

2011

Zawadi Fund International
Annual Report



Organizational Background and Mission

The Zawadi Fund International (ZFI) was established in 2009 as US-based non-profit corporation to support the Children and Youth Empowerment Centre 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 the community.

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.

The Children and Youth Empowerment Centre 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.

2011 Programs and Accomplishments

Thanks to your help, Zawadi Fund International has again been able to provide crucial support to a cross section of CYEC operations, from residential care to innovative programs in financial education and youth development.

Residential Program

The CYEC has a residential program based on a boarding school model, which 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 for successful reintegration. In 2011, some 140 children were in residence at the CYEC.



Club and Sports Activities: 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 and appreciation of the broader environment. These clubs include an arts club and dance club, as well as competitive football (soccer) and acrobatics clubs.

Aflatoun: The CYEC initiated Aflatoun, a program for financial and social education for primary school children in 2011. Children learned the importance of planning and saving, and were encouraged to start social and financial enterprises to break the cycle of

poverty. Researchers from the University of Nairobi and Penn State are carrying out an assessment of this program.

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 saving, reinforcing the lessons learned through Aflatoun.

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 part-time nurse and two part-time counselors for psychosocial support. ZFI supported the purchase of medicines and supplies for the clinic in 2011.

Basic Needs: In 2011, ZFI donors helped to meet critical operational expenses including food, clothing/shoes, utilities, and staff expenses when needed. Your support gives these children a place to call home!



Training and Education Program

Training and education activities are a pillar of the CYEC initiative. All the children and youth at the Centre are engaged in training or educational activities either within the Centre or in surrounding schools.

Vocational Skills Training: The provision of marketable skills is crucial to the empowerment of the Centre's young people. The CYEC skills training program includes both traditional courses such as garment-making, metal-working and wood-working as well as 21st century skills such as fabricating furniture from reeds and producing art from scrap metal. Entrepreneurial education is infused throughout the skills program.

Financial Literacy: While younger children participated in Aflatoun, the youth took part in a 4-day workshop on financial literacy sponsored by the Equity Bank Foundation. Through this program they learned about saving, borrowing and financial planning.



Education: While primary education is free in Kenya, secondary education is not. In order to attend secondary schools, students must pass a rigorous set of exams at the end of eighth grade. In 2011 we had 10 students in secondary education, and thanks to the hard work of our children, in 2012 we'll have 18! ZFI support enables them to further their education to benefit themselves and their community. We also purchase school supplies for primary students and enable the children and youth to take educational field trips in the surrounding area. The Centre recently opened a nursery school with three children from the Centre and nine from the local community.

Partnerships, Production and Enterprise Development

ZFI- supported activities in 2011 focused on using partnerships to increase production and income generation for the Centre while effectively preparing youth for successful program exit. This builds toward our ultimate goal of having the Centre's graduates be able to take care of themselves and live economically productive and socially well-adjusted lives.

Partnerships: The Centre has developed a network of partnerships to bring together creative, dedicated people and institutions to develop and implement innovative programs.

- The CYEC continues to partner with Penn State University, Kansas State University and Kenyan universities including Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and the University of Nairobi in teaching, research and outreach initiatives.
- The Zawadi Society is a newly formed Kenyan organization through which local civic groups, businesses, religious bodies and individuals support the Centre's programs through volunteering, financial or in-kind support. ZFI intends to partner with the Zawadi Society to build local support for CYEC programs.

Production: The CYEC seeks to produce a large proportion of the resources needed for program implementation through their skills training and agricultural programs. ZFI support financed critical investments in these programs including an irrigation pump and livestock pens as well as materials and supplies. Thanks to these efforts the CYEC produces its own vegetables, school uniforms, school desks and beds.

Enterprise Development: The Zawadi Youth Enterprise Project (Z-YEP) is essentially a youth cooperative through which young people generate income and learn valuable business and leadership skills to help them become economically self-sufficient as they prepare to live independently. The Z-YEP now includes the production and selling of handbags and chickens, as well as production 'sold' to the Centre, including goat milk, rabbits, and agricultural production from the shamba (garden). Several youth are also starting to develop a hay business. ZFI supporters provided the start-up funds for these initiatives as well as the first micro-loan.

