



# Keep Hope Ignited

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



# Keep Hope Ignited

*Dear Esteemed Donors and Partners,*

2023 is the year of EduNations' greatest accomplishments and celebrations. I am deeply thankful to all of you for making this all possible.

It brings me great joy each day to see 148 passionate and committed EduNations employees joyfully working for our mission and caring for their families, and to see 3,700 students who are eager to learn, commuting to our 15 schools daily, sometimes covering long distances.

When we had the fire disaster that burned down one of our dormitories, we celebrated your support in the reconstruction of that dormitory.

We also experienced the great joy of graduating 103 senior secondary school students for the first time ever in our schools, most of whom started with us back in the beginning, walking to our schools barefoot and shirtless and seeking an opportunity to get an education. These are the students who now have a high school diploma.

As if all of this is not enough, I have great joy when I look up and find an outpouring of abundant grace and mercy from the Father above and look around and witness indescribable acts of kindness, support, and hospitality from men and women, families, churches, ministries, and partner organizations all over the world.

As I reflect over 2023 and look forward to 2024, I want to encourage us to consider our calling. Our calling to educate children in rural Sierra Leone is not a sprint—it's a marathon in sync with the mission of our God who set out thousands of years ago to redeem a people and who continues His redemptive work to this day.

While we will continue to celebrate our successes year after year, we still have an unfinished task and a yoke to bear. We have a mission to carry on until our Master, who gave us our talents and commissioned us to this calling, returns with the words, "Well done, good and faithful servants." Until then, every one of us is called to return to our post, to fulfill our duties, to not give up on ourselves and on one another.

I am confident that many will read this and agree with me that we are not done yet, and we need one another more these days than ever before.

Thank you for making this work possible.

Sincerely yours,



Samuel Sesay  
President, EduNations Inc.

**We also experienced the great joy of graduating 103 senior secondary school students for the first time ever in our schools, most of whom started with us back in the beginning, walking to our schools barefoot and shirtless and seeking an opportunity to get an education."**





EduNations' mission is to ignite hope in under-resourced communities by comprehensively educating rising generations and to honor Christ in all we do.

Because you gave...

16

BOARDING STAFF  
WERE EMPLOYED

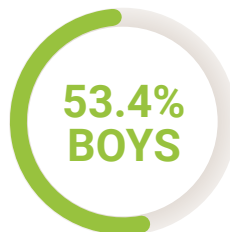
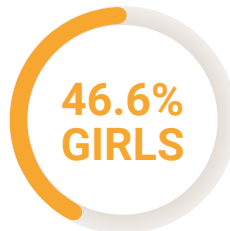
3,700  
students  
were educated

98

bicycles were  
distributed



302,868  
meals   
were served



124  
teachers  
were employed

476  
student  
sponsorships

40 teacher  
sponsorships

3,195  
uniforms  
were provided

103  
students  
graduated

358  
secondary students  
lived on campus



# Our Approach

We are committed to educating the whole child in mind, body, soul and spirit through four core pillars of development.

## Intellectual Development

By offering free, quality classroom instruction and providing uniforms, school supplies, and textbooks, we intellectually develop our students by offering an excellent classroom experience and challenging each student's intellectual capacity for learning through a variety of teaching methods and educational resources.

## Physical Development

We are committed to the health, wellness, and physical development of our students by providing access to healthcare, clean water, sanitary latrines, and hygiene stations. In addition, we offer a robust physical education program and provide three nutritious meals to our boarding students daily.

## Psychological and Social Development

Recognizing the importance of psychological and social development of our students, we offer guidance and counseling, advocate for children's rights and gender equality, and partner with community leaders and families to promote empowerment of the next generation. We also advocate for and address the needs of orphaned and marginalized children.

