



The Project

Akili Dada was founded by Dr. Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg to provide scholarships, mentors, and leadership training to bright young women scholars from low-income families. Empowering the next generation of Kenyan women leaders, Akili Dada partners girls with mentors from a network of women leaders in medicine, finance, media and government.

The Strategy

After connecting girls with scholarships and a growing network of peers and professional Kenyan women, Akili Dada's scholars join a leadership training program. The curriculum is designed to help the girls become agents of change in their home communities while achieving academic excellence, self-awareness and a strong sense social responsibility.

Girls' Education in Kenya:

70% of Kenyan families cannot afford to send their girls to secondary school. Kenya's annual per capita income is \$1,600. The total annual cost of education is \$1,000, including tuition, living expenses, and supplies--putting education out of reach for many Kenyan girls.



Join Spark

Spark is Akili Dada's first institutional funder. For five years, the founders of Akili Dada have been tithing to maintain the program. We started working with them in April. Spark volunteers helped Akili Dada set up an accounting system and a donation website. As a result of this partnership with Spark, Akili Dada catapulted into the international development scene. This month they received both a grant from the Global Fund for Women and a Marketplace of Ideas Award from the UN Alliance of Civilizations.

Join Spark is supporting this program that the UN has called "one of the world's most exciting and innovative but lesser known civil society projects." If you are interested in learning more about this grantee, Spark or how to promote girls' rights and education around the globe, please visit www.sparksf.org.

Akili Dada is attempting to change that. By supplying 40 bright, young women with full scholarships and an innovative mentor program, Akili Dada is truly trailblazing. This program is transforming the way the global community thinks about supporting girls' education.