Drop in Center

The Zawadi Society and the CYEC, in conjunction with the town of Nyeri, have begun a drop in center for street youth living in Nyeri and other neighboring towns. The main purpose of the drop in center is to give youth a chance of success through learning valuable life skills.

- Students from Kansas State University and CYEC staff developed a program for youth to attend during the days to learn how to make an income and how to integrate back into society. The DIC also provides meals and places to stay for the nights.
- Youth spend part of their day working in the shamba, or field, planting crops and raising animals, all to be sold for income.
- They spend the rest of their day learning and practicing life skills, art, table tennis, yoga, and karate. These activities provide positive outlets of managing their stresses, and they provide them with new skillsets to potentially lead them to jobs in their futures.



Thank You!!

Dear Zawadi Fund Friends and Supporters,

As we look forward to further progress in 2012, we'd like to take a moment to thank you for the incredible difference you're making in the lives of these children and youth! Thanks to your support, 140 young people have a place to call home, where they can learn and grow. In addition, your support facilitates the development of youth enterprises, and helps children learn to plan and save through programs such as Aflatoun and the Zawadi Shop.

Seemingly little things mean a lot to these children. When asked 'What is the best thing about living here?' one responded, "Being educated so that when I grow up I can help others" while another simply stated, "I have a place to call home." Children at the CYEC value education and set high academic goals for themselves, aspiring to be lawyers, doctors and engineers. These are not just pipe dreams as they're often at the top of their class!

Your support makes it possible for these children to fulfill their dreams for themselves and enables them to contribute to the development of their communities and country. We quite simply couldn't do this without you – our work depends on you!

With thanks,

Janelle Larson

2012 Priorities

- **Further strengthening of the Zawadi Youth Enterprise Project:** Capacity building for youth and broadening and deepening of enterprise development.
- **Enhanced quality of learning activities:** Expanded early education program to lay a solid foundation for learning; improved skills training program and enhanced opportunities for youth development.

Zawadi Fund International 2011 Financial Statement

Donations	
Direct donations	\$84,543.00
Indirect donations (Global Giving & Network for Good)	8,024.90
Sale of shoulder bags (consignment for CYEC)	4,158.80
Total Income	96,726.70
Expenses	
Dispersal to CYEC	96,074.00
Residential care	75,507.12
Education and Training	7,025.13
Partnerships, Production and Enterprise Development	13,317.17
Infrastructure	224.58
Items purchased in US (all for Production & Enterprise Development)	3,182.80
Transfer and website collection fees	496.36
Total Expenses	\$99,753.16
Net Change in Assets	-\$3,026.46
Assets at the beginning of the year	\$17,055.85
Assets at the end of the year	\$14,029.39

ZFI has no paid staff, keeping our overhead expenses to a minimum (0.5% of expenses). That means **99.5%** of your donations go straight to support the children and programming at the CYEC!

Personnel

Children and Youth Empowerment Centre Staff

Paul Maina King'uru
Director
pmaina@cyec.net

Gladys Gikonyo
Administrator
gladysg@cyec.net

Edward Njoi
Finance Officer
ednjo@cyec.net

Issa Adam
Head, Training & Education
issaadam@cyec.net

Titus Mutia
Acting Head, Partnerships, Production & Enterprise Development
titus@cyec.net

Jane Maina
Head, Field Services
janem@cyec.net

Grace Kagema
Acting Head, Residential Services
gkagema@cyec.net

Zawadi Fund International Board Members

Mary Hale Tolar
Director, School of Leadership Studies
Kansas State University
mtolar@ksu.edu

Edward Babcock
Department of Accounting
Penn State University
Ed.babcock@psu.edu

Paul Maina King'uru
Founder & Director, CYEC
pmaina@cyec.net

Janelle B. Larson
Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics & Head, Division of Engineering, Business & Computing, Penn State Berks
jnblarson@gmail.com

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