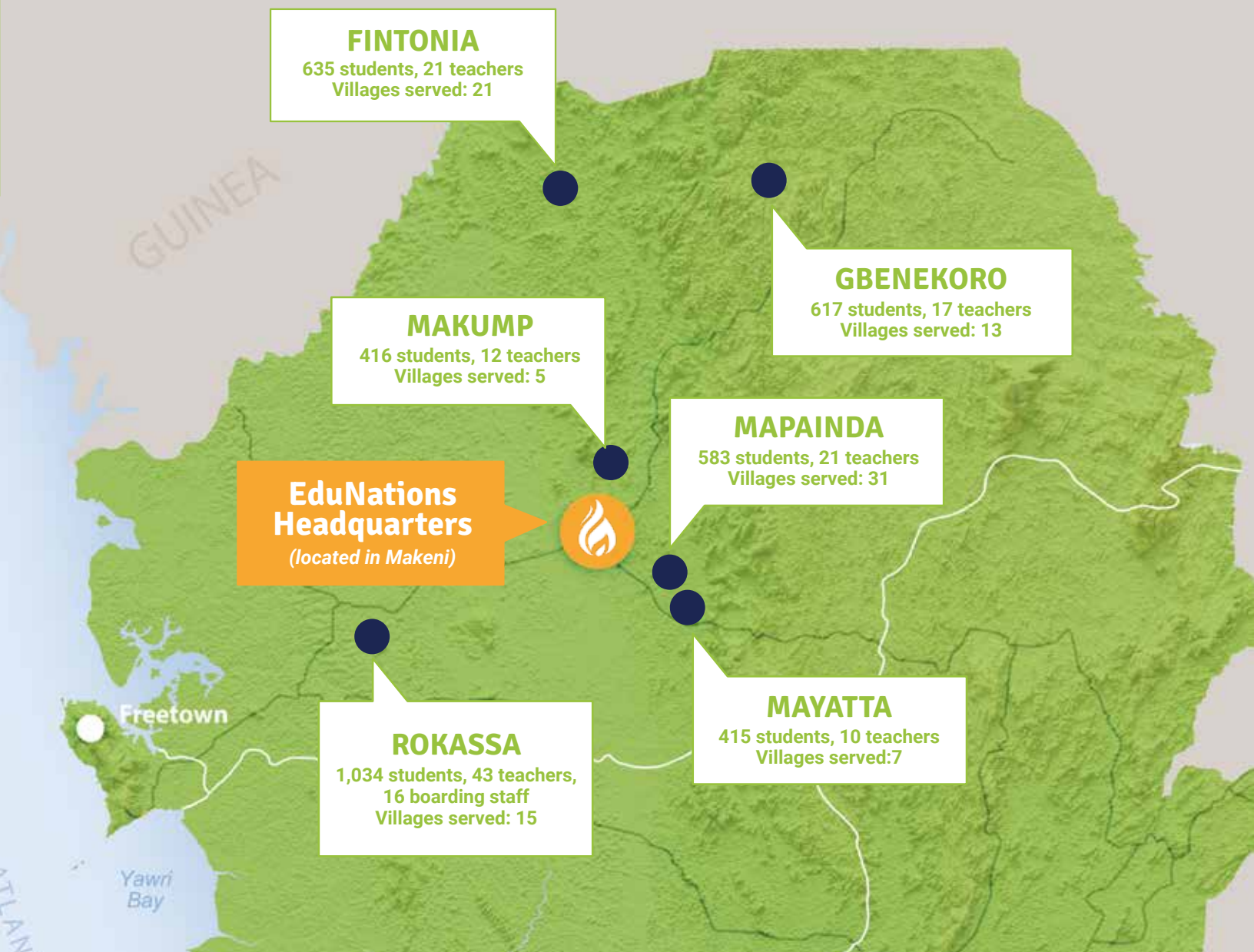
## Spiritual Development

EduNations students are offered opportunities for spiritual development through faith and ethics classroom curriculum, chapel services, discipleship, and mentorship programs. EduNations strives to develop the character of its students to exhibit respect, integrity, honesty, compassion, and courage.



