remains the primary funder of CAT, acting additionally as a fiscal sponsor for Focus For Health grants. This support enabled CAT to continue its advocacy in increasingly high-level meetings with government educational officers, while bringing specific strategies and protocols to teachers in special needs units in Northern Tanzania. CAT continues to develop a management structure that will enable it to meet the demand from all stakeholders for guidance in this arena, bringing to bear knowledge and direction from practitioners internationally.

Impact:

Educational avenues for special needs teens and those with developmental disabilities existed nominally in Northern Tanzania only a few years ago.

The seminars and workshops begun by CAT's predecessor, Autism Connects Tanzania, and CAT's subsequent use of events, media coverage and networking among all stakeholders has resulted in an elevated conversation – both in terms of the level of government and the number of participants. By the end of 2017, meetings attended by key educators and officials in Arusha promised tangible action to better serve those with special needs, beginning with the introduction of IEPs in the classroom.

A MANAGEMENT REPORT



All of EdPowerment's directors visited Moshi in 2017 to assist in program-building and offer management support to our administrative and Kilimahewa Center staff. We are shifting our focus to building students' real-world skills that are so essential for employability amid Tanzania's youth bulge. Using the qualified and dedicated Kilimahewa teachers, EdPowerment's THRIVE programs offer young adults every opportunity to build their IT skills, English proficiency and networking awareness, while working on positive social interactions.

At home, we continue to fundraise by enlisting the support of our colleagues, family members, friends and connections through email, direct mail, on-line campaigns and our annual SoulCycle Fundraiser in NYC. We seek grants, as we are able, to advance the Center's capabilities. In December overall 2017 donations allowed us to fund the exterior structure of a second floor "hostel" or dormitory so that young women can take advantage of Kilimahewa's programs and mentoring. In 2018 we seek to raise \$70,000 to complete this critical step.

Board of Directors:

Moira G. Madonia, President & Founder

Kerri Elliott, Vice President & Honorary Board Member, Connects Autism Tanzania

Jillian Swinford, Director & Secretary

John Corbett, Director & Treasurer

Corinne (Cocoa) McGovern, Director

Stacey Lauren, Director



In Tanzania:

Grace Lyimo: Program Liaison for the Kilimahewa Educational Center & Tomorrow's Scholar-Leader Program; Executive Director of Connects Autism Tanzania.

Tom Kway: Financial and Operations Manager with oversight of Tomorrow's Scholar-Leader Program.

INCOME	
Contributions & grants	\$ 175,469
Fundraising/Online Events	\$ 37,344
Matching Funds	\$ 5,200
Other	\$ 70
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 218,083

EXPENSES (including allocation of TZ management time)	
Kilimahewa Educational Center Operational	\$ 42,578
Kilimahewa Center Equipment & Facilities	\$ 43,639
Allocated Program Management	\$ 5,494
Tomorrow's Scholar-Leader Program	\$ 68,169
Funding for Connects Autism Tanzania	\$ 34,445
General Administrative Costs in Tanzania	\$ 6,088
U.S. Management Trips Air & Food only	\$ 5,377
Banking & U.S. Administrative	\$ 7,109
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 212,899

All donations directly fund program expenses in Tanzania. Founder support exceeds all administrative costs and Directors fund their own travel expenses.



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