**I am a girl whose dream [since my childhood] was to be an educated person and I am happy that those dreams have started to manifest in my life because I am interested in my schooling activities. At EduNations, I am receiving free and quality education, school uniforms, books, and pens. I am [excited] to move to the senior secondary school because I will be able to choose my career path and I am sure upon completing this stage I will become who I want to be in life."**

*Amie Kargbo, JSS3 Mapainda*



## Where We Serve SIERRA LEONE



**8.7M**  
Population

**18**  
Tribes

**52.3%**  
Literacy Rate

**\$410**  
Yearly Avg.  
Income

**Religion:** Christianity, Islam and African Traditional Religions  
**Language:** English, Krio and 17 other tribal languages





**EduNations** has equipped us with the necessary knowledge and skills in order to turn our fortunes into reality.”

*Valedictorian Muctar Kamara*

## Reaching a Milestone

Until 2020, EduNations only educated students through 9th grade. The dream of having a senior secondary school (SSS) seemed unattainable for many years, **but in 2021 that dream became a reality.**

Through the generous giving of our faithful supporters, we were able to build an SSS in Rokassa that could accommodate 400 students and 14 dormitories to house them. We welcomed our first, very excited



students to the new school in January 2021.

Three years later, we celebrated a monumental moment in the history of EduNations—Graduation Day! On April 24, 2023, 103 students became the first graduating class of EduNations Hope Academy SSS in Rokassa. Parents traveled long distances from villages around the country to celebrate, with festivities kicking-off with a banquet and dance for graduating students and their parents the night before the ceremony.

Early the next morning, light blue caps and gowns were scurrying throughout the compound at Rokassa. Students

began forming the processional line in the village of Rokassa, preparing to march to the church where the ceremony would take place. The processional, led by a small but exuberant marching band, featured the graduates, teachers, and dignitaries. Joyful music filled the air as the march began and parents, villagers, and guests took their seats in the 500 seat auditorium. The ceremony began. The celebration was marked by jubilant words from EduNations’ President Samuel Sesay, one of EduNations’ founders, Ken Houseknecht, government dignitaries, and representatives from local universities.

Displaying their knowledge and talents, groups of students from each department presented their class projects from each of their areas of study—commerce, science, and the arts. Approximately 20 students received awards highlighting their





excellence, hard work, and persistence in various categories.

Finally, the moment came for each student to receive their diplomas. Cheers of joy and applause filled the room as each name was announced. Each student was presented with a Bible in addition to their diploma. Hearts filled with joy, lives filled with hope, and eyes filled with tears told the stories of these students who never thought they would ever have this opportunity. Most of these students are the first in their families to graduate from secondary school.

Valedictorian, Muctar Kamara, delivered a moving and inspiring speech thanking EduNations staff, parents, and EduNations supporters for seeing them through to the finish line. In his speech he challenged his fellow graduates with these words, "I see this day as a call to duty in our beloved nation, Sierra Leone and the world beyond...We should make optimum use of our talents in order



to project the image of our alma mater and Sierra Leone as a whole. EduNations has equipped us with the necessary knowledge and skills in order to turn our fortunes into reality."

The ceremony culminated with the graduates locking arms while singing, "We Are The World." There is no doubt that this highly motivated group will be world changers!

The dream continues as 48 students have applied to study in various educational institutions in Sierra Leone to pursue college degrees as supported by generous donations. Through the Yayo Weaver Scholarship and other donations from our partners, we have been able to give out a total of 31 scholarships to the graduates.

This year 151 more students are stepping up and taking their place as the Class of 2024 marches toward their graduation in the spring. Together, we can Keep Hope Ignited.

## What's Next?

Abdulai Koroma was among four students of the 2023 graduate class who were awarded the Yayo (Mama) Weaver Scholarship for their outstanding academic excellence. Named after Yayo Beth Weaver—one of EduNations' founding members who served EduNations for over 15 years, most of which as the coordinator of all student sponsorships—this scholarship enables the most outstanding of EduNations' graduated students to further their education by covering the costs of college tuition.

Abdulai graduated as the best male student with an aggregate score of 26. He will be studying Medicine at the College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences, University of Sierra Leone in Freetown.



**Receiving this scholarship has given me a sense of hope and confidence for my future. It has lifted a huge burden off my shoulders and allowed me to focus on my studies instead of worrying about how to pay for my education. To the donors, thank you for investing in my potential and believing in my dreams."**







# Investing in Our Teachers

**Did you know that EduNations employs 124 teachers in Sierra Leone? We strive to hire the most qualified teachers with excellent work ethics and passion for teaching.**

We retain these teachers by paying them in full and on time each month. This may seem like a commonplace practice, but there are many schools in developing countries who are challenged in paying their teachers in a timely manner. As a result, many schools experience high teacher turnover rates and dedicated teachers often find it necessary to seek other

employment where they can be compensated appropriately.

At EduNations, we know providing a quality education requires hiring and retaining skilled teachers and administrators! Paying teachers appropriately and on time is one of the most critically important components of our Quality Classroom Instruction Program.

Learning that some supporters recognized the exceptional value of our teachers and wanted to contribute directly to their salaries, we launched our Teacher Sponsorship program in February to allow our generous donors to do just that. **Each monthly teacher sponsorship is divided into four \$51 shares. One share provides an average salary for one week, with all four shares totaling an average monthly teacher salary of \$204.** This year, 12 teachers were fully or partially sponsored, generating approximately \$25,000/year for their salaries. Six teachers are sponsored by individual donors while six others are sponsored by churches. By sponsoring a teacher, a donor is indirectly giving to all of the students that are educated by that teacher!



**Sponsoring teachers empowers them to be all that God has called them to be in the classroom. They can walk into the classroom with peace and confidence knowing their financial needs will be met. Sponsorship enables teachers to inspire children through education, knowledge and an opportunity for a bright future that otherwise may not be possible. Teacher sponsorship allows our gift to go much farther than just one person. We are so blessed to be a part of this amazing life giving opportunity."**

*Michelle Barkley, Global Outreach Director, Grace Community Church*



# Out of a Heart of Gratitude

Born and raised in the Republic Democratic of Congo, Christopher Muya, his parents, and siblings moved to Buffalo, New York in March of 2013 when he was just 16 years old.

Entering high school in a new country brought about its own challenges, but Christopher applied himself, completed high school and went on to earn a computer science degree from the University of Buffalo. After graduating, he was hired as a Software Engineer for a bank.

Today, as a 26 year old young professional, Christopher sponsors 9 EduNations students! When asked what inspired him to sponsor 9 students, he said this:

"One day I realized that the Lord had given me much financially and I asked myself 'What am I supposed to do with these resources? Why is the Lord giving me so much?' This Bible verse in Matthew 6:21 came to my mind, **'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'** God is my treasure. He provides me with my daily bread. When He gives me two [loaves of] bread, He wants me to give the other bread to someone. I realized that the Lord wants to use me as a vehicle to bless others. I sponsor the students because they are God's children. If we say we love God, we must take care of his children...When you sponsor a student, not only are you sponsoring their education, but you are also bringing peace of mind to their family. They know that their child will be able to go to school, learn about the gospel and be in a community where Jesus Christ is the center."

Thank you, Chris, for impacting the lives of so many!

If we say we love God, we must take care of his children...When you sponsor a student, not only are you sponsoring their education, but you are also bringing peace of mind to their family. They know that their child will be able to go to school, learn about the gospel and be in a community where Jesus Christ is the center."

*Christopher Muya*







# Our Programs

## Quality Classroom Instruction Program

Our Quality Classroom Instruction program is designed to give students an excellent classroom experience by providing well-qualified and trained teachers, textbooks, school supplies, national examination support, unique out-of-classroom learning experiences, and bicycles for transportation to and from school.

## Boarding Program

Our boarding program is specifically designed for our senior secondary students, who come to Rokassa from EduNations schools in all six communities to live in dormitories on campus while receiving their high school education. These students receive housing, nutritious meals, and daily care.

## Psychological and Social Support Program

Our Psychological and Social Support program encourages students and family to have a healthy view of self and others. We offer guidance and counseling and advocate for human rights, equality, equity, and empowerment.

## Healthcare Program

Our Healthcare program supports the health and wellness of every child by providing affordable access to healthcare.

## WASH

Our WASH program promotes the health and wellness of our students by providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene.

## Village Development

Our Village Development program supports community development and humanitarian aid that impacts the general population and addresses specific needs.







## Gifty's Dedication to Service

Name: Gifty Koroma

Village: Rokassa Village, Masimra Chiefdom, Port Loko District

Position: Librarian in Rokassa Nursery, Primary, Junior and Senior Secondary Schools

Sponsored by: True North Church, Pittsburgh, PA

The daughter of beloved Rev. Hassan Koroma, 24-year old Gifty Koroma came to EduNations after earning her university degree in 2022. Gifty shares her thoughts on working at EduNations and her gratitude for her sponsorship.



**My passion for village service brought me to EduNations. I am so pleased that I have someone out there who supports me and loves me. It makes me work with zeal and passion as I know my sponsor is always there for me and for this organization. To my dear sponsor, True North Church, thank you so much for supporting me by giving to my care as I serve humanity. May God Almighty continue to bless you. Amen."**



Colossians Kamara, a senior at the EduNations Hope Academy Senior Secondary School, was a healthy and energetic boy until 2017. While a student in junior secondary school, he started experiencing swelling at the left limb from the knee to the toes with severe pain which became intensive and prevented him from his daily activities. Colossians condition was diagnosed as lymphatic filariasis, commonly known as elephantiasis. This well-known disease is caused by infection with roundworms—usually transmitted through the bite of infected mosquitoes—and causes long-term damage to the lymph system, which results in swelling of the legs, arms, and genitalia. It is a horribly painful and extremely disfiguring disease.

Life became an enormous challenge for Colossians. When his swollen foot and leg couldn't be hidden, Colossians was ostracized from friends and family. As his condition and mistreatment from others worsened, he didn't socialize at home or at school, especially during holidays or important occasions. He couldn't work to earn any money to buy food and he couldn't wear normal size trousers due to his oversized left limb.

By April 2021, Colossians could hardly sleep at night due to the intense pain. Hospitalized at the clinic in Rokassa, he requested an amputation. But Colossians and his family had no money for a surgery that would have cost them more than a year's

income, so they continued to treat his symptoms. As you can imagine, the challenges of focusing on his studies grew as his condition worsened.

In April 2023, his condition became severe and deteriorating day by day. When a team from the US arrived, they found him in excruciating pain. He was supposed to graduate in only a few days, but his life was on the line. The doctors determined that he would die without immediate intervention. The team gathered around his bed in the clinic and prayed for him.

After consulting with the doctors, it was determined that amputation was the only recourse. Through the generosity of our supporters, the money for the surgery was collected within minutes.

Upon hearing the news, our EduNations staff drove Colossians to an Italian hospital a few hours away where the amputation could be performed. The surgery was successful, and Colossians' life was saved.

Today, Colossians is doing well and is very happy. He has rapidly responded to post-amputation treatment and physical therapy and has returned to EduNations Hope Academy Senior Secondary School. He now socializes with friends, and he plans on graduating this spring. Colossians has been given a second chance through the faithful giving of our donors and supporters!

# Keep Hope Ignited

*Dear Valued Supporters,*

I wish I could sit down with each one of you and share the stories of each of our students and how your faithfulness to EduNations has impacted their lives. As we embark on the 20th year of EduNations' work in Sierra Leone, I am reminded of the long line of generous people who have supported us in our journey to reach this milestone. This was no small feat. What started as a grassroots effort to start a school in one village has blossomed into 15 schools in six villages educating 3,700 students and employing 124 teachers annually. We couldn't have done it without YOU.

The 2022-2023 school year swept in with high demands. The number of enrolled students was at an all-time high with 358 students descending upon our senior secondary school. We have never seen the need so great. With a budget over one million dollars, we knew the challenges that lay before us. We fell to our knees in prayer, asking God to move in the hearts of individuals to help us care for and educate our students.

As we shared each need, you responded. You gave sacrificially. You gave whole-heartedly. You gave generously. And on August 31st, our income crossed the million dollar mark!

We are humbled. We are grateful. We are in awe of God's goodness.

Because of you, we raised over \$98,000 in just 5 days, allowing us to rapidly respond to our dormitory fire and school roof incident and take quick action to meet the emergency needs of our students in Rokassa and Mayatta.

Because of you, we saw over 200 new sponsorships this year generating over \$120,000 to educate these pupils. Because of you, we were able to pay 124 teachers on time and in full each month, retaining our highly qualified teaching staff.

Because of you, we were able to provide over 300,000 meals for our senior secondary students, including \$42,000 in donations from our "Meals for Mariatu" campaign, over \$46,000 from our Benefit Concert and an additional \$46,000 from our Golf Outing and Benefit Dinner. This doesn't include the countless monthly gifts from churches and individuals.

Through your giving, you have shown these children what it means to receive unconditional love. You have shown the world that you value generosity, benevolence, and compassion. You have opened your hearts and shared your resources with those in under-resourced communities. You have partnered with us to reach the unreachable. To remember the forgotten. To ignite hope in hopeless circumstances.

It is with immense gratitude in my heart that I say, thank you.

No ONE can do everything. But every ONE can do something. Thank you for being the ONE.

Gratefully,



Dana Kaltenberger  
EduNations Board Chair

**You have opened your hearts and shared your resources with those in under-resourced communities. You have partnered with us to reach the unreachable. To remember the forgotten. To ignite hope in hopeless circumstances."**







# Beauty from the Ashes

You may remember that in the beginning of 2023, EduNations experienced two major disasters in Sierra Leone.

On January 24th, a large storm tore the roof off of one of our school buildings in Mayatta, exposing everything inside to the wind and rain. Then, on February 2nd, one of the dormitories



at our senior secondary school was completely destroyed by an accidental fire. Thankfully, no one was injured in either of these incidents, but the effects of the damage sent ripples of fear and uncertainty throughout these communities. How could we rebound from this devastation? Not only were we challenged with replacing lost assets, but also with the demand of managing the emotional and mental impact this had on our students, especially those who lost all of their possessions to the destructive flames. We immediately put out a plea to you to help us rebuild from these disasters.

And once again, you amazed us with your sacrificial generosity.

Within 5 days, you gave over \$50,000 to support the reconstruction efforts, and by the end of the campaign, you had given over \$98,000—nearly doubling our goal! Your quick response allowed us to not only rebuild and repair the damaged buildings, but also enabled us to fully support the victims of the disasters, provide an upgraded infrastructure to prevent future disasters, and care for the needs of the student body at large.

We began to see beauty from the ashes. The grief, fear, and uncertainty that first gripped our hearts, turned to hope, gratitude, and peace. We saw acts of kindness, forgiveness, and

**36** Within 5 days, you gave over \$50,000 to support the reconstruction efforts, and by the end of the campaign, you had given over \$98,000—nearly doubling our goal!”

mercy. We saw grace extended and bonds of unity strengthened. What started as a disaster, turned into a true blessing.

To say we are amazed by you is an understatement. You have blessed us beyond measure. You are the reason we can educate children. You are igniting hope. You are transforming lives!





“

It is easy to partner with an organization that is doing so much good... shaping the future of children, impacting villages, and transforming an entire nation.”

Paige R. Davis



Paige Davis interacting with EduNations students on her trip to Sierra Leone in April 2023

## Sharing the Good News

**Paige R. Davis**  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

“Do you want to go to Sierra Leone on a mission trip?” That was the question we were asked in February. Did I hear correctly....Sierra Leone? Of all the places to go on a mission trip, this was not on our radar. We prayed a lot, researched a little, and two weeks later signed up, not sure what to expect.

In April, we arrived in Freetown and were greeted by the EduNations staff. Their joy and enthusiasm was contagious. For nine days, we immersed ourselves... learning about the organization, the culture, the geography and of course, the children. We visited the six villages where EduNation schools have been established. We saw firsthand the education the students were receiving.

From preschool to senior secondary school, the kids were respectful to their teachers, grateful to be in school, and thriving in their environment. In addition, we visited the EPC churches that have been planted. Worshiping with the children and hearing the gospel preached, were awe-inspiring. Jesus Christ is being shared in these remote villages and is giving them hope.

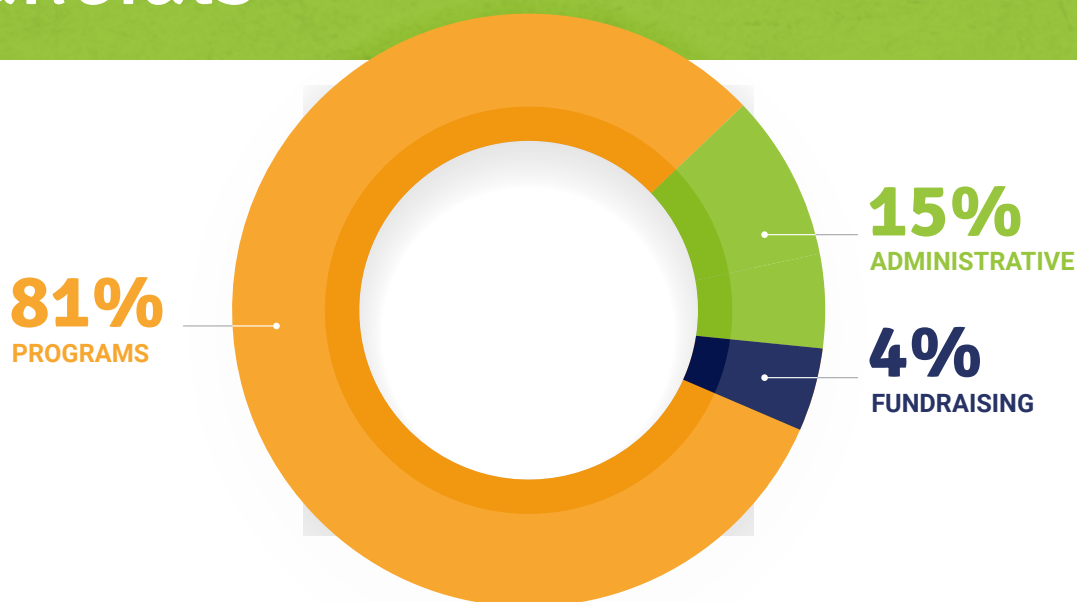
Our hearts were touched by these beautiful children and their smiling faces. We felt compelled to sponsor a student, knowing that sponsorship is a powerful way to make a difference in a child's life. We also wanted to give to the organization, because there are so many needs like uniforms, supplies, and meals. Furthermore, our church, First Presbyterian Church of Baton

Rouge, is now involved by sending support to help provide meals.

It is easy to partner with an organization that is doing so much good... shaping the future of children, impacting villages, and transforming an entire nation. We are so thankful for EduNations and their work, we want to share the good news with others so they can participate, too.



# Financials



## WAYS TO SUPPORT

As a nonprofit, EduNations depends on the generous donations of individuals, foundations, groups, and corporations. These contributions support the education of 3,700+ students and the transformation of thousands of lives!

**DONATE** Start your giving year off strong! Our website is set up to receive both one-time and recurring donations. Use the QR code or visit [www.EduNations.org/donate](http://www.EduNations.org/donate). You can also mail a check to our U.S. address listed on the back cover.



**SPONSOR A STUDENT OR TEACHER** Directly make a difference in a student or teacher's life through sponsorship! When you sponsor a student, your contribution offsets costs such as tuition, school supplies, uniforms, and more. When you sponsor a teacher, your gift covers the cost of their monthly, competitive salary. Use the QR code or visit [www.EduNations.org/sponsorships](http://www.EduNations.org/sponsorships).



## CONNECT WITH US



We regularly post relevant updates across our social media pages. Please help us grow by following, liking, sharing, and inviting others to join our pages on social media [@edunationsinc](https://www.instagram.com/edunationsinc)

**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MAILING LIST** Get exclusive updates from the field and follow along as we continue educating students, igniting hope, and transforming lives in Sierra Leone by visiting [www.EduNations.org/mailling-list](http://www.EduNations.org/mailling-list).

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8800 Peebles Road  
Allison Park, PA 15101

412.522.4756

Info@EduNations.org  
EduNations.org



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